



**The General Board  
of Church and Society**  
of the United Methodist Church

100 Maryland Ave., NE  
Washington, DC 20002

December 1, 2008

Dear President Elect Obama,

Recently, our agency signed on to a letter to you urging consideration of various actions related to women's reproductive health. One of the statements in this letter stated support for the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), a piece of legislation originally introduced in the Congress in 2004 and has been re-introduced each session since then. As you know, being one of the bill's co-sponsors, the intent of the bill is to codify the provisions guaranteed by Roe v. Wade which would, in application, legalize abortion through a Federal law. If FOCA was adopted, it would overturn all existing abortion laws at federal, state and local levels of government that serve to limit a woman's right to seek an abortion.

After further examination of the ramifications of this bill and considering the most recent statement on abortion approved at our 2008 General Conference, the legislative arm of our denomination, we find that we can no longer support this bill due to language added by the General Conference. For example, our Social Principle on Abortion now contains a statement supporting parental, guardian or trusted adult notification in cases of minors seeking abortions. Several states have notification laws which would be overturned if FOCA was passed. We apologize for any confusion or mis-understanding related to this matter but did want to clarify this with you as soon as possible.

We wish you God speed in your Presidency and blessings during this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Linda Bales, Director  
Louise & Hugh Moore Population Project

Attachments:  
Transition Letter to President Elect Obama  
United Methodist Social Principle on Abortion