OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT

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December 19, 2008

President-Elect Barack Obama
C/O Transition Team

Dear President-Elect Obama:

We are writing to you to ask that you consider the significant role international family planning and reproductive health must play in your Administration's commitment to global health and security—from poverty alleviation and climate change to fighting terrorism.

As members of the Board of Population Action International (PAI), a non-partisan organization committed to improving access to family planning and reproductive health, we ask you to consider the enclosed PAI white paper and share it with appropriate and administration staff.

One of the global challenges that will confront your administration is the growing threat to security posed by climate change, resource scarcity, and burgeoning youth populations in parts of the developing world least equipped to meet their needs.

Tackling these issues and reducing maternal and infant mortality in the developing world, as outlined in the Millennium Development Goals, must be a top priority of U.S. foreign assistance—and international family planning and reproductive health programs are integral to the success of such efforts.

For over four decades, U.S. investments in international family planning and reproductive health programs have helped to reduce maternal and infant mortality, unintended pregnancies and abortion, HIV, poverty, hunger, and environmental degradation—and improve girls education, catalyze economic development, and foster more peaceful, stable communities.

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We respectfully urge your administration to make international family planning and reproductive health programs a cornerstone of its commitment to promoting global health, development, and security around the world.

Sincerely yours,

Harriet C. Babbitt
Deputy Administrator
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Enclosures