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Letter from Betsy Hauge, Oregon House of Representatives to International Women's Year Tribune, June 20, 1975

Betsy Hauge

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DISTRICT 7



COMMITTEES
1975 SESSION:
CO-CHAIRMAN:
ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY
MEMBER:
EDUCATION/SCHOOL FINANCE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SALEM, OREGON
97310

June 20, 1975

International Women's Year Tribune
Universad de Congressos
Centro Medico
Mexico

It has become increasingly evident during the course of the International Women's Year Tribune that the original stance of not issuing policy statements is inadequate. The feeling of the Tribune participants is one of the exigency of ACTION. In order to change the condition of women in the world, the Tribune at this moment has the opportunity to influence the outcome of the United Nations Conference and in particular in the formation of the World Plan of Action which it will issue.

The proposed World Plan of Action covers a number of specific areas for national action. I would like to address one of these in particular, that of Population, as it needs immediate attention. Most of the statements under the population section are vague. In behalf of Pat Whiting, Oregon State Representative to the Legislative Assembly, I would like to submit the following as a stronger, more coherent statement of action on the population problem.

A "Human Population Ethic" recognized as a responsibility and a necessity should acknowledge the following elective processes of achieving national and international living quality for all people, women and men, rich and poor, for the very survival of our species and the continuation of life support systems upon which we depend:

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1. Family planning service - nationally financed and sponsored - designed to increase parental responsibility and to provide counseling with the purpose of decreasing unwanted births and child abuse, as well as to establish ideal family relations.
2. Public medical clinics for counseling and public display and distribution of contraceptives as well as in-care facilities for pregnancy termination upon elective choice of the pregnant female.
3. Repeal of abortion laws which are discriminatory against the poor and uninformed by placing pregnancy termination in the care of medicine and out of the criminal code jurisdiction.
4. Population dynamics in education to allow the children of each nation their civic right to quality life information based on an understanding of the environment in which they live and to allow them to explore, by analytical reasoning, attitudes of the past regarding pronatalist policies and contemporary methods of health and family planning.

Parts of the above proposed statement are scattered through the proposals for national action in the Health/Nutrition, Education, and Family sections; however, due to the grave urgency of the population problem, inclusion of all of the above processes in one area provides a much stronger, clearer plan for immediate action. The International Women's Year Tribune must formulate policy statements on this problem so basic to the condition of women throughout the world.

Betsy Hauge

Betsy Hauge
Assistant to Pat Whiting