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22 March 2005

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
Russell Senate Office Bld S 476
Washington, DC 20510-3204

Dear Senator Clinton,

As a member of the Social Justice Council, First Unitarian Church, Ithaca, N.Y. and co-signatory to our Congregation's "Petition to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton", dated 23 January 2005, which requested that you initiate legislation to nullify the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004" (H.R. 1997) for violation of the First Amendment that prohibits legislation of any religious theology (and violations of other constitutional amendments), I feel compelled to respond to your letter of response of 11 February 2005 to the Reverend Richard S. Gilbert, Interim Minister, First Unitarian Church, Ithaca, NY. (documents enclosed).

Shockingly, your letter of response was a form letter written well before H.R. 1997 was before the Senate where you stated: "Your thoughts on the Unborn Victims of Violence Act are important to me. This legislation is likely to be brought before the Senate in the coming weeks". Additionally, our concerns that H.R. 1997 violates the religious liberty and freedom of Unitarian Universalism and the separation of church and state were not addressed.

Given this disgraceful response and non-acknowledgement of our "Petition to the Congress" for a redress of grievances (First Amendment), I am requesting that you read our "Petition to the Congress" from the Senate floor so that it is recorded in the Congressional Record where all members of the Congress and "We, the People" can have access to this Petition. You are further urged to initiate the legislation that we requested with all those Senators who opposed H.R. 1997, as co-sponsors of that legislation.

This nation is on the verge of not only losing *Roe v Wade* with all its disastrous consequences but also the struggle of women to be equal citizens with men and to be free in the words of Abigail Smith Adams in her letter to John Adams "Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could" (March 31, 1776).

Unfortunately, American history has proven the fears of Abigail Smith Adams. We have learned that equality of voting does not lead to equality of representation. The burden is now upon women Senators to correct the injustices committed against women in American society by male legislators, as it is reflected in H.R. 1997 and in the lack of gender equality of representation in the Congress, a concern also expressed by Abigail Smith Adams "...we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation." A legislature consisting of 95% males precludes "no voice or representation" for women, which has lead to much legislation that is injurious to women and families.

The protest of Elizabeth Cady Stanton in her *Address on Divorce Bill* before the New York State Legislature is relevant here: "We claim that here, at least, woman's equality should be recognized. If civilly

and politically man must stand supreme, let us at least be equals in our nearest and most sacred relations... (1861).

And that of Susan B. Anthony: "...this oligarchy of sex, which makes fathers, brothers, husbands and sons, the oligarchs over the mother and sister, the wife and daughters of every household--which ordains all men sovereigns, all women subjects, carries dissension, discord, and rebellion into every house of the nation"...."Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less" (*Women's Rights to Suffrage*, 1873).

In order to facilitate our "Petition to the Congress", I am copying this letter with enclosures to Bill Keller, Executive Editor, New York Times and to Howard Dean, Chairman, Democratic National Committee, who, hopefully, will give effective attention to this "Petition to the Congress" that you have failed to give to this date and which the women of this nation deserve.

I, and many others, will look forward to your carrying the torch and following the trail blazed by Abigail Smith Adams, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Your immediate response and action to this communication and requests would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

James W. Prescott, Ph.D.

cc: Howard Dean
Chairman
Democratic National Committee

Bill Keller
Executive Editor
New York times

Reverend Richard S. Gilbert
Interim Minister
First Unitarian Church, Ithaca