National Organization for Women

Kim Gandy
President

Olga Vives
Executive Vice President

Melody Drnach
Action Vice President

Latifa Lyles
Membership Vice President

September 15, 2005

Dear Senator,

The National Organization for Women is very clear in our opposition to the nomination of John G. Roberts to the office of Chief Justice for the United States Supreme Court. On behalf of our more than 500,000 contributing members across the country and especially the NOW chapters and members in your state, I strongly urge you to vote against this nominee. If he is seated and his votes on the Supreme Court match his long record of writings and opinions, women's and civil rights will be set back decades.

NOW's opposition to Judge Roberts was originally based on his statements and record on a number of issues related to women's equality, disability rights, civil rights, affirmative action and privacy rights. His recent reluctance during the Judiciary Committee hearings to commit to upholding full Constitutional equality for women, especially in the area of health and employment rights, causes us additional dismay. To confirm John G. Roberts as the head of our third branch of government - for his lifetime - will install as our leading jurist someone who has a written record of disdain and hostility for many aspects of our nation's commitment to civil rights and equal justice.

NOW does not come to this opposition lightly. There are numerous and disturbing facts that have led to NOW's opposition to this nominee. Roberts' comments on pay equity, homemakers-turned-lawyers, and many others indicate a cavalier attitude toward economic justice for women. During his career Roberts has argued to restrict Title IX, the equal education law for women and girls, and to limit the protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He has objected strenuously to federal affirmative action programs; he has disparaged the landmark Violence Against Women Act; and he has been an active proponent of "states' rights" over basic federal civil rights and protections.

His responses to questions during the hearings should concern all Senators who support equality for women and respect for women's integrity and autonomy. While he notes that *Roe v. Wade* is "settled law," this is true of every Supreme Court case.....right up to the moment it is reversed. He refused to recognize any right to privacy that would protect women's right to abortion. Women's full options for health, education and economic opportunities will be truly at risk under his stewardship.

1100 H Street, NW • Third Floor • Washington, DC 20005 • (202) 628-8669 • Fax (202) 785-8576
website: www.now.org • email: now@now.org

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NOW members and supporters live, work, and raise families as well as advocate, educate and organize for women's equality in every state. We demand a balanced and just Supreme Court, and the women of this country deserve no less. The hard won rights of so many disenfranchised communities, including women and people of color, lesbians and disabled individuals, young and old, hang in the balance. John G. Roberts' testimony further illustrates that he is no moderate, nor is he an advocate for fairness and justice. We urge you to vote no on this nominee for the sake of women, children, families, democracy and the future of our nation.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope that you will call me if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

President

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