NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

January 11, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
United States Senate Judiciary Committee
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
United States Senate Judiciary Committee
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Specter and Senator Leahy:

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, a New York-based organization that works to ensure the fundamental human right to reproductive health for Latinas, their families and their communities through public education, policy advocacy and community mobilization. It is for these reasons that we are deeply concerned about the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the United States Supreme Court and urge you to oppose his confirmation.

NLIRH works hard to ensure that elected officials promote and protect social justice and reproductive freedom through the implementation of positive legislation and effective health policies. We work on Supreme Court issues because there are a number of issues that are important to Latinas, including abortion and affirmative action. A new Supreme Court Justice could tip the balance of the Court toward the conservative right and drastically limit the rights of Latinas. This is why we have some concerns about the recent nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the United States Supreme Court. We hope that you too are concerned about President Bush's choice to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Alito's record on an individual's right to be free from inappropriate governmental intrusion is deplorable. In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, Alito supported a restriction on abortion access that required women to notify their spouses before obtaining an abortion—a restriction that was later found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court because of its impact on domestic violence survivors.

Alito also has a long documented history of hostility towards women's reproductive civil rights and freedom. On a recently released job application submitted by Alito in 1985 for a position in the Reagan Administration, Alito presented himself as a concise conservative who was "particularly proud" of contributing to cases arguing "that racial and ethnic quotas should not be allowed and that the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion." These extreme, right-wing perspectives do not belong on a court where reasonable judicial interpretation is a necessity.

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Senators, we urge you to vote against Alito's confirmation. Many rights will be in danger if this nominee is put in such a powerful position. In short, we ask you to work in solidarity with other Senators to defeat this nomination and to stand up for our health and well-being.

Sincerely,

Silvia Henriquez, Executive Director

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