Media Release

National Council of Women's Organizations
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National Council of Women's Organizations Opposes Roberts Confirmation

(September 1, 2005, Washington, DC) The National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO), the oldest and largest coalition of the nation's women's groups, representing 200 groups and 10 million women, called on the U.S. Senate today to reject the nomination of Judge John Roberts to the Supreme Court.

"It has become clear in the past few weeks that Judge Roberts has throughout his career consistently urged narrow interpretations of the law that would undermine women's rights to equal opportunity" said Martha Burk, NCWO Chair. "It is now well known that Judge Roberts is opposed to abortion rights and would weaken or eliminate Title IX. But we are hearing less about his record of siding with employers against the interests of employees -- a point of view that could be devastating to working women."

"Judge Roberts has argued that cost alone is justification for denying women equal treatment in job training and employment. It is not in the best interests of American women to have a judge on the Supreme Court who has argued that sex discrimination is acceptable if the discriminating organization is operating on a 'tight budget'" said Burk.

Leaders of prominent NCWO member groups joined Burk in denouncing Roberts. "The nation has a right to expect that confirmation of the next person to fill a seat on the Supreme Court will be contingent on a demonstrated commitment to protecting the rights and freedoms of every American," said Phyllis Snyder, President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). "Unfortunately, Judge Roberts has chosen in his career to erode fundamental rights, rather than defend them, and NCJW believes he should not be confirmed to a lifetime seat on the highest court in the land."

"Everything we know about Judge Roberts' record indicates that he will be a solid vote against women's rights, civil rights, and *Roe v. Wade*," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority. "His appointment has the potential to undo 40 years of progress. That is why the Feminist Majority is opposing Roberts for the Supreme Court."

Dr. Dorothy Height, Chair and President Emerita of the National Council of Negro Women declared: "Historically, and until passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the advancement of women and minorities came largely through the courts. Our country cannot afford to lose these gains. Judge Roberts' record undermines the confidence that all citizens need to have in the nation's highest court."

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The National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit coalition of more than 200 women's organizations across the nation collectively representing over ten million women. For years, NCWO has convened the leadership of major women's organizations dedicated to focusing on national issues and public policy agendas affecting women.

Visit our web site: www.womensorganizations.org

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NCWO Member Organizations*

9to5 Nat. Assc. of Working Women
AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund
African-American Women's Clergy
Alexandria Commission For Women
Alhaji Kemokoh Foundation on African and American Women
AIDS Awareness Campaign
Alice Paul Institute, Inc.
American Assc. of University Women
American College Of Nurse-Midwives
American Medical Women's Assc.
American Physical Therapy Assc., Women's Initiatives
American Women In Radio and Television
Ariadne Institute for the Study of Myth and Ritual
Assc. For Women In Science
Assc. of Academic Women's Health Programs
Assc. Of Reproductive Health Professionals
Black Women United For Action
Black Women's Agenda, Inc.
Break the Chain Campaign
Business & Professional Women/USA
Catholics For A Free Choice
Center For Advancement Of Public Policy
Center for Health and Gender Equity
Center For Policy Alternatives
Center for Reproductive Rights
Center For The Childcare Workforce
Center for Women Policy Studies
Child Care Action Campaign
Choice USA
Christian Women Of Elegance
Church Women United
Circle of Women United For All Concerns
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Coalition Of Labor Union Women
CodePINK:Women for Peace
CommonWell Institute InterNat.
Cornell University Institute for Women & Work
DC Rape Crisis Center
Department For Professional Employees, AFL-CIO
Dialogue on Diversity, Inc.
Digital Sisters, Inc.
Eating Disorders Coaltion for Research, Policy, and Action
Economist's Policy Group on Women's Issues
Equal Rights Advocates
Equality Now
ERA Campaign Network
ERA Summit
FAIR Fund
Federally Employed Women
Females United Network
Feminist Majority Foundation
Financial Women InterNat.
Friends of the Missouri Women's Council
Gender Action
Gender Public Advocacy Coalition
GenderWatchers
Girls Incorporated
HADASSAH, The Women's Zionist Organization of America
HealthonStage
Inclusive Security: Women Waging Peace
Institute For Health & Aging
Institute For Women's Policy Research
InterAction-Commission On The Advancement Of Women
International Black Women for Wages for Housework
International Center For Research On Women
International Women's Media Foundation
International Women's Democracy Center
Jewish Women International
Jewish Women's Coalition, Inc.
Law Students for Choice
Legal Momentum
Low-Income Families
Empowerment Through Education - LIFETIME
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Manasota Women's Roundtable
McAuley Institute
Million Mom March United with the Brady Campaign
Ms. Foundation For Women
NARAL
National Council Of Jewish Women
National Council Of Women of the United States, Inc.
National Hook-up Of Black Women
National Abortion Federation
National Alliance For Caregiving
National Asian Women's Health Organization
National Asian-Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association for Female Executives
National Association of Commissions for Women
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses
National Association of Women Business Owners
National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
National Committee of Women for a Democratic Iran
National Committee on Pay Equity
National Congress of Black Women
National Council for Research on Women
National Council of Negro Women
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Foundation for Women Legislators
National Hispana Leadership Institute
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Research Center (NRC) for Women & Families
National Woman's Party
National Women's Health Network
National Women's History Museum
National Women's Studies Association
National Women's Hall of Fame
National Women's History Project
National Women's Law Center
National Women's Political Caucus
NETWORK
Network Of East-West Women
New Life Ministeries
Nontraditional Employment for Women
Organization of Chinese-American Women, Inc.
ORUWOCA, Inc.
OWL: The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.
Project Kid Smart
Public Leadership Education Network
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Sister to Sister: Everyone Has a Heart Foundation, Inc.
Sisters Supporting Sisters, Inc.
Society for Women's Health Research
Start Smart America
The Stories Center
The WAGE Project
The Women's Center
The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future
Third Wave Foundation
U.S. Committee For UNIFEM
U.S. Women Connect
United American Nurses, AFL-CIO
Utah Women's Alliance for Building Community (UWABC)
Veteran Feminists of America
Vital Voices Global Partnership
Voters for Choice
Wages for Housework Campaign
Washington Area Women's Foundation
Westside Women's Organization
White House Project
Wider Opportunities For Women
WINTER
WISER
Woman Activist Fund
Women & Philanthropy
Women & Politics Institute
Women Employed
Women Executives in State Government
Women for Women International
Women in Government
Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Women Leaders ONLINE
Women, Men, and Media
WOMEN SEEN AND HEARD
Women Soaring ... A Forum Empowering Women
Women Studies Welfare Assc.
Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment
Women's Action for New Directions/Women Legislators' Lobby
Women's Business Development Center
Women's Caucus for Political Science
Women's Campaign Fund
Women's Center for Ethics
Women's Committee of 100
Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries
Women's Ecommerce Association, International
Women's Edge Coalition
Women's Environment and Development Organization
Women's Housing & Economic Development Corp. (WHEDCO)
Women's Information Network
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Women's International Public Health Network
Women's Opportunity Link of Delaware, Inc.
Women's Ordination Conference
Women's Sports Foundation
Women's Studies SDSU
Women's Transportation Seminar
YWCA USA

***Not all groups take positions on nominees**