

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2004

Dear Attendees of the World Congress of Families III in Mexico City:

Greetings from the United States Congress. It is our pleasure to welcome pro-family leaders, scholars, clergy, politicians, and families, of all beliefs and nationalities, to the World Congress of Families III. We are pleased that two important representatives from President Bush's Administration, the Honorable Ellen Sauerbrey, Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and Dr. Wade Horn, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families at the US Department of Health and Human Services, will be taking part in the Mexico City conference. We look forward to hearing the reports, recommendations, and ideas that will come out of this important World Congress of Families conference.

We would like to thank the *Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society* and the two Mexico hosting organizations, the *Family Network* (Red Familia), and *Family and Society* (Familia y Sociedad) for organizing this historic event. The work of the World Congress of Families to affirm and defend the natural family has had positive effects in the United States and throughout the world. The World Congress of Families meeting in Geneva in 1999, with over 65 nations represented, showed the world that people of many different faiths and cultures could agree on one important conclusion—the natural family is the key for all nations who wish to experience economic and social prosperity.

Representatives to the last meeting of the World Congress of Families adopted the Geneva Declaration, which affirmed, "that the natural human family is established by the Creator and essential to a good society and that the natural family is the fundamental social unit, inscribed in human nature and centered on the voluntary union of a man and a woman in the life long covenant of marriage." We completely agree. We must support the institution of marriage and help parents build stronger families. And we must continue our work to create a compassionate, welcoming society, where all families are treated with dignity and respect.

You are all doing God's work to defend the family with conviction and kindness, and on behalf of the United States Congress, we thank you.

Sincerely,










