

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 4, 1991

Dear Mr. Speaker:

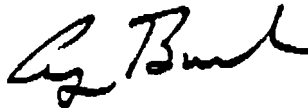
Legislation is now being considered by several committees in both the House and Senate that would substantially change Federal policy with respect to abortion. Given the importance of this issue, I am writing to make sure there is no misunderstanding of my views or convictions.

I have not reached these decisions easily or lightly. Abortion is a difficult, deeply emotional and very personal decision for all Americans. It is made even more difficult when the underlying issue is whether the Government -- and ultimately the American taxpayer -- is asked to pay for abortions and under what circumstances. Since 1981, the Federal Government has determined that taxpayer funds should be used for abortion in only the most narrow of circumstances: where the life of the mother is endangered.

Current law also prohibits contributions made to international organizations that fund coercive abortion programs. The Department of Defense prohibits abortions at U.S. military facilities, unless the life of the mother is endangered. And, the Department of Health and Human Services has promulgated regulations that prohibit the use of Federal family planning funds for abortion related activities.

I believe all these policies should continue. I will veto any legislation that weakens current law or existing regulations.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Thomas S. Foley
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515