

Pro-Plan Caucus

1411 K Street, N.W., Suite 1110 · Washington, D.C. 20005 · (202) 347-4456

Dear Delegate to the Houston IWY Conference:

Congratulations on your election. We believe your personal success represents a success for all women as we increase our political knowledge, experience and power.

As you know, the campaign for women's rights faces a major challenge in Houston. While this meeting has sometimes been portrayed as a confrontation of women against women, the real confrontation will be caused by right wing extremist forces who have targeted this conference as part of a broad national political campaign. It is a tribute to our effectiveness that we have been singled out for this activity.

We know that you share our conviction that the Houston Conference should be a positive forum in which issues of major concern to women in this country are addressed. We also know that as delegates we share a responsibility for the success of these deliberations.

Delegate -- this letter is to tell you that you are not alone. Others committed to the Principles you believe in want to work together in Houston to promote the ideals for which IWY was founded. The proposed Plan of Action approved by the IWY Commission, crystallizes those ideals. It includes support for ERA, adequate health care and child care, affirmative action, civil rights for all minorities and other goals for which women in this country have long fought. It recognizes that all branches of government, federal, state and local as well as the private sector must be involved.

As chairs of state delegations we have formed a special caucus of delegates to support the principles embodied in this document. The caucus was given the name "Pro-Plan" because it will support all the issues in the IWY plan of action. A careful analysis of the delegations show that we will be a majority. By working together we have the power to present a united front to the nation, and dispel the myths that the country is moving backward.

To utilize the power that we have the Pro-Plan Caucus must identify floor leadership in each state and organize a communications network which will operate during the conference. We have two staff people who will assist us in this effort; Stephanie Solien and Cathie Hartnett. They will be contacting delegates to ask their support and involvement in the Pro-Plan Caucus. There will also be a Pro-Plan Caucus office at the conference, in the Sheraton Houston, where delegates can check in for information. This office is also available for your delegations Pro-Plan work.

We will hold our first caucus for "Pro-Plan Delegates" on Friday evening, November 18th at 10:00 p.m. in the Ramada Inn Civic Center. The Pro-Plan coordinator from your state will have any updated information you may need.

We see the meeting in Houston as offering an exciting opportunity for women to expand their skills, and take positive and firm step forward in the long struggle for Equal Rights. We are proud that we will be sharing this experience with you.

Sincerely,

Maria Chavez - Arizona

Sue Dye - Arizona

Patsy Fulcher - California

Minette Dederer - Iowa

Allie Hixson - Kentucky

Pauline Menes - Maryland

Grace Rohrer - North Carolina

Carol Bellamy - New York

Dr. Lenore McNear - Vermont

Judy Longquist - Washington

Vel Phillips - Wisconsin