



"Make Every Mother and Child Count"

April 8, 2005

Dear Friend:

This year's theme for the U.N. World Health Day is "Healthy Mothers and Children." Around the globe, hundreds of organizations hosted events marking the importance of health for productive and happy lives.

It is also important to raise awareness of the unacceptable level of illness, suffering and death among mothers and children. The statistics are alarming. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 10.6 million children die before the age of five and half a million women die in childbirth. Hundreds of millions of women and children have no access to potentially life-saving care with often fatal results.

In recognition of World Health Day, WHO released a report on maternity health. According to WHO, the resulting death toll could be sharply reduced through wider use of key interventions and a "continuum of care" approach for mother and child that begin before pregnancy and extends through childbirth and into the baby's childhood.

Giving mothers, babies and children the care they need is absolutely imperative. The health of mothers and children is at the core of the struggle against poverty and inequality, and it is also a matter of human rights.

To read the WHO report on child or to find out how you can help, please [click here](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty".

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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