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CONTINUING RESOLUTION: A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION House Resolution Includes Increases in Some Key Priorities for Women

(Washington, D.C.) A modest increase in funding for programs such as Head Start, Pell Grants, and housing included in the Joint Resolution for FY 2007 is a small step in the right direction, the National Women's Law Center said today.

The U.S. House on Wednesday is expected to vote on the Joint Resolution, which includes an increase in funding for several programs that particularly affect women. House leaders found a way to include these vital, albeit modest, increases even though they have to make up for the failure of the last Congress to pass the bills needed to fund most government services for the current fiscal year.

"For too many years we have short changed programs that disproportionately affect women, children, the elderly and the poor," said Nancy Duff Campbell, Co-President of the National Women's Law Center.

"The modest increase in funding for education, housing and health will help prevent further erosion of programs that Americans care about," Campbell said. "But we're dismayed that some crucial programs, like child care, have been left out. At least 250,000 children have lost child care assistance since 2000. We have got to reverse that trend."

Specifically, the Joint Resolution includes an increase of:

- \$615.4 million to boost the maximum **Pell Grants**, which are disproportionately used by women, by \$260 to \$4,310.
- \$103.7 million to help prevent a drop in the number of children who participate in **Head Start**. Head Start serves poor children, who largely live in households headed by women.
- Almost \$1.5 million in **Section 8** Tenant-Based and Project-Based programs. Female-headed households make up eight out of ten families benefiting from Section 8 housing vouchers.
- \$206.9 million to finance over 300 new or expanded **community health centers**, which will increase access to health care for low-income women.

"As lawmakers wrap up work on the overdue spending bills and begin work on next year's budget, they must make it a priority to reverse recent declines in programs that help vulnerable Americans," Campbell said.

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The National Women's Law Center is a non-profit organization that has been working since 1972 to advance and protect women's legal rights. The Center focuses on major policy areas of importance to women and their families including economic security, education, employment and health, with special attention given to the concerns of low-income women. For more information on the Center visit: www.nwlc.org.