The Abortion Rights Fund of Western Massachusetts

P.O. Box 732 Hadley, MA 01035

September 6, 1993

Dear Friend,

1993 has been a landmark year for abortion rights. For the first time since the 1970's, pro-choice advocates in this country have had victories to celebrate as President Clinton reversed some of the repressive Federal Restrictions on abortion.

For us at the Abortion Rights Fund, the victories are bittersweet. The women who come to us have not been helped by these changes at the national level. The number of women seeking financial assistance from the Fund has doubled just since last summer. Lack of money denies them the right to choose. But You Have Touched These Women's Lives. With your support, the Abortion Rights Fund was there with direct funding to 120 women and with counseling and noneconomic assistance for 80 others.

While it is terrific that we have been able to help so many women, we are painfully aware that there are so many more women who need assistance. Every time we increase our visibility, the number of women coming to the Fund increases. This year our major goal is to make ourselves even more accessible to women in need of abortion funding by publicizing our services more widely. We will ensure that all Social Service agencies and women's health providers are aware of our existence. We also plan to publish our phone number in the directories initially the larger ones and working towards all four counties in Western Massachusetts. Please Help Us Meet The Increasing Need For Abortion Funding.

We at the Abortion Rights Fund are working to end this problem once and for all. We join with other groups to advocate for restoring federal Medicaid Funding for abortion and for a reformed health care system that provides preventive reproductive health care and education and real access to abortion for those who need it.

But we are very far from these goals. The overwhelming defeat of Clinton's proposal to end the Hyde Amendment and to restore federal Medicaid funding for abortion was a bellwether not just for a continuation of a ban on federal funding, but for inclusion of abortion in the National Health Care package.

The Right To Choose Remains Meaningless For Every Woman Who Cannot Afford To Make Her Own Choice.

As we fight for broader change that would insure all women's abortion and reproductive health rights, we must continue to support the women who need us now / today. This is where you make a difference. While small grants from a few private foundations cover our administrative and counseling costs, every dollar you send goes directly to help pay for a woman's abortion.

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