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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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March 1, 2012

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to ask that you, as the Chairman of the Oversight Committee, join us in a bipartisan manner to strongly condemn the recent statements by radio host Rush Limbaugh regarding Ms. Sandra Fluke, the third-year student at Georgetown law school whom we sought to have testify at the Committee's hearing on contraceptives on February 16, 2012.

As you know, Committee Democrats requested Ms. Fluke's testimony to highlight the critical importance of insurance coverage for preventive health care, including contraceptives, to millions of women across the country.<sup>1</sup> After you refused to allow Ms. Fluke to testify before our Committee, she appeared before the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, and she conducted herself with intelligence, dignity, and sincerity.<sup>2</sup>

Yesterday's statements by Rush Limbaugh were a vicious assault, not only against Ms. Fluke but against women across the country who rely on birth control and want it covered by their health insurance policies. The pill has had a profound impact on their well-being, allowing them to control their lives, make very personal decisions about how many children to have and when to have them, and in some cases treat critical illnesses.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings to Chairman Darrell E. Issa, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Feb. 15, 2012) (online at [http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5624:the-voice-the-gop-didnt-want-you-to-hear&catid=3:press-releases&Itemid=49](http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5624:the-voice-the-gop-didnt-want-you-to-hear&catid=3:press-releases&Itemid=49)).

<sup>2</sup> See *Sandra Fluke Finally Testifies Before Congress*, Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings (Feb. 23, 2012) (online at [http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5627:sandra-fluke-finally-testifies-before-congress&catid=3:press-releases&Itemid=49](http://democrats.oversight.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5627:sandra-fluke-finally-testifies-before-congress&catid=3:press-releases&Itemid=49)).

As the Chairman of the Committee that first attempted to silence Ms. Fluke and prevent her from testifying, you are in a unique position to speak out now on her behalf and to join us in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, this very public and very malicious attack on all women who share her views.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Ernie Cunningham

Alan H. Roth

Op Loop

Jack Spier

John

Bruce Bealy

Mike Dingler

Dennis J. Kucinich

Andy B. Mark

Stephen Joseph

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