

several organizations and foundations at-tests to his being able to keep abreast of issues in the medical areas. These accomplishments should serve him well in his new role as Surgeon General.

On behalf of NAFEO, we wholeheartedly endorse and support the appointment of Dr. Henry W. Foster, Jr. as Surgeon General of the United States.

Cordially,

SAMUEL L. MYERS,
President.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS,
Norfolk, VA, February 2, 1995.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
*The White House,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I would like to wholeheartedly endorse, and commend you for, your nomination of Dr. Henry Foster to be Surgeon General of the United States

I have known Dr. Foster for many years. He is a very intelligent, conscientious, and able physician. His calm well-balanced approach to problem solving will serve him and the people of the United States well in carrying out the duties of the office of Surgeon General.

He is highly qualified, and is an excellent choice for the position.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM C. ANDREWS, M.D.,
President.

MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
Atlanta, GA, January 31, 1995.

MSM PRESIDENT ENDORSES SURGEON
GENERAL NOMINEE

Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., President of Morehouse School of Medicine today released the following statement supporting the appointment of Dr. Henry Foster, Jr., as Surgeon General:

"Dr. Foster is a highly qualified physician and administrator who would be an outstanding Surgeon General. He has had a distinguished academic career and has directed numerous successful community outreach ventures, including Meharry's teen initiative, 'I Have A Future Program,' focusing on sexual responsibility, self-esteem and job skills.

Dr. Foster is a nationally-known, well-respected physician and a great human being who brings a broad perspective and experience to a variety of health and social issues—knowledge, skills and experience that are essential for America's Surgeon General. I am absolutely confident that he would serve with distinction.

I have known him personally since we were classmates at Morehouse College. I treasure him as a friend and respect him as a colleague."

LOUIS W. SULLIVAN, M.D.,
President.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY,
Nashville, TN.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR DR. HENRY
FOSTER

I have known and worked with Dr. Henry (Hank) Foster for many years. He is a highly qualified and experienced clinician, clinical scientist, educator, medical administrator, and practitioner of problem solving efforts. He is a good friend of good work. He is goal oriented and his goal is a better, healthier life for all Americans. He is a fine choice for Surgeon General.

JOHN E. CHAPMAN, M.D.,
Dean of Medicine.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH,
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
Pittsburgh, PA, February 2, 1995.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
*President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We, the faculty, staff and students of the Graduate School of Public Health would like to enthusiastically endorse the appointment of Henry Foster, M.D. for the position of Surgeon General.

He brings a broad experience in prevention and public health as well as practice of clinical medicine.

We believe he is an excellent choice.

Sincerely,

DONALD R. MATTISON, M.D.,
Dean.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
Des Moines, IA, February 2, 1995.
Hon. DONNA SHALALA,
*Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services.*

DEAR SECRETARY SHALALA: It has come to our attention that Dr. Henry W. Foster may become our nation's next Surgeon General. On behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, I would like to indicate our support for this choice and offer any assistance we can in assuring Dr. Foster's success.

The office of Surgeon General has the conscience of our nation's health system. Surgeon Generals have advanced public awareness of the dangers of smoking, unprotected sex and teen pregnancy. No simple issues with forgone conclusions. Today, with health system changes abroad, the need for the public conscience has never been greater, and the need for public health to support this articulation never more imperative.

Dr. Foster's life experience in both urban and rural settings equip him well to understand the diversity of our nation. Moreover, his clinical, academic and administrative responsibilities have prepared him well to ensure that our nation's response to the issues, particularly, of teen pregnancy and primary care, are appropriate, workable and effective.

As we see a renewed emphasis on state based planning and community delivery of human services, the state health officers and ASTHO recognize the need for a clear articulation of national interests, strategies and objectives. We believe that Dr. Foster can be a positive force in ensuring that this outcome is achieved.

Respectfully,

CHRISTOPHER G. ATCHISON,
Director.

Mr. Speaker, what I would like to do right now is to yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. CLEMENT], from the city of Nashville, who has the great privilege of representing Dr. Foster in this body.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] for yielding to me. He has been a friend of mine for many, many years. We join in strong support of the President's nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as Surgeon General of the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I brought along a lot of faxes tonight. This is just 1 day of faxes, just tens and hundreds of faxes, letters that we are receiving of people at home in Nashville, TN, that know him the best, I would say to the gentleman from Georgia, and they are very much behind Dr. Foster, because they know him.

For example, there is the example of the fax I received today.

IN SUPPORT OF DR. HENRY W.
FOSTER, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. CLEMENT] to complete his remarks.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, these faxes that I got today are prime examples of those that know Dr. Foster the best. This is just one example. Dr. Henry Foster is a very positive man and doctor. He is a God-fearing man. Dr. Foster cares about people, all people, especially women and children. Dr. Foster said recently that some of his priorities as Surgeon General are teen-aged pregnancy, AIDS, low birth-weight babies, children that abuse with the consumption of alcohol and tobacco.

He has a lot of priorities, but I think the most we can ask, let Dr. Foster have his day.

We have heard from a lot of people that feel very strongly on issues, and we all feel strongly on issues. We can surely do a lot to divide our country; however, let us find ways to unite the country. Let us at least give Dr. Foster the opportunity to plead his case in the U.S. Senate before the confirmation hearings.

I know, by knowing Dr. Foster on a very personal and professional basis, that when he pleads his case people will listen and understand this man is qualified, this man is compassionate, and this man can serve us well as the next Surgeon General of the United States.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I also want to join in supporting Dr. Foster as the Surgeon General. He is eminently and exceptionally qualified. In fact, his qualifications are not being questioned. His suitability is not being questioned. If there is any question at all, it is just if he had the recall of mind for 30 years of all the details of a very distinguished career.

Mr. Speaker, I would say even those things that he is questioned about, the numbers of, not whether he did anything illegal, he practiced his profession and did it well. He was a researcher. It simply concerned an opportunity to recall something, and he failed to recall the exact number. I question anybody who has not had the opportunity to misstate a number or misstate what they did yesterday.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, we would not expect, with a man who has had such a distinguished career, that he would be judged for a momentary lapse of a number. In that instant, please understand, Mr. Speaker, there was nothing about anything that he did inappropriately, any violation of the law.

So I honor those persons who say they have legitimate concerns, they have the right to differ, but to deny a person the opportunity to defend himself I think is certainly un-American.

Further, Mr. Speaker, I think there is an erosion of an opportunity to have debate around the issue of abortion. If people really want to have an honest debate about it, they ought to do that, and not find a way to have a way of destroying a man's profession. We can simply be honest in our debate as to where we feel on certain issues, but we ought to be honorable and recognize the service this gentleman has given.

Why I am particularly interested in this gentleman, because he has not only come with a distinguished professional career, but he comes with a service of commitment to the community around teenaged pregnancy and around those issues.

We say we want to do something about welfare reform, so this is an opportunity, I think, to have a gentleman both of the profession and service.

DR. HENRY FOSTER, AN EMINENTLY QUALIFIED SURGEON GENERAL NOMINEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, when I hear the attacks being made against the President's nominee for Surgeon General, Dr. Henry Foster, I must say that I have never seen such a vicious and mean-spirited mood in this town. This really has to stop. We have to return some civility to the process of confirming nominees.

Mr. Speaker, why would any professional subject themselves to be nominated to serve here in Washington when, by doing so, they know they will be ripped from pillar to post?

It is the right of a President to select nominees, and it is the right of that nominee to get a fair hearing before Congress. Dr. Foster should have an opportunity to lay his record before the Congress and before the American people. I think it is an impressive record that, once aired, will impress many people.

The so-called controversy over Dr. Foster has been fueled by a discussion over one single issue—an issue, I might add, that should not be used as a litmus test. We have hardly heard a word about the decades of caring service Dr. Foster has provided.

Yes, Dr. Foster performed abortions. The last time I looked, Mr. Speaker, abortion was not illegal in the United States. There may be some who do not like the fact that abortion is legal in this country, but Dr. Foster should not be held hostage to their views.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Foster ran a program called I Have a Future, which urges teenagers to practice abstinence.

The program was honored as a Point of Light by President Bush. Why are we not focusing on the positive message that is the heart of Dr. Foster's work?

It is most disturbing that some Members of Congress are looking to score political points on this issue. It appears that they are willing to put their own personal ambitions ahead of the well-being of the American people, especially our teenagers.

I have not seen any evidence that disqualifies Dr. Foster for the post of Surgeon General. In fact, he is eminently qualified for the job. I urge my colleagues to step back and allow the process to proceed. Let Dr. Foster have a fair hearing before Congress. If he has a fair hearing, I have no doubt that he will be confirmed.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my colleague and good friend, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY].

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Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the right to terminate a pregnancy is contained in our Constitution, affirmed by our legislatures, upheld by our courts, and supported by the American people. It has been the law of the land in all 50 States for over 20 years, and by vast majorities, the public believes it should remain so.

But today, a war is being waged on that right. For a radical minority, it is a violent war, unleashed on doctors and clinics from Pensacola to Brookline. For others, it is a cold war of intimidation, fought with ugly scare tactics, innuendo, and political pressure.

A new front in the assault on women's health has opened up on the floor of Congress, and its first casualty is the reputation of an outstanding physician ready to serve the public, Dr. Henry Foster.

Dr. Foster is among the most respected citizens of Tennessee. He has had an extraordinary career as an obstetrician and educator, treating literally thousands of patients, counseling teenagers, confronting every kind of social and medical dilemma, and dealing with the human consequences of our public health decisions.

Dr. Foster's commitment to the prevention of teen pregnancy, perhaps the most urgent social challenge facing us today, establishes him as a national authority on the subject.

His passion for the children of America, and his real experience with teenagers in troubled relationships make him ideally suited to be Surgeon General of the United States.

Dr. Foster is the right person, at the right time, for the right job.

And that is why it is so tragic to see his record and character recklessly attacked by individuals who have done nothing to promote our Nation's health, and entirely too much to threaten it.

The antichoice strategy is clear.

Because they cannot achieve their real objective of criminalizing abor-

tion, antichoice forces are instead of pursuing a strategy of de facto abolition—making abortion unavailable by stigmatizing doctors, and by discouraging the study of abortion procedures in medical schools.

Sadly, those tactics have been all too successful. Today, less than 20 percent of the counties in America have an abortion provider—less than 20. For the women who live in the other 80 percent, the right to choose is a paper promise, growing thinner everyday, and threatening to disappear entirely.

It's really quite simple. If you can't make abortion a crime, then just treat abortion providers as though they were criminals. And that is what's happening now.

Make no mistake, this is no numbers game—whether it's 1 or 12 or 40 is irrelevant.

And there is no question about Dr. Foster's character and ability—he has proven both, over and over.

It is the right to choose itself that is under siege, because if a man like Dr. Foster can be denied confirmation on this basis—for engaging in a legal, appropriate, responsible medical practice—then doctors everywhere will shrink from the challenge of reproductive health. And women will return to the back alley and the emergency room.

Opponents of this nomination may not have the guts to spell it out, but they know full well that this is a veiled attack on the right to choose.

I am the mother of three children. And though I have never had to face the trauma of an unplanned pregnancy, I know what it means to raise a family, to care for child, and to assume responsibility for the next generation.

There is no more personal or emotional decision than the one to bring a new life into the world.

Dr. Foster has done a tremendous amount to help young people come to grips with the weight of that decision, and to discourage the irresponsibility and the ignorance which can lead to teen pregnancy and abortion.

Like most Americans, he believes that abortion should be safe, legal, and rare. Unlike so many of his critics, he has actually done something to make that goal a reality.

It would be a disgrace for this Congress to deny to the American people the benefit of Dr. Foster's service simply because he performed his duty as a medical doctor, and obeyed the Constitution of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, our children deserve better. We will fight to preserve their health, their rights, and their future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LIPINSKI] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]