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**KATHY NAJIMY – *SISTER ACT* CELEBRITY AND *MS. WOMAN OF THE YEAR* –
TO ADDRESS FAMILY PLANNING ADVOCATE’S 2006 CONFERENCE LUNCHEON**

**Former FDA Director Dr. Susan Wood and Assemblymember Amy Paulin Will Receive Awards
Hevesi, Silver, Paterson, Gottfried, Spano Among Dignitaries to Address Women’s Health Advocates**

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2006

TIME: 12:00 noon - Conference Luncheon featuring Kathy Najimy and NYS Elected Officials
4:00 pm - Plenary Session featuring Dr. Susan Wood

PLACE: Convention Center, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York

Family Planning Advocates of New York State will hold its **29th Annual Conference** at the **Convention Center in the Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York**, on **April 3**. Hundreds of advocates for reproductive rights will be in attendance to meet state elected officials, hear nationally acclaimed speakers, participate in workshops, and honor pro-choice legislators and advocates.

Kathy Najimy, a celebrated actress and activist, will be the keynote speaker at FPA’s Annual Conference Luncheon, which begins at 12:00 noon. Ms. Najimy is expected to take the stage at 1 pm. Best known for her versatile work on Broadway and as the sunny-spirited Sister Mary Patrick in the movie *Sister Act*, she is also an enthusiastic supporter of women’s rights and choice. She was recently named *Ms.* magazine’s Woman of the Year for her work to empower women.

Prior to Kathy Najimy’s address, **Assemblymember Amy Paulin** will receive FPA’s **Margaret Sanger Award** for working to enhance access to emergency contraception in New York by championing the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act.

FPA President JoAnn M. Smith and **FPA Board Chair Catherine Abate** will introduce elected officials including **Comptroller Alan Hevesi**, **Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver**, **Senate Minority Leader David Paterson**, **Assemblymember Richard N. Gottfried** and **Senator Nick Spano**. Author and poet **Marge Piercy** will read a selection from one of her works.

At the 4:00 pm plenary session, FPA will honor **Dr. Susan Wood** with FPA's **Champion of Choice Award**, in recognition of her courage in standing up to the FDA when the Administration refused to allow Plan B emergency contraception (EC) to be approved for over-the-counter use. Since resigning from the FDA, Dr. Wood has bravely revealed the sad truth about the interference of politics in U.S. public health policy at the FDA.

FPA’s 2006 Annual Conference will focus attention on three legislative priorities:

- 1) **Pass the Healthy Teens Act** to provide funding for real sex education in New York.
- 2) **Enhance Access to Emergency Contraception** to reduce unintended pregnancy.
- 3) **Fully Fund Family Planning** to ensure that New Yorkers can access the health services they need and deserve.

