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**FPA LAUDS NEW YORK SENATORS CLINTON AND SCHUMER
FOR OPPOSING ALITO AND STANDING UP FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES
Alito's Confirmation to the Supreme Court Jeopardizes Women's Health and Safety**

Albany, NY (January 31, 2006)—Family Planning Advocates of New York State commended U.S. Senators Hillary Clinton and Charles Schumer for voting against the confirmation of Judge Samuel Alito to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court. Family Planning Advocates (FPA) joined Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and health organizations around the country in opposing Alito's nomination to the high court because of his long record of hostility toward women's rights and privacy rights. Nevertheless, the U.S. Senate today voted 58 to 42 to confirm Alito.

"We applaud Senators Clinton and Schumer for standing up for New York women and families by voting against Alito's nomination," said JoAnn Smith, president and CEO of Family Planning Advocates of New York State. "They have never wavered in their opposition to a Supreme Court nominee who has little regard for women's health and personal privacy."

Alito will soon have the opportunity to rule on cases involving women's health and safety. The U.S. Supreme Court is likely to announce shortly whether it will hear *Carhart v. Gonzales*, a challenge to the Bush administration's federal abortion ban. The ban, passed by Congress and signed by President Bush in 2003, would outlaw certain abortion procedures used as early as 12 to 15 weeks in pregnancy. The law would prohibit doctors from using the safest procedures to protect their patients. Just five years ago, the Supreme Court struck down an abortion ban passed by the state of Nebraska because it did not have a health exception, and Justice O'Connor's was the critical fifth vote that upheld protections for women's health and safety. Judge Alito could dangerously swing the court in the opposite direction, becoming the fifth vote to undermine protections for women's health and safety, the core issue in *Carhart v. Gonzales* and all the abortion ban cases.

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