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*“Congresswoman Diana DeGette’s Sex, Science and Stem Cells: Inside the Right Wing Assault on Reason is a clarion call to restore sanity to the public process of protecting the sexual and reproductive health of all Americans. DeGette writes eloquently against the senseless and hazardous anti-woman agenda of the Bush administration and exposes the political mythologies that jeopardize the health of the American family – from dangerous abstinence-only programs to bans on vital stem cell research. She is a voice of reason in this ongoing debate.”*

—Cecile Richards, President of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund

## Republican National Convention Launches New Culture War

### Republican Presidential Candidate Senator John McCain and Vice Presidential Candidate Governor Sarah Palin’s Agenda Threatens Common Sense Reproductive Rights and Health Policies

Throughout their party’s national convention last week, Republican presidential and vice-presidential nominees Senator John McCain and Governor Sarah Palin squarely positioned themselves as the ticket that will challenge a woman’s right to choose, weaken government support for birth control and pregnancy prevention, continue President George Bush’s failed abstinence-only sex education programs, and further diminish our country’s progress in science.

**Congresswoman Diana DeGette**, chief architect of pro-science legislation and author of ***Sex, Science, and Stem Cells: Inside the Right Wing Assault on Reason*** (Lyons Press), makes the point that Americans need to seriously examine the candidates’ platforms on these important issues before they vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>:

- The Republican ticket gives new life to the failed right-wing social issues of the past. **Both Senator McCain and Governor Palin support the Republican agenda promoting a Constitutional Amendment to ban abortion** – without an exception for rape, incest, of the health or life of the mother.
- Senator McCain and Governor Palin have made deeply personal choices about their families. However, instead of respecting other American’s rights to make their own personal decisions about sex and reproduction, the **Republicans want government to impose their values on women across America at a time when a clear majority of Americans believe these decisions are personal and should not be made by politicians.**
- **McCain and Palin support continued funding of abstinence-only sex education programs despite the fact that the National Institutes of Health recently released findings that show teen pregnancy is on the rise for the first time in more than a decade.** In fact Governor Palin said in 2006 that “explicit sex education programs” that included contraception “would not find her support”;
- **While over 70 percent of the American public supports embryonic stem cell research, the Republican platform calls for a ban on ALL research on human embryos**—a position far more extreme than even that taken by the Bush Administration. Congresswoman DeGette is the chief author of the stem cell legislation which President Bush vetoed twice, and which could unlock cures for diseases like diabetes, Parkinson’s, nerve regeneration, and many more.

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- Many have incorrectly assumed that since John McCain is a maverick, he is also a moderate on issues around human reproduction. In fact, he has an agenda that tilts hard right. He voted against birth control for federal employees; he voted for abstinence-only programs; he even voted to de-fund the United Nations agency in charge of family planning. When asked about taxpayer funding for international AIDS prevention programs, which include contraception, Senator McCain said he favors "abstinence where there is going to be sexual activity." Senator McCain voted for every Bush judicial appointee, including one who disagreed with a court ruling that insurance companies that offer prescription drug coverage must also cover contraceptives.
- With a clear ultra-right party platform set forth by McCain and Palin, ***Sex, Science and Stem Cells*** is the first book to draw from actual Congressional floor debates, testimony and statements to expose the persistent, ill-conceived, and ultimately even dangerous influence of the Christian conservatives, and DeGette's examples in the book continue to set the record straight on the politicization of science and its dangerous effects on issues like birth control, abstinence only sex education, international HIV/AIDS policy and many more.
- In *Sex, Science and Stem Cells*, Congresswoman DeGette not only tackles the right-wing foibles around sex and reproduction, but she discusses in very personal terms the path she has taken and the tough family challenges she has faced in her fight to restore sanity to our public policies.
- **Diana DeGette will be available for interviews throughout the month of September from Washington D.C. She will be discussing and signing her book on Sept. 8 at Barnes & Noble in Bethesda, (4801 Bethesda Ave.) and on Sept. 17 at Trover Shop n Capitol Hill (221 Pennsylvania Avenue SE.)**