

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 27, 1982

Dear Bob:

Equality before the law has long been the cornerstone of the American constitutional system. I cherish that principle, and in my responsibilities as President, I have done my utmost to ensure that no person is discriminated against because of race, color, creed, national origin, or sex.

Last year I issued Executive Order 12336, which directed the Attorney General to complete the review of federal laws and regulations containing language that unjustifiably differentiates or discriminates on the basis of sex. The Order also created a Task Force on Legal Equity for Women which is responsible for implementing changes in regulation, policies, and practices ordered by me following review of the Attorney General's report. I am happy to report that the first stage of that process is underway, and I fully expect that when we are finished a significant contribution will have been made toward the achievement of full equality for women before the law.

The legislation which you will be introducing shortly seeks to remove or revise a number of statutes identified as sex biased in a June, 1982, Department of Justice report to me. I welcome your joining me in developing this effort. We will work closely with you and your staff to produce a bill and to see that it is enacted into law.

As important as this is, all of us realize that it is only one step that must be followed by many others. But in the end, I hope we will be able to say that full equality before the law is not just an ideal but a practical reality.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dole
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510