

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON DC, 20515

June 29, 2011

Dear Attendees of the World Congress of Families Moscow Demographic Summit:

Greetings from the United States Congress. It is our pleasure to welcome pro-family leaders, scholars, clergy, politicians, and families, of all beliefs and nationalities, to the World Congress of Families Moscow Demographic Summit: Family and the Future of Humankind.

This non-partisan/interfaith conference will be the first International Summit to deal exclusively with the dramatic worldwide decline of birthrates over the past 40 years and its potential impact on humanity's social and economic future. The Summit will consider contributing factors, including: population control policies, anti-family policies, the international abortion and contraception lobby, divorce and the decline of marriage – as well as the economic, social and national impact of declining birthrates and the importance of the natural family in staving off demographic winter and global economic decline.

We look forward to hearing the reports, recommendations, and ideas that will come out of this important World Congress of Families Summit. We would like to thank the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society and the many Russian organizations that have helped organize this event such as the Family and Demography Foundation, the Demographic Research Institute, the Sanctity of Motherhood Program and the Russian State Social University.

The work of the World Congress of Families to affirm and defend the natural family has had positive effects in the United States and throughout the world. The World Congress of Families meeting in Amsterdam in 2009, with over 60 nations represented, showed the world that people of many different faiths and cultures could agree on one important conclusion – the natural family is the key for all nations who wish to experience economic and social prosperity. Representatives to the last meeting of the World Congress of Families adopted the Amsterdam Declaration, which affirmed in solidarity with earlier WCF Declarations, "The natural family rests on the lifelong marriage of a man to a woman, for the purposes of welcoming and nurturing new human life, providing love, companionship, and mutual support, building a home rich in functions, and strengthening the bonds of the generations." Furthermore, the Declaration affirmed Article 16, par. 3, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, agreeing that "the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, and is entitled to protection by society and the State."

We completely agree. We must support the institution of marriage and help parents build stronger families with moral values – the human capital of our society and our economy. And we must continue our work to create a compassionate, virtuous, welcoming society, where more children are welcomed into the world with dignity and respect from conception to natural death.

You are all doing God's work to defend the family with conviction and kindness, and on behalf of the United States Congress, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Congressman W. Todd Akin - Missouri, 2nd District

Congressman Randall M. Hultgren, Illinois, 14th District