



MEDIA ADVISORY

Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3)

carnahan.house.gov | twitter.com/repcarnahan | youtube.com/congressmancarnahan

ADVISORY FOR:
Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Sara Howard, 314-962-1523 (o), 314-650-3286 (c)
Jim Hubbard, 202-225-2671 (o), 202-674-0594 (c)

ADVISORY: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1 PM ET WOMENS' RIGHTS HEARING

RUSS CARNAHAN LEADS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON ADVANCING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Hearing will Provide Oversight on Administration Policies

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Just weeks after leading a discussion between Afghani women office-holders and U.S. lawmakers last month, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) is conducting a Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing to oversee progress being made to empower women around the world and help them engage more fully at all levels of politics and civil society.

“The bottom line is that everyone benefits when women have equal rights,” said Carnahan. **“Nations are more stable, peaceful, and prosperous when women and girls have access to equal educational, political and economic opportunities. And that global stability is of the utmost importance to the United States’ economic and security interests.”**

Carnahan, who chairs the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, will receive testimony from witnesses representing the Obama Administration and private organizations regarding the status of work being done to increase levels of women’s political participation and maximize women’s roles as leaders within government and public life. Ambassador-at-Large Melanne Verveer, who directs the Office of Global Women’s Issues within the Department of State, will update the panel on the work being done by this newly formed office; and Dr. Esther Brimmer, Assistant Secretary of State, will testify on what the U.N. is doing to help women throughout the world.

“Evidence shows that when women are free to earn a living and get an education, their families and communities flourish and prosper. When women and children have access to health care services, it stabilizes communities. And when women are empowered to engage in the political process, governments are more effective and responsive to their people,” Russ Carnahan said.

Last month, Carnahan moderated a roundtable with Members of Congress and women Ministers from the Afghani government to discuss how the U.S. and Afghanistan can work together to empower women politically, economically and socially, and the important role of women in the Afghanistan reconstruction effort.

“Women’s rights are human rights,” said Carnahan. **“The world simply cannot make**

lasting progress in the 21st century if half of the population is left behind. By working to make sure that women and girls have access to education, health care and economic opportunities, we make an investment in our own economic and national security.”

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1 p.m. Eastern Time
2172 Rayburn Building

Witnesses include:

Panel I

The Honorable Melanne Vermeer
Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues
Office of Global Women's Issues
U.S. Department of State

The Honorable Esther Brimmer
Assistant Secretary
Bureau of International Organization Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Panel II

Mr. Kenneth Wollack
President
National Democratic Institute

The Honorable Swanee Hunt
Chair
Institute for Inclusive Security
(Former U.S. Ambassador to Austria)

Ms. Judy Van Rest
Executive Vice President
The International Republican Institute

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