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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 10, 1981

Rep. Barnes

STAT

[Redacted]

Director, External Affairs  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear [Redacted]

STAT

I am writing to you on behalf of several of my constituents who are concerned about the benefits that divorced and widowed CIA wives receive from the federal government.

Currently, the Foreign Service Act of 1981 provides annuity and survivor benefits to the dependent spouses of CIA officers. However, I understand that many CIA wives who served abroad with their husbands prior to 1972 -- who were required to cooperate in assignments related to their husband's government service -- are not entitled to similar benefits. Those who become divorced or widowed prior to the enactment of the legislation receive no benefits and many are having an extremely difficult time making ends meets. These women who contributed to the CIA mission feel that they are also entitled to the financial security afforded in the Foreign Service Act of 1981.

I would appreciate it very much if you would inform me of any CIA proposals or future plans on this question. Should you need any further information, please contact my assistant, Lenora Odeku, in my Capitol Hill office.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*Michael D. Barnes*  
Michael D. Barnes

MDB/lo