



Canada Family Action Coalition

Together for a better Canada

MEDIA RELEASE

March 30, 2001

Canadians Oppose Nomination of Cellucci as United States' Ambassador to Canada

Canada Family Action Coalition (CFAC), a leading national citizen's action organization in Canada, announced today that they will be one of a number of Canadian organizations who will sign an open letter to the White House and the United States Senate expressing profound disappointment with the nomination of Paul Cellucci as the United States' ambassador to Canada.

The signatories will urgently request that the nomination be withdrawn in the best interests of the Canadian people. That letter will be made public within the next few days. Clearly, there is growing dismay amongst pro-family and parents right groups in Canada with respect to the selection of Mr. Paul Cellucci. The clear pattern of the Cellucci administration in Massachusetts is that of consistently siding with, and catering to the extreme left on social or moral issues.

Virtually all the major parental rights and pro-family organizations in Massachusetts and most national family organizations across the US have expressed serious objections for the appointment of Cellucci. Roy Beyer, president of Canada Family Action Coalition stated, "The evidence of Mr. Cellucci's longstanding loyalties to the most radical groups in his state, to the detriment of Massachusetts children and their families is impossible to overlook."

"The decision of taking the unusual step of objecting to another nation's ambassadorial appointment is not taken lightly." Beyer added, "We are directly aware of at least three dozen groups in the US having alerted all 100 members of the United States Senate of their serious concerns and objections to the Cellucci nomination. We support the tone and content of the letter that they have delivered to the office of each senator. We also note the submission to the U.S. Senate of 100,000 signatures from American citizens asking for the nomination to be withdrawn.

Brian Rushfeldt, Executive Director of CFAC added, "When your neighbors (in the USA), who know the man, raise such flags of concern, it gets your attention. We have looked at Mr. Cellucci's moral and ethical legacy in his own state and we share the alarm at the person being sent to Canada."

Rushfeldt added, "In the light of the objection of so many USA based groups, we're also perplexed by the reported claim of Senators Jesse Helms of North Carolina and George Allan of Virginia that they 'know of no opposition' to the nomination. Are they talking about 'elected official opposition' or the voice of ordinary citizens? One of the reason why are taking the unusual step of publicly opposing this nomination is because the outcry from citizens' groups -- collectively representing millions of families in both countries -- is seemingly being ignored in Washington. The strength and vitality of democracy is at its roots."

CFAC therefore joins other Canadian organizations in respectfully asking the President of the United States to reconsider the selection of Mr. Cellucci. In the event that he does not do so, we ask the United States Senate to consider the detrimental impact of such a divisive and controversial figure as Mr. Cellucci representing the United States at such a sensitive time in Canada's history.

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For further comment please call

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