Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 09, 2015

Ms. Kim Sajet, Director
The National Portrait Gallery
Smithsonian Institution
PO Box 37012
Victor Building, Suite 4100, MRC 973
Washington D.C. 20013

Dear Ms. Sajet,

We the undersigned Members of Congress demand that the bust of Margaret Sanger be immediately removed from the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and not be displayed in or on any Smithsonian-operated property. The fact that her bust has been included as a part of the Gallery's "Struggle for Justice" exhibit is an affront both to basic human decency and the very meaning of justice.

Ms. Sanger was an avowed advocate of eugenics and the extermination of groups of people she deemed as "undesirables." Specifically, Ms. Sanger singled out African-Americans, among other minority groups, as deserving to be subjected to such horrific and inhumane treatment. Honoring a figure who promoted such hatred and deep-seated racism is not only contrary to the values that the exhibit is purporting to promote, but also deeply antithetical to the very values most Americans hold dear.

Renewed concern and scrutiny of Ms. Sanger's background stems from the recent ongoing revelations of Planned Parenthood's potential activities in the trafficking of fetal tissue and baby body parts from abortions. Ms. Sanger was a founder of Planned Parenthood and famously espoused birth control as a method for controlling the population of minorities. In a letter from 1939, Ms. Sanger stated, "We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population."

Honoring Ms. Sanger is an outrage.

We echo the recent petition of pastors and supporters affiliated with S.T.A.N.D. who similarly demanded that Ms. Sanger's bust be removed. As they rightfully stated in their letter, Ms. Sanger was no hero. Her racist views have had a very real and devastating impact on the widespread destruction of unborn human life—especially in minority communities.

We expect immediate action on this and look forward to your swift response.

Sincerely,

Sen. Ted Cruz

Rep. Louie Gohmert

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Rep. Steve King

Rep. Chris Smith

Rep. Tim Huelskamp

Rep. Charles Boustany

Rep. Marsha Blackburn

Rep. Randy Weber

Rep. Randy Neugebauer

Rep. Ken Buck

Rep. Trent Kelly

Rep. Jeff Duncan

Rep. John Ratcliffe

Rep. Trent Franks

Rep. John Fleming

Rep. Joe Pitts

Rep. Glenn Grothman

Rep. Matt Salmon

Rep. Paul Gosar

Rep. Roger Williams

Rep. Brian Babin

Rep. Blake Farenthold

Rep. Jim Bridenstine

Rep. Andy Harris

Rep. Kenny Marchant

Rep. Kevin Brady