July 25th, 2018

Dear Kate,

Thank you for welcoming and so graciously receiving the Naral group’s and my comments when we visited Sen.Collins’ office on Friday, July 13, 2018. As a member of the Elders for Future Generations, I’d like to expand on those thoughts just a bit, especially in regard to my concerns as a woman, a Naturopathic Doctor, a single mom, a grandmother and great grandmother who has always struggled to make her way in this society. I would so appreciate it, Kate, if you would please forward the following to Senator Collins. Thank you so much.

Dr.Priscilla Skerry (N.D.) Dear Senator Collins,

Without a doubt, you will be strongly pressured to approve of Judge Kavanaugh as the next appointee to the Supreme Court. First, I am concerned about any Supreme Court nominee made by a President under investigation for illegal behavior. But also, I am deeply concerned about the appointment of any ultra conservative candidate who has the capability of moving our court system to the extreme right, and for a very long period of time. These judges would most certainly make decisions that would take away a woman’s right to choose her own course in life in the event of an unintended pregnancy.

To me it is obvious that our world is at a crisis point in human development. Since the birth of this nation we have been on a path to promote and achieve equality and justice for all races, ages, creeds, nationalities, sexes and sexual preferences. Indeed, our form of democracy, as imperfect as it continues to be, has been--up to this point-- admired and sought by many people around the world. We have gained the respect of human rights activists everywhere.

Yet, in my life time (over seven decades now) some form of cancer has invaded our politics and struggling democracy. It is appearing in the form of a corporate economic superiority that seeks to stop, even *abolish* all the political gains for social justice that have been achieved during this same period of time. And like the disease of cancer, the Republican party-- which you, Senator Collins, have so faithfully and admirably served-- appears to have fallen victim to an insidious invasion that is a mockery of our struggling democracy. The group that has risen to supremacy-- still mostly white, wealthy and male--is apparently threatened by any value or view deemed feminine. The attempt right now to undermine reproductive rights is the strongest evidence for this.

Senator Collins, resting upon your decision may be the fate of women every where. It is my strong belief that should an ultra right conservative court system become the norm, the opportunity for developing a more compassionate world--one reconciled by balancing the deeply entrenched masculine values with those of the maternal and feminine--will be lost for a very long time.

A woman’s body and life are impacted by pregnancy. It is her life, her body that is being affected. This is a life changing event for a woman. Why should she not have the right to decide what the impacts will be for her and that potential being she carries within her? Are women merely to be valued only for generating a productive, profit making member of society who holds the potential to be inducted into a work or military force not yet humanely and fully conscious? Who is being protected, and for what? We have many questions to ask ourselves and each other, and a mandate to search for answers as if our lives depended upon it. Not just those of the unborn, but everyone’s, including that of our original birth mother, the planet.

All the flap about whether abortion is right or wrong is not the issue. The issue is about a woman having the right to make that painful decision about her and her fetus’s fate according to her own inner conscience. Legislating this disempowers women. Until humankind has evolved to be much more conscious, any judge who could or would potentially legislate limiting abortion and a woman’s right to be in control of her own body must be prevented access to the highest court in our land. Senator Collins, I pray you have the depth of feminine consciousness and courage to do this. May the great mother be with you, and all of us in creating new *and equal* alliances.

With much respect for you and the responsibilities you have been entrusted with,

Priscilla Skerry,

N.D. Naturopathic Doctor and member of: Elders for Future Generations