Political Parity

MEDIA ADVISORY
January 13, 2012

Launch of Historic Ten-Year Push to Double Number of Women in Congress and Governorships

Women Poised for Major Strides in 2012

WHAT: A **briefing and roundtable** announcing a **non-partisan national campaign** to double the number of women in the US House of Representatives and Senate and in governor seats.

WHO: Former US Ambassador to Austria Swanee Hunt and former Lt. Governor of Massachusetts Kerry Healey, chair and co-chair of Political Parity, with four other highly experienced leaders working across the political spectrum.

WHEN: **Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 11 a.m. EST**

WHERE: **National Press Club (**529 14th Street NW). The event will be **streamed live** via Webcast for those outside the Beltway (Register for the live webcast at http://bit.ly/xX6DZy and visit at 11am EST to watch. You are encouraged to ask questions during the webcast that we will answer live at the event.)

WHY:

- The United States ranks **behind 87 other** countries including Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Nepal in the percentage of women in parliament.
- Women comprise **just 16.8 percent of Congress**, but 51 percent of the population.
- 2012 has the potential to be a strong year for women in politics given the **significant number of female candidates** running for U.S. Senate.
- 2012 also presents opportunities for women due to the every-twenty-years confluence of two factors: **redistricting**, which creates new and open seats that women have more success at winning, and the **presidential election**, which mobilizes "occasional" voters who are more open to newcomer, "non-traditional" candidates. This confluence last occurred in 1992's "Year of the Woman."
- Political Parity has brought together 50 female political thought leaders in an **unprecedented collaboration** to accelerate major political change.

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Political Parity is a nonpartisan initiative to double the number of women at the highest levels of US government by 2022. Our vision is groundbreaking, our timeline is long, and we are part of large field of passionate, dedicated, and skilled activists. None of us will achieve our goal of doubling the number of women in Congress alone. We need to work collaboratively.