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385 Watervliet Shaker Rd. Latham, NY 12110-4799 . 518 783-3500**

**MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT:
New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (A.2970, S.4747).**

Dear New York State Senators and Assembly Members:

The Sisters of St. Joseph Albany supports the passage of the **New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (A.2970, S.4747)**. We echo the words of Pope John Paul II who in September of 1999, in his [Message to Jubilee 2000 Debt Campaign](#) stated:

Debt relief is, however, urgent. It is, in many ways, a precondition for the poorest countries to make progress in their fight against poverty. This is something which is now widely recognized, and credit is due to all those who have contributed to this change in direction.

The [New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crisis Protection Act](#) is essential to bring about the systemic change needed that will require private creditors with debt contracts in New York to participate in debt relief at the same level as governments and other public creditors. This change will not only reduce unsustainable and unpayable debt for our developing nations, it also `protects the United States' long-term investment. But will strengthen and protect the effectiveness of development aid. Debt relief for developing countries means economic relief and stability for all.

Beginning with our founding in 1650 our congregation has gone out to serve those most in need. Our founder Jean-Pierre Medaille, instructed our sisters to see each person, regardless of their class or disability, as their "dear neighbor." This is an instruction that each sister even today holds very dear.

We came to this country in 1836 as immigrants from France. As membership grew and spread all over the United States and beyond we have had a special concern for the immigrants. Throughout the years, the Sisters of St. Joseph have worked on behalf of those suffering from poverty around the world and especially in the poorest of nations where we encounter the most vulnerable of society.

Presently we have about 800 Sisters of St. Joseph all over the United States as well as foundations in Peru and Japan. Presently we have over 100 sisters in New York State. Many of our sisters have served in Peru and have witnessed first hand the devastating effect of the debt collection. in these nations have provided much insight as to the struggles within developing nations and the impact of U.S. policies in their nations.

We urge you to pass the **New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (A.2970, S.4747)**. This is one important step toward helping struggling nations in the developing world to better serve the needs of the people who often live in poverty.

In joy, we embrace the command of Christ: pray. Heal teach, love forgive.
