

RUSS FULCHER

FIRST DISTRICT, IDAHO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1520 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6611
FAX: (202) 225-3029
<http://fulcher.house.gov>



COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August 27, 2020

The Honorable Lonnie G. Bunch III
Secretary, Smithsonian Institution
1000 Jefferson Drive SW
Washington, D.C. 20560-0016

Dear Secretary Bunch,

Thank you for your letter of July 21, 2020 in response to my request to consider the removal of the bust of Margaret Sanger. While it is true that the “science” of Eugenics is now widely debunked, Planned Parenthood of Greater New York chose to remove Margaret Sanger’s name from a prominent clinic in Lower Manhattan. It cited as a reason Ms. Sanger’s “harmful connections to the Eugenics movement.” PPGNY board chair Karen Seltzer called the removal of Ms. Sanger’s name “a necessary and overdue step to reckon with our legacy and acknowledge Planned Parenthood’s contributions to historical reproductive harm within communities of color.”

There is also an effort by PPGNY to work with New York City leaders to remove a sign designating a nearby intersection “Margaret Sanger Square.” We also know that is important for the public to be reminded of the danger with arguments over, as you note, efforts to use genetics to deal with claimed “defects” in people. Such “claims” can lead to some to see others as different, opening the door to inequality. Historically, that has often led to government policies that are devastating and tragic. Given these actions and the reasons for undertaking them, and given you and your team’s concern to ensure visitors understand “the historic context of individuals and their views” against today’s perspectives, we appreciate further consideration to undertake the removal of the bust of Ms. Sanger.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, as well as the action you are taking to have the museum’s director “explore ways to more deeply debate Ms. Sanger’s life and her impact on contemporary America.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russ Fulcher".

Russ Fulcher, M.C.

MERIDIAN OFFICE:
33 E BROADWAY AVE, SUITE 251
MERIDIAN, ID 83642
(208) 888-3188
FAX: (208) 888-0894

LEWISTON OFFICE:
313 D STREET, SUITE 107
LEWISTON, ID 83501
(208) 743-1388
FAX: (208) 743-0247

COEUR D'ALENE OFFICE:
1250 IRONWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 200
COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814
(208) 667-0127
FAX: (208) 667-0310