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What We Want in a Presidential Candidate

Speech given to Family Research Council, October 19, 2007

Respect for Traditional Marriage. It's not enough for our candidate to say "I oppose same-sex marriage." Even John Kerry said that. It's not enough to say "I support a marriage amendment." The President doesn't have a role in adopting constitutional amendments.

We want to know how our candidate, if he becomes President, will use the power of his office to protect traditional marriage between a man and a woman. We want him to promise to use his executive power to fully enforce the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which the GAO says covers 1,138 federal laws affecting the rights of husbands and wives, including many regulations in the income tax code and in the Social Security system.

We want our candidate to promise to sign legislation that would prohibit federal judges from ordering same-sex marriage, or domestic partner benefits like those that accrue to married couples, either by pretending that this is required by the Fourteenth Amendment or by declaring DOMA unconstitutional.

Respect for Life. It's definitely not enough for a candidate to say "I'm pro-life." It's not sufficient to say he believes *Roe v. Wade* should be overturned because the President has no power to do that. We want to know what the candidate will do as President to advance protection for unborn babies.

We want him to promise to veto the Freedom of Choice Act, for which the feminists, led by Senator Barbara Boxer, have just started an all-out campaign. The Freedom of Choice Act would prohibit government, at any level, from interfering with our efforts to protect human life. The Freedom of Choice Act would wipe out every single pro-life bill we've passed in the last 34 years, including parental notice, parental consent, the woman's right to know law, waiting periods, fetal homicide, abortion-funding restrictions, and partial-birth abortion bans. We must have certain knowledge that our candidate would veto any such law.

We want sure knowledge that our candidate would veto any bill that would allow or fund embryonic stem cell research.

We must be assured that he will sign a bill to prohibit human cloning through somatic cell nuclear transfer or other means.

We want our candidate to pledge to support retention of the same, identical pro-life plank that has been in the Republican Party Platform through the last six Republican National Conventions. That plank proclaims that "the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed."

Protection for Parents' Rights. We want our presidential candidate to protect parents' rights in public schools by repudiating the offensive and impudent Ninth Circuit Court decision in *Fields v. Palmdale*, which ruled that parents' fundamental right to control the upbringing of their children "does not extend beyond the threshold of the school door."

Since the federal government gives about \$60 billion a year to public schools, we want our candidate to promise to sign school appropriation bills **only** if they contain language to protect parents' rights to protect their children against such things as nosy questionnaires about sex, drugs and suicide; mental health screening; forcing schoolchildren to be put on psychotropic drugs; courses that promote Islam or homosexuality; bilingual education; classroom materials that parents consider pornographic; giving birth control to 6th grade girls without parents' knowledge or consent; and sex education and sexual orientation courses even if they are masquerading as "diversity" courses.

Opposition to Supremacist Judges. It's not enough for our candidate to say he will appoint strict constructionist judges.

We want our President to appoint only judges and justices who will promise to enforce the Constitution as it is written. We want our President to appoint only judges and justices who publicly reject the liberal notion that our Constitution is "evolving," or that decisions can be based on "emerging awareness" about morals.

Our presidential candidate must promise to appoint judges who will stand up against the organized campaign to banish the acknowledgment of God from every public school, building

and park, turning the United States into a secular or even atheist nation. We want our presidential candidate to endorse and promise to sign legislation, such as the “We the People” bill (H.R. 300), to withdraw power from federal judges to ban the Pledge of Allegiance and the Ten Commandments from public schools and places.

We want our candidate to repeat the best thing President George W. Bush ever said: “We will not stand for judges who undermine democracy by legislating from the bench and try to remake the culture of America by court order.”

Protection of American Sovereignty. We want our President to be a leader in protecting American sovereignty. We want him to reject United Nations treaties because they are always an invasion of our sovereignty. They all set up a monitoring commission to dictate U.S. domestic law, and most of them set up a tribunal of foreign judges to decide disputes and enforce their rulings.

For example, we want our candidate to publicly oppose the United Nations Treaty on the Rights of the Child, which would dictate new rights of the child such as access to any media of the child’s choice despite his parents’ objections. We want our presidential candidate to oppose the United Nations Treaty on Women (known as CEDAW) which would make abortion a treaty right, and allow foreigners to revise our textbooks to comport with feminist ideology.

We want our presidential candidate to oppose the United Nations Law of the Sea Treaty, which would make all American use of the oceans, and the minerals at the bottom of the seas, subject to the International Seabed Authority in Jamaica and to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in Germany.

We want our candidate for President to promise that the Security and Prosperity Partnership will **not** be a stepping-stone to a North American Union modeled on the European Union.

Stop Illegal Aliens from Entering Our Country. We want our candidate for President to announce that he considers it a presidential duty to prevent illegal entry into our country. We want him to be forthright in praising the American people for successfully demanding that the U.S. Senate defeat the Bush-Kennedy Amnesty bill earlier this year.

We want our candidate to promise that he will never try to bamboozle us with a similar so-called “comprehensive” immigration bill or a so-called “DREAM Act,” that includes amnesty for the millions of illegal aliens now in our country. We want our candidate to reject any bill that would bring into our country hundreds of thousands more aliens who are falsely called “guest workers,” most of whom have never been to high school and will take jobs from our own millions of high-school dropouts who desperately need entry-level low-paid jobs to start building their lives.

We want our candidate to tell us how he will lift the tax

burden that Americans suffer today in providing the net value of \$20,000 a year to every illegal alien household. (That figure is provided by the Heritage Foundation.)

We want our candidate to tell us exactly what he will do to prevent the entry of the 85% of illegal drugs that come over our southern border.

We want our candidate to promise to enforce the law against employers hiring illegal aliens. The illegals and foreigners on visas are paid less than Americans, and so they depress American wages. The law of supply and demand works. The greater the supply of labor, the lower the wage.

Protection of American Jobs. We want to hear the plan of our presidential candidate for dealing with the way foreign countries discriminate against U.S. producers and products by subsidies and tax-rebates.

The leading Republican presidential candidates in the Michigan debate just said that we must be more competitive with foreign producers. That’s absurd. There is no way we can be competitive with Chinese factory workers who are paid 30 cents an hour with no benefits.

One candidate suggested that better U.S. technology will enable us to compete. That’s also absurd. The Chinese are stealing our technology and our inventions and still work their people at 30 cents an hour. Some suggested that better education, with more math and science, will make us competitive. That’s absurd, too. Our college graduates cannot compete with Asian engineers and computer techies who work for \$10,000 a year.

The top-tier Republican presidential candidates showed little or no compassion for the three million Americans who have lost their jobs to globalism. It’s no wonder that polls now show that Americans believe Democrats are better at dealing with the economy than Republicans.

Our candidate for President must reject the trade deals that are unfair to American workers. We want our President to protect us from the hostility of the World Trade Organization, another treaty that has been detrimental to Americans.

The World Trade Organization has ruled against the United States in 40 out of 47 cases. Why is anybody surprised? Why do we put up with the globalists who put our country into trade agreements and world organizations dominated by foreigners who hate and envy us, and who rule against us every chance they get?

We want to hear whether or not our presidential candidate supports the “global economy” — which forces Americans to compete against pitifully low wages, slave labor, and discriminatory practices imposed by foreign countries and foreign tribunals.

We want leadership to make sure that our economy produces good jobs that enable guys to buy a home and a car, support their families, live the American dream, and confidently expect their children to have an even better life.