Family Concerns
"Bridging the Information Gap"
A Publication of Concerned Women for America of Kansas 2004-22 August 12, 2004

DEMOCRATS TELL THEIR OWN STORY

Democrat Platform: "*Strong at Home, Respected in the World"*

2004 Report of the Platform Committee of the Democrat Party [Excerpted]

The Democrat Party says that it has three goals: to protect the American people, to protect our way of life and to produce a more peaceful, prosperous, more democratic world. The following is a list of some of their goals.

Defeating terrorism

- Improve intelligence to find and stop terrorists both at home and abroad by reforming our intelligence system by creating a Director of National Intelligence
- Cutting off of terrorists' funds by launching a "name and shame" campaign against those who are financing terror
- Increasing public diplomacy to promote understanding and prevent terrorist recruitment
- Keeping weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of terrorists

Promoting democracy, peace and security

- Upholding international standards for the treatment of prisoners
- Winning the peace in Iraq
  - "…internationalize both politically and militarily: we cannot depend on a US-only presence."
  - "We must build a coalition of countries, including the other permanent members of the UN Security Council to share the political, economic, and military responsibilities of Iraq with the United States."
  - "… create an international high commissioner to serve as the senior international representative working with the Iraqi government."
  - A "massive training effort to build Iraqi security forces that can actually provide security for the Iraqi people. It must be done in the field and on the job as well as in the classroom. Units cannot be put on the street without backup from international security forces."
  - Creation of a Palestinian state to rule "side by side" with Israel

Economy

- Tax reform to create new jobs
  - End deferral policies for American companies
  - "Knock down barriers to free, fair and balanced trade so other nation's markets are as open as our own."
  - Including enforceable, internationally recognized labor and environmental standards in trade agreements
  - "We will make sure that Americans are the best-skilled, best-trained workers in the world. In addition to reforming K-12 education, we will expand training and opportunities for Americans of all ages. We will support regional skills alliances, workforce development conducted at community colleges, and other initiatives that prepare workers for high-skills jobs that offer family sustaining wages and benefits."
- Standing up for the middle class that they feel has been "ignored" by the Bush administration
  - Eliminate "across the board" tax cuts; roll back tax cuts for those making over $200,000
  - Child care subsidies
  - Gas prices lowered
  - Increase minimum wage to $7 an hour
  - End "corporate welfare"

Healthy families

- Reform health care by: covering all uncovered children through Medicaid and expansion of children's health-care programs
- Cutting health care costs by picking up the tab for the highest-cost medical cases and cutting administrative costs
- Electronic medical records for all Americans by 2008
- Investing in science to prevent disease
  - Government-funded embryonic stem-cell research
  - Women's health. [Generally a euphemism for abortion and family planning.]
- Protect Medicare and cut prescription costs for seniors

Finally:

"We will defend the dignity of all Americans against those who would undermine it. Because we believe in the privacy and equality of women, we stand proudly for a woman's right to choose, consistent with *Roe v. Wade* and regardless of her ability to pay. [Government-funded abortion.] We stand firmly against Republican efforts to undermine that right. At the same time, we strongly support family planning and adoption incentives. Abortion should be safe, legal and rare."

"We support full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of our nation and seek equal responsibilities, benefits and protections for these families. In our country, marriage has been defined at the state level for 2000 years, and we believe it should continue to be defined there. We repudiate President Bush's divisive effort to politicize the Constitution by pursuing a 'Federal Marriage Amendment.'"

"We honor the central place of faith in the lives of our people. Like our Founders, we believe that our nation, our communities, and our lives are made vastly stronger and richer by faith and the countless acts of justice and mercy it inspires. We will strengthen the role of faith-based organization in meeting challenges like homelessness, youth violence, and other social problems. At the same time, we will honor First Amendment protections and not allow public funds to be used to proselytize or discriminate …"

A review of the Republican Party Platform will appear in the *Family Concerns* after the Republican Party Convention.

P O Box 11233 Shawnee Mission KS 66207 Phone & Fax (913) 491-1380 e mail: director@kansas.cwfa.org
Family Concerns is published 36 times a year. Suggested donation is $15.00 per year.
Reproduction of this newsletter in its entirety is highly encouraged!!!!