

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

Dear Friend,

There is always a lot at stake when America chooses a president. But there has never been more hanging in the balance than now. Election Day can only bring the deep and fundamental changes our country needs if we work our hearts out every day between now and then.

After eight long years of an administration that created as many serious problems as it failed to resolve, Americans will go to the polls to embrace new leadership ready to bring us together around smart solutions that engage the wisdom and true spirit of the American people.

As a senator from New York, I will do whatever I can to stop any further damage in the next two years by the Bush administration. But, only a president can undo the damage that George Bush has done. And only a Democratic victory in the 2008 presidential election can renew our hopes and our sense of optimism.

I believe we can make that change on November 4, 2008, and that is why I have formed an exploratory committee to run for President of the United States.

It is my hope that you will join me on this journey right from the start. Let's work together, just as we have at other times when everything we believed in and cared about was on the line. We will restore respect for America's leadership around the world and renew the promise of America at home. We will repair the basic bargain of America: that if you work hard and play by the rules, you and your family will have the tools to make a better life.

Winning in 2008 is not about partisan advantage or about personal ambition. It is about renewing the promise of America. It is about boldly embracing the bright future that can be ours if we have the courage and persistence to claim it.

I grew up in a middle-class family in the middle of America. My father was a World War II veteran and a small businessman who taught me that with hard work and faith you could win a better life for your family and a brighter future for your community. I grew up believing that we could overcome every barrier if we worked together and stayed true to our highest calling as Americans.

That is the promise America makes to its people, and we need to renew that promise not just for some, but for the tens of millions who are working hard to raise a family. For our new immigrants. For those who still live in poverty. For those who have no health care and no pension. For all of us.

(over, please)



I hope you will join me right now in expressing your personal determination to wage a winning 2008 campaign that will renew America's promise. We can not give up on America's great ability to overcome adversity with new ideas. The good ideas are there. We need to clear the path to the future of all the special interests, ideological extremists, and abusive practices that have blocked the way. We can succeed in this new world if we are smart about it.

With your support, I intend to start this campaign with a conversation on the changes our country needs and how we can work together to make them. In the weeks and months ahead, I will be traveling to Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Nevada, and other states, meeting as many people as I can and sharing my hopes and dreams for America's future.

I believe that if we work together, with a bold, can-do spirit that is America at our best, we can develop a coherent Iraq strategy and redeploy our troops and repair our alliances so we can fight terrorism together. While cutting the deficit and balancing the budget, we can make our economy work for a vibrant middle class, not just a privileged few. We can protect our environment by increasing our energy independence and protect valuable programs like Social Security and Medicare.

In the last six years in the Senate, I have learned when you have to just dig in and fight — like when President Bush wanted to privatize Social Security; or when you have to build a coalition to get things done — like reaching across the aisle to make sure our troops have better body armor.

Serving on the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have seen firsthand how we must reshape our military for a new fight. And I have seen how vital it is to restore America's role as a world leader, the one country that can bring nations together to resolve conflict and strife. We should not walk away from our allies and we should never have left North Korea on its own to develop nuclear weapons.

Working for 35 years as an advocate for children, I have seen their hopes dashed as the cost of health care skyrockets and our schools struggle. It is the reason why I wrote *It Takes a Village* when I was First Lady, as I continued to advocate for health care and welfare reform. I knew then as we continue to see now that it takes a partnership of good parenting, the private sector, and the right public policies to give our children a better future.

It is hard to believe that 13 years after we passed the Family and Medical Leave Act, it still has never been expanded to more of our workers. It is even harder to believe we still have over eight million kids without health care in this country.

The 2008 campaign is about fighting for our children and our families. It is about a new generation of women, wondering if they will live in a world

of limited or unlimited possibilities. All my life I have fought to give women a choice — in their careers, with their families, and in their personal lives. We won the battle I led for Plan B, but the fight continues with a Supreme Court increasingly hostile to the choices women need and the freedoms America cherishes.

You and I know that campaigns are about more than gathering votes. They are about ideas. They are about finding smart solutions to tough problems. They are about engaging the American people in making the most profound decisions about the kind of people we are and the kind of country we want our children to inherit. It is critical that we Democrats run a campaign we will be proud of: bold, principled, inclusive, and unyielding in our quest for victory.

The Republicans will do all they can to stop me or any other Democrat who tries to take away the one seat of power they have left. Over the years they have spent close to a hundred million dollars against me and yet I won two strong victories for the Senate. In 2006, New Yorkers, in counties President Bush carried just two years earlier, gave me 60% of their votes. I know how Washington Republicans think, how they operate, and how to defeat them.

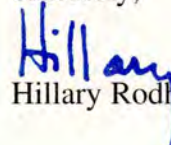
I am not afraid to fight for the things I believe in, whether it is expanding health care for children or standing up to the Chinese in Beijing and proclaiming that women's rights are human rights.

As we make our way to the White House, we will be making history and re-making our future. Barriers are broken only when someone dares to challenge them, and when others support that challenge with determination and commitment.

In every lifetime, the American spirit can rise up in a series of moments that honor our heritage, enrich the present, and shape the future. This campaign is our moment: our chance to stand up for the principles and values that we cherish, and to bring new ideas, energy, and leadership to a uniquely challenging time in order to give our children the future they deserve. It's our chance to say "we can" and "we will."

Let's go to work. America's future is calling us.

Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

Together, I know we can do this! Hillary

Paid for by Hillary Clinton for President Exploratory Committee.