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THE HONORABLE JOHN F. KERRY
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EXCERPTS FROM *A CALL TO SERVICE: MY VISION FOR A BETTER AMERICA* BY SENATOR JOHN F. KERRY

It's time for a new call to service. It's time to rally Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike to face the common challenges of this generation. In the course of my career, from the Mekong Delta to Senate, I've tried to muster the right combination of the toughness to govern and the compassion to care – along with a deep commitment to justice and to America's progressive values.

While we are living today in the most extraordinary and powerful nation on earth, I believe not only that America's best days are still to come but that our best work is yet to be done. We have the capacity to lift the life of our own land as well as lead the world to a safer and more hopeful future. But doing so will require equal measures of strength, vision, and resolve, embodied in a leadership that grasps both the breadth of our potential and the great legacy of our past.

As someone might guess from my early decision to serve on fast boats in the Navy, I love pastimes that bring together the sky, wind, and surf. One of my favorite sports, in fact, is windsurfing, followed by sailing as a close second. In the winter, I love to ski and skate, and I am so addicted to ice hockey that I still fantasize about starting a professional over-fifty senior league.

I will proudly proclaim the values that make us Democrats: our commitment to equal opportunity; our belief that economic growth is built on the work and talent of all our people; our commitment to international rules and institutions that promote peace, security, prosperity, freedom and democracy; our concern for a vibrant and participatory democracy here at home; our willingness to meet national challenges before they become emergencies; and, above all, our determination to make government not an end in itself but a vehicle for the achievement of common goals.

As fate would have it, I learned a new personal lesson about diversity and the American mosaic late last year. Anticipating my candidacy, *The Boston Globe* looked into my family history. Among other things, the paper discovered that one hundred years ago my paternal grandfather was an Austrian Jew named Fritz Kohn, who changed his name to Kerry and

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(CONTINUED)

converted to Catholicism shortly before immigrating to Massachusetts. I didn't know this because my grandfather died when I was just five years old – a reminder of how much so much of America's history is buried.

We have the means and the opportunity in this country to create the highest standard of living the world has ever seen. We have the brainpower to clean up our environment, improve our quality of life, spread innovation throughout our workplaces, build twenty-first century schools, give Americans longer life and better health, eradicate bigotry, and radically reduce poverty. And we can spread political and economic freedom around the world, doing so in a way that makes America the most admired, not the most feared, nation on earth.

No lesson our students can learn is more important than citizenship. Teaching them about the rights and responsibilities they have as Americans is as vital as teaching them algebra or literature. Literacy about democracy is the lifeblood of a free society. Yet in a recent national test, more than 45 percent of twelfth graders couldn't explain how democracy benefits from citizen participation. That's our failing, not theirs. We need to teach democratic values in our classrooms and educate students not only about how a bill becomes a law but about how they can become fully participating citizens.

Our great country, the world's oldest and strongest democracy, can become even greater if we commit ourselves to helping one another here at home and helping others beyond our borders achieve the values of freedom and democracy that we have championed to the envy of the whole world. This is my call to service and yours.

EXCERPTS FROM *RUMORS OF OUR PROGRESS HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED* BY CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY

One of the main reasons I am in Congress today is that I wanted to help push progress forward.

Yet, there are many areas in which women's rights are being eroded and women's vital needs are not being met. The wage gap is narrowing at a snail's pace. Reproductive rights are more restricted than at any time since the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973. Sex discrimination complaints, although falling, are higher now than they were in the year after the Clarence Thomas/Anita Hill hearings... Indecent, regressive changes to the tax code have cut into the social services that women disproportionately utilize, and they are likely to lead to deeper cuts in the future. America's percentage of children enrolled in early education programs that are critical to child development and help enable women to balance work and family is tied with that of Ecuador—39th in the world.

What does the Women's Equality Amendment—all 52 words of it—actually say?

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

Too many government policies contribute to what I call the decency deficit. Abuse of power, greed, corruption, and arrogance collapsing under its own weight contributed strongly to the change of control in Congress in 2006.

The best definition of evil I've ever heard is that it is simply the absence of empathy. The trafficking of girls and women—robbing them of every shred of dignity, which is every human's birthright, strictly to make a profit—is evil in the extreme.

- Of the estimated 27 million people held in slavery around the world today:
 - 80 percent are female.
 - As many as 50 percent are minors.
- 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year.
- 14,500 to 17,500 are trafficked into the United States.

EXCERPTS FROM *RUMORS OF OUR PROGRESS HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED BY CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY* (CONTINUED)

Over time, if we all strive to make a difference both inside and outside Washington's Beltway—as workers and moms, scholars and senators, mentors and coaches, activists in religious congregations and community organizations—American women will prove once again that we are as unstoppable as we are incomparable. We can be the business leaders who create jobs for women and maintain America's economic preeminence. We can change the attitudes of the workforce and government to foster *real* family values, creating a saner work/life balance for all parents, married or single. We can end violence against women by more effectively prosecuting its perpetrators and protecting its victims. We can create a health-care system that puts people ahead of profits. We can restore the decency and human values on which this country was founded. We can change the rules. We can change the world.

TAKE-ACTION GUIDE:

Equal Opportunity for All:

Battle the stereotypes that hold women back.

Get a Catalyst report into the hands of those who run your organization and its management training programs. Spread the word on how stereotypes work so others can make the subconscious conscious.

A Womb of Our Own:

The assault on reproductive rights and the backsliding it has wrought has been a call to arms for women's rights groups.

- 1. Help make sure that comprehensive, accurate sex education is available to all schoolchildren.**
- 2. Prevent government laws and regulations from standing in the way of a woman's or girl's freedom to choose for herself.**
- 3. Fight to eradicate pharmacist refusal clauses that could prevent a woman or girl from purchasing contraception in a timely manner.**
- 4. Demand that health insurance companies offer comprehensive coverage of contraceptives.**
- 5. Work to keep abortions safe, legal, and accessible.**

EXCERPTS FROM *RUMORS OF OUR PROGRESS HAVE BEEN GREATLY EXAGGERATED BY CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY* (CONTINUED)

A Seat at the Table:

What would the country look like if Congress consisted of 16 percent *men* instead of the other way around? I have my own opinions, but there's only one way to find out:

1. Fill the pipeline.

Encourage your daughters to think about politics and to be active in leading their schools.

2. Make women's voices heard.

Vote! Women are the single largest voting bloc in this country. We have much further to go, and the most important tool available to us all is our constitutionally guaranteed right to vote. Use it.

3. Run for office yourself.

Run for local office. Running for a local office—these vary from community to community but can include everything from town or city council member to sheriff to school board member—can be your entrée into elected office.

A Critical Mass of Women:

The bottom line is that we need more women in the halls of Congress and state legislatures across the country.

We are moving in the right direction. Women gained three House seats and two Senate seats in the 2006 election. Today, there are more women representatives—71—and senators—16—than ever before. Despite all the talk about the empowerment of American women, with just 16 percent representation in the House and Senate, we are about average.

Whatever our personal aspirations may be, we can all make progress for women, not just by writing our legislators or joining [political] organizations, but in our everyday lives. Each time we ask to be promoted, force an insurance company to pay a doctor's bill that it initially rejected, grill the principal on why there are twice as many teams for boys than girls at our daughters' high schools, convince a young woman to get a membership at the gym instead of a tanning salon, or tell our daughters that the sky is the limit for their futures, we make progress for all of womankind.

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