



November 10, 2003

Howard Dean
Dean for America
P.O. Box 1228
Burlington, VT 05402

Re: Outreach to unmarried voters

Dear Dr. Dean:

We at Unmarried America keep receiving letters and e-mails from our members and from visitors to our website asking the same questions:

- Are any of the presidential candidates expressly reaching out to unmarried voters?
- Are any of the candidates specifically seeking the support of unmarried voters?
- Are any of the candidates taking a position on marital status discrimination?
- We hear them say “family” over and over, why don't we ever hear the s-word (single)?

Unmarried America is an equal rights organization. We promote more fairness for unmarried workers, consumers, and taxpayers – and greater recognition of unmarried voters.

Unfortunately, we have been required to tell those who have inquired that NONE of the presidential candidates has shown any serious interest in reaching out to unmarried voters and NONE of the candidates has taken any position on issues addressed in our federal briefing paper. We find this quite amazing since 35% of all voters in the 2000 federal elections were unmarried.

The unmarried population, and our issues, are getting greater recognition these days. For example, BusinessWeek Magazine carried a cover story recently entitled UNMARRIED AMERICA. The eight-page story – a copy of which is enclosed – explains who we are, how our numbers keep growing, and how we are having an impact on society. It also summarizes many areas of unfairness which unmarried Americans experience. Since that story appeared in the October 20 issue of BusinessWeek, similar stories have appeared in the Christian Science Monitor and American Demographics Magazine.

I am enclosing the Federal Issues Paper which was distributed by our organization in September during a briefing for Congress which was held in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building during National Unmarried and Single Americans Week. If you and your campaign staff review this document you will see that several areas of federal law need to be amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of marital status and family status. We are not aware of your position on marital status discrimination.

We would like to hear from you so that we can share your views on these issues with our members and website visitors. We would like to inform unmarried Americans – and there are 86 million of them – where you stand on our issues and why you feel that unmarried voters should support your campaign.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas F. Coleman
Executive Director