



HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN

1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 628-4160  
(202) 347-5323 Fax  
[www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

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## 2008 Presidential Questionnaire

*"The Human Rights Campaign envisions an America where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are ensured of their basic equal rights, and can be open, honest and safe at home, at work, and in the community."*

Please answer each of the following questions, and elaborate as much as you would like here, or on additional sheets.

Candidate Name: Hillary Clinton

1. Currently, there is no federal law protecting individuals from job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Qualified, hardworking Americans can still be denied job opportunities, fired or otherwise be discriminated against just because of their sexual orientation in 33 states and because of their gender identity in 42 states. As president, would you support and work for passage of a federal bill that would prohibit job discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Support     Oppose    Comments:

**As president, I will sign the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) into law. Throughout my Senate career, I have been an original co-sponsor of ENDA. It is inconceivable to me that people who work hard and do a good job every day can still be fired because of who they love. It's unfair, it's un-American, and I will put a stop to it once and for all.**

2. Currently the federal hate crimes law does not protect all Americans from bias-motivated violence. Would you support federal legislation that adds sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability to existing federal law giving authority to the federal government to investigate and prosecute violent crimes (H.R. 1592)? This authority already exists for crimes committed because of the victim's race, color, religion and national origin and because they were attempting to exercise a federally protected

right.

Support     Oppose    Comments:

**I believe that hate crimes undermine the fundamental principle upon which our nation was founded, that all men and women are equal. I will strengthen law enforcement and prosecution of discriminatory acts of violence against gays, lesbians, and transgender individuals. I am a co-sponsor of the *Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act* and as president, will sign it into law.**

3.      New treatments have improved the quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS, but those treatments are expensive, and not available to everyone who needs them. Years of flat-funding for the *Ryan White Care Act* has forced states across the country to institute waiting lists, limit formularies, and other cost containment measures. The CARE Act provides access to life-saving treatment and care for over half a million low-income Americans with HIV/AIDS. Would you support increased funding for this critical program?

Support     Oppose    Comments:

**I strongly support increased appropriations for the Ryan White CARE Act. I spearheaded an effort to request \$840 million, an increase of \$236 million, for this program this year.**

4.      Would you support the *Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA)*, S. 860, federal legislation that would allow states the option to provide Medicaid coverage to low-income, HIV positive Americans. Currently, only Americans that can be considered disabled are eligible for Medicaid coverage, excluding those who are HIV positive but have no symptoms of the disease?

Support     Oppose    Comments:

**In the Senate, I am the lead co-sponsor of the Early Treatment for HIV Act, which expands access to vital treatment options for low-income individuals living with HIV. It's a common-sense bill to help people who are HIV positive live longer and healthier lives, and I strongly support it.**

Would you support increased funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and research?

Support     Oppose    Comments:

**I have fought for major increases in all of the federal programs that provide funding for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and research as a Senator and will continue to**

**champion these causes as president. I have also called for redirecting funding from the Community-Based Abstinence Education Program to evidence-based prevention and sex education programs.**

5. Would you support the *Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act* which would create a federal grant program to channel money to states that choose to teach comprehensive and age-appropriate sex education for America's students that includes science-based prevention methods?

Support     Oppose    Comments:

**The REAL Act is a part of the Prevention First Act, of which I am an original lead co-sponsor. I strongly believe young people deserve access to medically accurate comprehensive sex education so that they can make the best decisions for their health and well-being.**

6. Currently, only Massachusetts recognizes equal marriage rights for same sex couples. Do you believe the civil institution of marriage (with absolutely no requirements imposed on religious institutions) should be made legally available to two committed adults of the same sex?

Support     Oppose    Comments

**The question of marriage is one that historically has been left to the states. I opposed the so-called "Family Marriage Amendment" because this issue has no place in the Constitution.**

If you do not believe that civil marriage for same-sex couples should be made available to same-sex couples on the same basis as opposite sex couples, is there any legal construct you do embrace that would extend legal recognition to same sex couples?

**I believe gay and lesbian couples should have the same rights and responsibilities as all Americans and that civil unions are the best way to achieve this goal. As president, I will work to ensure that all Americans in committed relationships have equal benefits – from health insurance and life insurance, property rights, and more.**

7. If a state has taken the steps to recognize same sex couples and their families for purposes of state-based benefits, rights, privileges and responsibilities (such as marriage in Massachusetts and civil unions in Vermont and Connecticut), should the federal government recognize the state's legal recognition of such couples and families for purposes of federal benefits and tax treatment?

Support     Oppose    Comments:

**I have long been on record supporting equality in benefits and eliminating discrimination against gays and lesbians. I support repealing the provision of DOMA that may prohibit the federal government from providing benefits to people in states that recognize same sex marriage. I strongly support ensuring people in stable, long-term same sex relationships have full equality of benefits, rights, and responsibilities.**

8. According to a 2004 GAO report, over 1,100 benefits, rights and privileges are provided to married couples and their families in federal law that are not available to same-sex couples. Do you support extending federal benefits, rights, privileges and responsibilities to same-sex couples (and their children) provided the partnership meets certain federal standards of commitment and mutuality of interest?

**X Support**     Oppose    Comments:

**I support full equality of benefits, rights, and responsibilities for individuals in loving, stable, same sex relationships and in principle, I would like to see federal benefits extended to same sex couples that meet certain standards. I would need to examine the feasibility of implementing such a provision and look forward to working in partnership with the Human Rights Campaign and others in the gay rights community to determine the best path for realizing this goal.**

Specifically, do you support the expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover domestic partners and their children?

**X Support**     Oppose    Comments:

Do you support modifying the Social Security System to pay survivor benefits to the same-sex partners of gay and lesbian people?

**X Support**     Oppose    Comments:

Do you support fair and equal tax treatment of same sex couples on the same basis as married couples?

**X Support**     Oppose    Comments:

9. Many gay and lesbian people serve in the federal government but do not receive the same health insurance and other employee benefits of married couples. Do you support domestic partner coverage for gay and lesbian employees of the civilian federal workforce?

**X Support**     Oppose    Comments:

**I am an original cosponsor of the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligation Act, which would grant the same benefits (including health insurance) to domestic partners of federal employees that are currently offered to employees' legal spouses.**

10. While 47 states allow gay and lesbian people to adopt children, some legislators are pushing to prohibit capable, committed adults from adopting because of their sexual orientation. As president, would you support giving appropriate judicial authorities the full authority to make decisions on adoption based on the best interest of the child, without bans based solely on sexual orientation?

Support     Oppose    Comments:

**I have been an advocate for children, especially those who are abused and neglected, for thirty five years. I believe children fare best when they are raised in a home with loving, supportive, and responsible parents. I would not deny that opportunity to any child.**

11. Would you support the *Uniting American Families Act*, which would enable an American citizen to petition for immigration sponsorship for a same-sex partner, and the INS would treat the relationships between opposite and same-sex couples in the same manner under the immigration code?

Support     Oppose    Comments:

**In the current immigration debate, I'm fighting to ensure our immigration policies respect and reunify families that have been waiting for years. While I'm supportive of this proposal in principle, I have been concerned about fraud and believe implementation of this provision could strain the capacity of our Citizenship and Immigration Services.**

12. Would you support a congressional repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy which would allow gay, lesbian, and bisexual soldiers the right to serve openly in the military as is currently the policy in nearly every NATO country (H.R. 1246)?

Support     Oppose    Comments:

**I know that courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice – the traits that define our men and women in uniform – have nothing to do with sexual orientation. I'm concerned that the military is discharging people with critical skills – including desperately needed Arabic language skills. Our close allies, Great Britain and Israel, have changed their policies to allow gays to serve in the military without dire consequences. This is a matter of national security and I will fix it.**

