



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

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

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: Senator Chris Dodd

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 the father of two young daughters who may grow up to have a different sexual orientation than their parents, my greatest hope is that they will be treated with the same fairness and respect as everyone else, in every aspect of their lives. I would hope that all Americans would approach these issues as if it affected their own children and grandchildren.

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:

For the past decade, I have worked to include crimes based on a victim's gender, sexual orientation and gender identity within the definition of a hate crime. I will strenuously and wholeheartedly work with Senators Kennedy and Smith, as I have in the past, to pass this legislation in the Senate. As I have said in the past, I think that hate crimes are vile and offensive. Those that engage in hate crimes should be swiftly brought to justice and dealt with.

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:

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:

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

Support Oppose Comments:

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:

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:

Above all, I believe in fairness as a fundamental American value. While I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman, I believe with all of my heart that same-sex couples must be afforded all the rights and obligations of heterosexual couples – in the home, in the workplace, in our military, and in retirement. That is why I strongly support civil unions. I am proud to be from Connecticut, a state that has voluntarily enacted legislation authorizing civil unions. I believe that such legislation should contain the strongest language possible to ensure that same sex couples receive the same protections under the law.

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?

See above.

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:

7. 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?

Support

Oppose

Comments:

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

Support

Oppose

Comments:

As the author of the Family Medical Leave Act, and the Senator who fought for seven years and against two vetoes to enact the legislation that has allowed over 50 million people take

the time they need to care for their families without having worry about losing their jobs, I would like to see the protections of that law extended to cover all families, including domestic partners and their children.

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

Support Oppose Comments:

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

Support Oppose Comments:

8. 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?

Support Oppose Comments:

9. 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:

10. 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:

11. 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: