



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

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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: **Dennis J. Kucinich, Congressman, D-OH**

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: **All U.S. citizens should be afforded equal rights and protections under the law. I cosponsored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA, which would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.**

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 was one of the original co-sponsors of H.R. 1592 and pushed hard for its passage by the House.**

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: **AIDS is a global epidemic. The United States must commit our full resources to fighting this growing crisis, here and globally. To do anything short of that is unacceptable. In the name of justice, humanity, and for the protection of the global community, we must find ways to increase, not decrease, funding to fight this epidemic.**

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: **Absolutely. But, further, I have introduced federal legislation to create a not-for-profit, single-payer, universal health insurance program for all Americans that would provide coverage for all medical conditions and services.**

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: **I am on record supporting this and related measures.**

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 **I believe that equality of opportunity should**

be afforded to all Americans regardless of race, color, creed, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. For that reason I support the right of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons to have the full protections and rights afforded under civil law including the right to marry the person of their choice.

6. 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: **The decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to recognize and uphold this civil right is a victory not just for gay and lesbian citizens who have been denied their civil rights and relegated to second-class status. It is a victory for all Americans who believe, as I do, that the promise of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights should be upheld for everyone.**

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: **On September 30, 2004, I voted and spoke against an amendment to define marriage as solely between a man and a woman and it would have denied unmarried couples over 1,100 legal rights accorded to married couples.**

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

Support Oppose Comments: **I support all federal legislation that reverses the discrimination against same-sex couples.**

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: