We will defend the dignity of all Americans against those who would undermine it. Because we believe in the privacy and equality of women, we stand proudly for a woman’s right to choose, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, and regardless of her ability to pay. We stand firmly against Republican efforts to undermine that right.

We strongly support family planning and adoption incentives. The combination of comprehensive sex education and family planning services empower all people to make informed decisions, both at home and abroad. We support Democratic efforts to once again repeal the global gag rule, and to rejoin the funding of the United Nations Population Fund.

We support the protection of the rights of all people regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, disability status, nationality, and age. We oppose any constitutional amendment, which would deny these rights. Civil union and marriage shall be given equal deference in the eyes of the law. We recognize that marriage is a spiritual union between two people as defined by their faith. We recognize that the responsibility to grant unions is a duty of the states and it shall remain as such, so long as no person is denied the right to enter into a union due to his or her sexual orientation. The right to equality implicit in civil unions must also be applied to all aspects of life, including workplace equality and education.

We believe in preserving a free America through maintaining the protection of civil liberties which serve as the foundation of American democracy; especially those which guarantee the freedom of expression, freedom of religion, the protection of minorities, the rights of the accused, and the privacy of all Americans.

We will push the boundaries of science in search of new medical therapies and cures by increased federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. Americans deserve access to the latest research and treatment options available. From new therapies to prolong life for people with AIDS, to new openings in the battle to cure cancer, the possibilities of medical research fill us with hope. We will secure more funding for aggressive biomedical research seeking affordable and effective therapies based on real science. We will pursue this research under the strictest ethical guidelines, but we will not walk away from the opportunity to save lives and reduce human suffering.

We uphold equal protection under the law for all individuals and support ongoing efforts to ensure equal opportunities regardless of race, class, gender, religion or sexual orientation.

Our commitment to civil rights is ironclad. We will restore vigorous federal enforcement of our civil rights laws for all our people, from fair housing to equal employment opportunity, from Title IX to the Americans with Disabilities Act. We support affirmative action to redress
discrimination and to achieve the diversity from which all Americans benefit. We will enact the bipartisan legislation barring workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation. We are committed to equal treatment of all service members. We believe in their right to serve without discrimination, persecution and/or violence. We support the appointment of judges who will uphold our laws and constitutional rights, not their own narrow agendas.

We support the removal of racial and religious profiling practices from the police, FBI, CIA, and other organizations as they cannot peacefully coexist with the already guaranteed civil liberties of all. We reject the extension of the Patriot Act and Identification Cards which targets minority communities and political activists. We respect and encourage the right of individuals to assemble peacefully and discuss political issues free from fear of persecution.

The Democratic Party is committed to fulfilling the promise of Social Security to all Americans who have paid into it. For generations, Social Security has allowed the elderly, the disabled, and children to live in dignity, not fear. We Democrats resist any plan that draws necessary funding away from Social Security into an unstable stock market that places more Americans at risk. We would also enforce fiscal discipline and oppose lowering benefits for workers who also earned other retirement plans.

As Democrats and Americans, we believe that education is a fundamental right for all citizens. We view education as the great source of American strength, because it unleashes the amazing talent and determination of our people. As our people seize the opportunity to build a better life, they build a stronger country. Education is the key to opportunity; America must offer the best education to all its children wherever they live, whatever their background.

We believe in an America: where every child comes to school ready to learn; where every student is held to high standards, and every school has the resources and responsibility to meet those standards; where every classroom has a great teacher, and every student gets enough personal attention to foster a talent or overcome a difficulty; where every teenager completes a rigorous high school curriculum; where every qualified young person who wants to go to college can afford it; and where every adult who needs additional job training can get it.

We Democrats will fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act so it will truly fulfill the promise of its name. We believe that a strong America begins at home with strong families, and that strong families need the best schools. We believe schools must teach fundamental skills like math and science, and fundamental values like citizenship and responsibility. We believe providing resources without reform is a waste of money, and reform without resources is a waste of time. Therefore, in order to ensure that every American has equal an equal opportunity to education, we propose a fundamental restructuring of how education is financed in this country. We believe in the potential of every child and we will not accept this loss of talent. Because education in the earliest years of a child's life is critical, we will expand and improve preschool and Head Start initiatives with the goal of offering these opportunities to all children. Because children need safe, loving and disciplined homes in order to learn, we will work on a bipartisan basis to reform foster care. And we will undertake a national campaign to raise
graduation rates by raising student achievement, expecting more from schools, reaching out to troubled youth with mentoring and tutoring, and strengthening the basic high school curriculum.

We will make college more affordable, so that more young people get higher education, and more of those who graduate get relief from the crushing burden of debt. We will make student aid faster and simpler to get so the complicated process doesn’t scare off students. We will offer generous tax credits to reduce the price of four years of college for all students, including those who pay their own way and can least afford college now. We will strengthen our aid programs for students while eliminating wasteful subsidies for lenders. At a time when all good jobs increasingly depend on advanced skills, we will strengthen technical training for those who do not attend college. Finally, we must place a special emphasis on expanding achievement in math and science.

The Democratic Party wishes to preserve the practical right of all Americans to receive full compensation for gross negligence. To that end, the Government should not arbitrarily impose its view as to what the maximum worth of someone’s life is. We support further jury education so juries are better able to quantify damages in lawsuits and assign blame. We support working with state regulatory boards in reviewing doctor records and promoting self-governance within the medical community. We should require states to ensure the availability of non-binding mediation in all malpractice claims before cases proceed to trial. Finally, we will work to eliminate the special privileges that allow insurance companies to fix prices and collude in ways that increase medical malpractice premiums.

We believe that a strong America can only be built if all members of society are able to be healthy. This can only be accomplished with significantly improving our health care system. We support expanding health coverage, increasing children’s health insurance, reduce health premiums for all Americans, institute comprehensive health education, and a patient’s bill of rights.

We oppose privatizing Medicare. We recognize that the only way to solve this problem is to strengthen the current Medicare system and ensure real cost control of prescription drugs. Until the cost control issues are solved at home, we will ensure the safe re-importation of drugs from other countries. This is a crucial step in allowing the elderly to have access to safe and affordable drugs. We will reform the current prescription drug policy so that elderly are able to purchase private insurance for prescription drugs without giving up the benefits of hospital and physician care.

The Democratic Party is committed to economic prosperity for all Americans. We must do more to help all Americans. We will help to create an economy that helps all Americans by repealing tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans while maintaining the middle class tax cuts. We will reinstate the estate tax and raise the exemption per couple and per family. We believe that the minimum wage should be increased, new job tax credits instituted, tax loopholes on the part of international corporations concerning the outsourcing of jobs will be closed.
We are committed to energy independence of this nation. We will decrease the subsidizing of fossil fuels and replace it with renewable resources.

We will oppose drilling in ANWR.

We must reduce the budget deficit by half within the next four years and we must restore the PAYGO policy.

In terms of National Security our goal is to combat the international spread of terrorism by encouraging democracy through nonmilitary means.

It is necessary that the United States curbs the North Korean nuclear weapons program and encourage the country to rejoin the world community.

Regulations of countries, such as Iran and Russia, who are producing nuclear materials, should be carried out through the inspections system outlined by the NPT and the IAEA. Nuclear weapons and materials currently unaccounted for should be secured.

We must strengthen our intelligence tools by heeding the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and implement a National Director of Intelligence.

In Iraq, we will internalize, train Iraqis, move forward with reconstruction, and help Iraqis achieve a viable government.

We must be strong at home and respected abroad.

*Please note that this is a draft and does not contain the complete platform. The platform is subject to amendments, which are currently on the floor of the Democratic conventions. Minor changes should be expected.*