

Bill Clinton

Dear Friend,

The only reason to get involved in a campaign for President is that you believe a candidate will be the best President. I know that Hillary will be the best President by a good long stretch, for many reasons.

She's been a prominent U.S. Senator for nearly seven years. Now, she's a presidential candidate, setting big goals for America — and laying out smart, thoughtful plans for achieving them.

But, there are still a lot of things about Hillary that you may not know, things that occurred in her life long before she became a United States Senator.

When we met in law school over 35 years ago, I was interested in running for political office. But Hillary was not. She thought she would never run for anything. But she was interested in public service.

In law school, Hillary worked for legal services for the poor and took an extra year at the Yale Child Study Center and Yale University Hospital to study about children and the law. Following graduation, Hillary chose not to pursue offers from major law firms and instead she became a staff attorney for the Children's Defense Fund, because she wanted to help poor children.

After serving as one of only two women lawyers on the staff of the House Judiciary Committee considering the impeachment of Richard Nixon, when she came to Arkansas to teach at the law school, she ran a legal aid clinic for the poor and handled cases of foster care and child abuse.

When she was just 30, President Carter appointed her to the board of the United States Legal Services Corporation, a federal nonprofit program that funds legal assistance for the poor. Hillary also led the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession, which played a pioneering role in raising awareness of issues like sexual harassment and equal pay. And everyone knows that, when I was President, Hillary led our efforts to get health care for all Americans — and everyone knows we didn't succeed.

But Hillary, as always, didn't give up. She just kept working — making adoption easier ... expanding early learning and child care ...

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increasing funding for breast cancer research ... helping veterans who suffered from Gulf War syndrome and who too often had been ignored in the past. The list goes on.

And all the while she went to 82 other countries representing the United States. She is highly respected around the world, and that is so critical at a time when it is vitally important for America to stop making enemies and start making allies again.

Hillary went to Beijing for the International Women's Conference and gave an unbelievable speech declaring "that it is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights."

Now that she is in public office and I am in public service as a private citizen working on AIDS and development around the world, I still meet people in villages in Asia, Africa, and Latin America who tell me, "You'll never know how much your wife's speech in Beijing meant to us."

When Hillary became a Senator, she immediately went to work on solutions to America's problems. And she worked with Republicans as well as Democrats on climate change, better health care for our veterans, and making electronic medical records available to cut the incredible waste in our health care system.

She worked on children's health and on securing the necessary help for New York to recover after 9/11, and she started several innovative new projects to create jobs in upstate New York. She just kept plugging away with new ideas, making progress day in and day out.

That is the kind of leader she is — and that's the kind of leader America needs at this crucial point in time.

On the campaign trail, Hillary talks about the need for America to get a "fresh start." America is ready for change and heaven knows we need it after these past six years.

Hillary's whole life has prepared her for this moment, leading America's new start for the 21st century. She has the best combination of mind and heart — of leadership ability and a feel for the human consequences of the decisions that a leader makes — of anyone I have ever known.

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With our support and energy behind her, Hillary can lead us to a clean, independent energy future that will create millions of jobs. Following her lead, we can finally provide affordable health care for all Americans. We'll forge an economy with less inequality and more opportunity. We'll build a world with more partners and fewer enemies. And we'll end the war in Iraq.

I hope you'll take a moment right now to add your energy, passion — and, yes, your financial support — to Hillary's remarkable campaign. You and I both know how important this election is.

If we want an America that can dream again, work for all again, and lead again — we need a new President who has spent a lifetime caring, working and delivering.

If you share my conviction that Hillary is that kind of leader, now is the time to act. Please do not wait another moment before stepping forward and making your personal commitment to this historic campaign.

I look forward to working side-by-side with you in the months ahead as we help Hillary change America's direction, restore our standing in the world, and create a future of good jobs, quality health care, and clean energy.

Sincerely,



Bill Clinton

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