
"All of us"

Acceptance speech by nominee for Democrat candidate for President: 2020

I am humbled, honored, and happy to accept, with arms open to all, your nomination as Democrat candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

My fellow Democrats; my fellow Americans.

Grandma said: "To know where you're going, you have to know how you got here."

Into Collapse

Well, Republican leaders sure hit Americans hard in the 2000s with their old-time greatest hits for the wealthy under the usual rhetoric of race, masculinity, and dominance:

- wild deregulation, tax, medicare and social security cuts, and military adventures, all for the benefit of those already at the top;
- gerrymandering, minority voter suppression, and laying siege to the Supreme Court, all to secure our public life and politics for money;
- and with the climate change all this aggravated, our planet was sold off, and our children with it.

That was no American dream. It was a disaster:

- Middle class stagnation — real median hourly wage rates have barely budged from where they were under Jimmy Carter, who most voters now never even knew as President;
- Big Banks ran amok with our houses; Big Business poisoned Flint's water; Big Guns massacred our school-children; Big Digital corrupted our dialogue; and Big Medicine flooded our veins with opiates. And all this wild deregulation allowed Wall Street to drive Main Street into the ditch in the biggest economic meltdown since the last time the Republicans really let loose — then leading to the Great Depression;
- And natural and military disasters wrecked countless American lives.

Clean Up

In 1932 and again in 2008, we Democrats were called upon to clean up the mess.

So from 2009, with our global friends and despite relentless opposition from the "we stick with our greatest hits" Republican Leaders, we hauled Main Street back out of the ditch.

And we began to get everyone moving again. We more than halved budget deficits and unemployment, and we produced the longest run of job rises, ever.

We, also in the face of implacable opposition from those same Republicans, put an end to countless quiet personal nightmares in home after American home, with the ACA.

And again with our global partners, we got on top of the global climate threat, and brought inherited military misadventures to heel.

This is a record for 2008-16 of which to be proud. We claim it. We are proud of it.

America First

But having got Main Street out of the ditch and back on the road, the challenge from 2016 was to turn attention to the other main legacy of those Republican greatest hits—middle class stagnation.

That did not happen. Despite the roar of electoral protest in 2016 and against the large majority of votes cast then, that most certainly did not happen.

Instead, elected Republican Leaders, having learned nothing, returned to the old playbook which had set us on course for disaster in the first place:

- More income tax cuts and wild deregulation for the super-rich; more medicare and social security cuts, and more stagnation and tariff-tax rises for everybody else;
- More gerrymandering, voter suppression, and Supreme Court capture securing the plutocrats' grip on our public life;
- and some new twists on the old recipe, including outright climate denial, caging babies, insults, and trade wars, all to sever every bond with our foreign friends and to tear our global moral authority to shreds.

A single thumbs down vote, just one man's vote, ultimately stood between these Republican Leaders and abolition of the ACA—and with it a resumption of all of those quiet personal nightmares. And still they hack away at it with stealth cuts and plot its final demise.

All this, accommodated by a spineless Republican Congress which abandoned all checks and balances, has been led by a President who has corrupted every sinew of our social fabric. Our fake-Patriot President:

- who has neither time or stomach to salute our fallen service men and women as they are returned to our shores at Dover Air Force base, nor willingness to salute them in the French rain, but who as part-time couch potato President, part-time dodgy CEO, golfs every other weekend with his pluto-pals here, there, and everywhere, all on our dime;
- who dodged the call to serve himself, but who belittles our Gold Star Families and denigrates a veteran who was tortured—a hero to his imprisoned comrades;
- and who, in cahoots with his father, inherited all of his millions in tax dodge schemes so he could shirk his share of payments for our police and our service men and women.

And this fake-Patriot President has the gall to insult, among a whole panoply of others, young men who kneel, who kneel, before the flag—just as a veteran asked them to do.

Do not misunderstand; I am not saying that he is a racist; he hugs Ye.

But with "They're rapists,", with "both sides", and with "Low IQ", racists don't think you need to be a dog to hear the whistling loud and clear.

And I am not saying that he has a problem with women; he hugs Ivanka.

But with "grab them by the ...", with "All of these liars will be sued after the election", and with "That's the only thing I remember", misogynists hear exactly what they want to hear.

And Im not saying that he is loose with the truth; he sure hugs Fox & Friends.

But with "as soon as the audit is finished", with "IF it was Russia", and with "enemies of the people", paranoiacs and conspiracists have no doubt, dogs or no dogs, that he belongs.

None of this is George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, or Dwight Eisenhower. It is Andrew Johnson, Joe McCarthy, and George Wallace all over again.

And for that reason, and despite the endless narcissism, none of it is original. We've heard all about America First before. It was a lie then; it is a lie now:

- It does not lead to prosperity but as in 1861, 1929 and 2008, it is the road to catastrophe;
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- It does not grow the middle-class, it entrenches middle-class stagnation;
 - It sets American against American, and Americans against our friends overseas;
 - And so it rejects the fundamental sources of our vitality — our diversity, unity, and openness — which have made us the greatest nation on earth ever since our foundation.

Those Left Behind

And the tragedy of all this is not just for America as a whole. It has also disappointed those of you in whose name it was done, you who felt left behind, you who felt unheard, you who roared in anger in the 2016 election. With all the carry-on, you've been stiffed, again, with the old playbook: policies for plutocrats under the rhetoric of race, masculinity, and rage.

So, to you I say, forget the nonsense about "best economy ever" because all that is the carry-over from what we Democrats achieved in hauling Main Street back out of the ditch after the last Republican crash.

Instead, do a personal self-check right now. What has happened to you in the past four years under this America-First rerun:

- even before they expire, your crumbs from the billionaires' tax cut were eaten up by medicare and Social Security cuts, and by deductibles, and tariff tax rises;
- your wages went up a bit, but so did the prices of everything you buy, often more-so;
- your hopes for better jobs were thwarted, not by blacks or women, but by the choke from decades of underinvestment in your skills and in your roads and railways;
- your markets for soya beans, Harley's, steel and the like were shut off by his trade wars;
- your hope for government by the good guys was mocked by 10 guilty-pleas and convictions of top buddies in the first two years alone, against none in all Obama years;
- your personal health nightmares remained on a knife-edge, a political toy for the your-pre-existing-conditions-are-not-our-problem Republican ideologues;
- your police and your children were menaced and mutilated by military grade weapons and Fentanyl circulating ever more freely in your neighborhoods and towns;
- your family values, from respect for each other to common everyday honesty and decency, were banished from the highest office in the land;
- and the climate crashed down on you even as the President denied it all, tossed out paper towels, campaigned, and boasted of the great job he was doing amidst your wreckage.

That is what this four years rerun of America First has done for you.

It sure doesn't sound to me like you are tired of winning.

And even for those of you who endured all of this, in good faith, in hope of criminalizing abortion, you were given the promise of judges. But those judges made absolutely no commitments, and have delivered nothing for you beyond settled law and the dreams of the moneymen who had hand-picked them for their own purposes.

No Beef

Look, my beef with the President isn't that he's a racist, a misogynyst, or a paranoiac, although those folk sure are happy with him.

My beef with him is that there is no beef.

He picks a huge NAFTA fight with Canada and Mexico, then agrees to a deal which essentially leaves it as is, but with a fancy new name. Big deal !

He slaps tariffs on China, round after round, and rather than getting our foreign partners to join us, he picks fights with them too. So China just imports from them instead, leaving American producers shut out of China's markets. And the taxes you pay at Walmart get put up and up by his tariffs. Great deal !

He leads a wholesale assault on the ACA and its protections for pre-existing conditions, even with a great rose garden victory ceremony, and can't even pull that off. Super deal !

And just like any lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopy flunkeys, it's always someone elses' fault, someone different for every day of the week and for every quarter of the game, and it's always someone else on his own team — team America — who is to blame.

And compare the records. When Democrats held all the levers of power in the White House and Congress from 2009, we got Main Street out of the ditch, back on the road, and we got the ACA. When this lame prima-donna held all the levers of power in the White House and Congress, all he got was freebies for his billionaire pals, the Tax-Welfare Queens, and two commit-to-nothing-but-damn-sure-have-his-personal-back Justices.

Sure, the Tax-Welfare Queens loved it all, joking with each other about their golf handicaps in their gold-liveried private jets, laughing and laughing, uproarious laughter.

But after your rage in the 2016 election, none of your concerns, none of your concerns, have been addressed, either by this White House, or by Congress, or by the Courts. In the first two years, all three branches of government, and nothing for you but a flying circus on Air Force One. In the second two years, his wildest impulses checked, but still nothing from him for you.

So, back to Grandma.

That is how you got stiffed for fifty years and again in the last four. Nothing pretty about it.

So now it is time for you to decide how to get moving.

From Here

You voted for Democrats in 2008 and again in 2012 when we got the Big American Truck back on the highway after the Republican Leaders had driven it into the ditch.

We want you back again, now, to finish the job of getting you rolling with it.

We did not get the chance to do that for you from 2017, despite securing the majority of votes cast; that's how it went and this is where that got us.

To get you rolling, we need you to back us again, now.

So much so that everything I am going to say tonight and for the rest of this campaign will make the case to you, those who've long felt left behind and ignored, that we Democrats have your back, that we will get you rolling after 50 years stuck, that we are the Real Deal.

When you trade in that blame-everyone-else dodgy quarterback for the Real Deal, let me tell you what you are going to get, how it most certainly is not the same as what came before, and how we're going to get it done.

No State Left Behind

The Real Deal starts with your children, because that is always the right place to start.

Too many States are unwilling or unable to give your kids the best start in life by paying their teachers properly. The consequences go on and on, generation after generation, not only blocking their hopes and aspirations, but thereby holding all Americans back.

That ends here and now.

From 2022, we will fix a single national Federal guideline grid for teachers' salaries and benefits, indexed to the national median wage, with supplements for Science, Tech, Engineering, and Maths, special ed, and where either are underrepresented, teachers of color and men. Those States with the lowest third of GDP per capita which pay all their teachers at or above those guidelines, will receive annual grants per teacher from the Federal Government, for any State budget purpose of their choosing, including education.

Teachers in eligible States on the lowest salaries will see rises of \$10,000-15,000 per year. The grants reflect teacher numbers and so will encourage more hiring, reducing class size.

Of course, other steps will also be taken by the relevant Federal, State, and local authorities on such as curriculum, leadership, facilities, and school safety. But it is time to recognize that nothing works without getting the basic ingredient right—quality teachers.

The technical people tell me that this is a structural automatic stabilizer. I say it just gets help to your kids when they need it for as long as they need it. Simply put, they are going to get a chance because we are going to pay their teachers properly; No State Left Behind.

And it doesn't stop there. We will explore expanding AmericaCorp and military service so that if your kids spend the year out of High School in such service, out of region and hosted for that year by a family of another religion and race, they will earn cash for college. The deal: give service, learn skills, expand horizons, and grow up; and college is yours.

And I don't want to hear any lame prima-donna and loopy claptrap about "all this is interfering in States rights"; eligible States and individual students choose whether or not to take the Federal funds. And where that prima-donna just wants to keep his flunkey billionaire Tax-Welfare-Queens with their snouts in the trough, we back your kids.

Grandma always told me to "bring your education home". The Real Deal brings it home.

Build Like We Mean It

Getting you rolling after 50 years in the mud not only requires big change for your children; the Real Deal also delivers a big upgrade to your infrastructure.

C'mon people, lets face facts. We could cut all taxes to zero, just like the Republican Leaders want, but how can you compete and get the best out of your abilities with this gridlocked, crumbling, way-behind infrastructure? Amtrak's top speed: 150 mph; Japan's SCMaglev train: 375 mph! 150 vs 375 mph! It really doesn't take a genius.

It takes money to get infrastructure back on the road. But even with Federal dollars, that means big money from investors.

So the Real Deal addresses their big bugbear—catastrophic risk—to get them moving.

The way we do that is not by saying that we're going to fix your 50 year problems, as that lame prima-donna and his loopies have done, but by actually fixing them. The Real Deal puts an end to investor concerns that 50-year stagnation and America-First will end up blowing this country up. That's how we get private finance going for the big diggers.

But on this, know three things.

The income tax deduction for municipal bonds goes. It gives Tax-Welfare Queens a quick tax-relief buzz, but it drives out precisely those investors we need for infrastructure—pension and insurance funds—who are in it for the long haul. It is gone.

Then, infrastructure is neither for the benefit of Tax-Welfare Queens nor for those who build it. Europeans take 9 guys to operate a subway boring machine; New York takes 25. 9 vs 25! What happened to "New York tough"? Well, the Real Deal is going to hire all those guys, but not by overmanning every build, but by Building Like We Mean It.

And last, the Federal Government can borrow more cheaply than anyone, and can do these big jobs as well as anyone. So there will be serious Federal money on budget behind this program, not gimmicks through middlemen to hide it off the books. No budget b/s here with private finance and joint ventures and such, just the plain on the record Real Deal.

And we're not just about big fancy projects—though plenty of those—but also the repairs and fresh licks of paint. As Grandma said "a stitch in time ..." So pot holes, be gone!

So what is the Real Deal so far?

Well, "No State Left Behind" and "Build Like We Mean It" are about fixing your future.

What about getting you moving right now?

Top Dollar For Your Work

Well, that lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopies talk the talk about competition.

But corporations load up the contracts of workers with "non-compete" clauses. One in five American workers below the median wage have been bound by these by their current or a previous job.

It ain't exactly slavery, but it tells you right there on the sticker; it sure ain't competition either.

No prizes for guessing who likes it likes this. And it sure isn't women, black people, or immigrants—the folk who the flunkies usually blame for everything—who trap you in these snares and similar monopolistic tricks.

Enough!

From here on, under the Real Deal, any corporation or employer will be liable to Federal tax of 1 percent of their annual turnover if any of their workers or contractors at or below median wages are subject to non-compete clauses. Any.

And not just that. In addition to standard antitrust, the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission will also be given increased powers to investigate and break up labor market monopolies, especially over less skilled workers at regional level, and to block mergers which spur them even where these monopolies are sustained by temporary or agency workers and outsourcing. They will also be given powers to intervene on licensing restrictions where these impede inter-State labor mobility, including for teachers, and to apply stiff penalties on the more than half of franchises which apply no-poaching agreements. Folk, even those flipping burgers, are going to be freed up to compete.

Even where evidence of monopolistic effects in labor markets is hard to come by, the threat of these enhanced powers will move the dial in your direction. And the increased labor mobility consequent on this will benefit all, but especially your youngsters starting out their lives in the world of work and those of you who live far from major urban centers.

This is all about securing "Top Dollar for Your Work" now. Once they can't tie you up in non-compete clauses and such, you'll be able to push for profit shares, higher contributions to 401Ks, paid leave and training, better child care, and straight up higher pay. Right away.

Morning in America

With that done, lets talk the Federal minimum wage. Are we really to believe that the sky will fall if minimum wages are raised to \$15 an hour AND that the sky will also fall if the minimum wage of the Tax-Welfare Queens does not rise further into the billions?

Who do that lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopies think they are kidding?

After inflation, \$15 an hour is double where it was under Republican President Reagan, but non-farm labor productivity per hour has also doubled since then also. So a rise to 15 bucks takes us right back to "Morning in America."

It is done.

An exemption will be added for workers being trained outside the firm—say in a community college—but paid for by the employer, to allow workers on the minimum wage to accept general training instead of cash, if that is how they prefer to be remunerated.

So how does the Real Deal sound to you so far?

Let's do a recap. Democrats, as it flashes up on the big screen over my head, I need you now to shout out for everyone to hear what the Real Deal is so far:

- No State Left Behind;
- Build Like We Mean It;
- Top Dollar For Your Work; and
- Morning In America!

Yes indeed. But hold on, we're just getting started.

American Medicare, not Mafia Medicine

Here comes a really big one: Your Health.

Let's talk straight. We don't have a health system; we have Mafia Medicine.

America spends 10 big bucks per person on health—all in, everybody, everything—but other similar countries spend 5 big bucks. Half as much. But on all the basic health measures—life expectancy, birth mortality, chronic diseases etc.—we are average or worse.

We sure get no bang for our medical buck. But we spend bucks like they fall off trees.

Health has ballooned to 18 percent of our economy. In similar countries it's 8-10 percent.

Want to know what would happen to a two income average family if our health spending was the same as these other countries with the same health outcomes as we have now?

That would be \$ 25,000 back in your family pockets, every year.

\$25,000 for a two income family every year.

With overall health outcomes exactly as they are now.

It's not your family practitioner, or grandpa's nurse, or the folks at the NIH or the FDA who are pocketing your \$ 25 big ones. It's the Mafia of the Medical Insurance, Legal, and Pharmaceutical Complexes.

And think about it. How do that lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopies say the minimum wage of \$15 an hour is too high, but that you two still have to stump up that 25 grand to Mafia Medicine every year?

Not under the Real Deal.

But the Medical Mafia really like it as it is.

So they are not going to go easy. Until we Democrats produced the ACA, Mafia Medicine wouldn't even cover your pre-existing conditions, they would happily drive you to personal bankruptcy if you showed up at the ER, and they kept the opiates flowing. And since then,

that lame prima-donna's loopies in Congress have voted well over 60 times to remove your coverage for pre-existing conditions under the ACA. 60 times.

That is who they are.

And even though the ACA got a lot done, and even slowed the rise in health costs, not even the ACA could get you your 25 big ones back. We need to do much more for that.

That's why I need, along with every fired up Democrat, every bit of your fiery hell-yeah blow-it-all-up attitude if we're going to take on Mafia Medicine and get that money out of their pockets and back into yours.

Here's how the Real Deal will do that.

From July 4, 2021, we take the medical plan that the US Congress gave itself until the ACA, and give that to all those currently on Medicare and rename it "American Medicare". This will expand the health benefits of those on Medicare to the gold standard.

Then, from July 4, 2022, all other 50-65 year olds will be brought into American Medicare, with other age groups added from older to younger on subsequent July 4ths until everyone is covered after 4 years.

As each age group is brought in, they stop paying the taxes supporting Medicare and can withdraw from their private health plans if they choose. Instead, they will contribute 9 percent of their adjusted gross incomes to American Medicare, matched by employer contributions of 10 percent of compensation. For the overwhelming majority except those at the very top, this will result in much higher after-tax after-health incomes.

How so? How does the Real Deal deliver a better (Congress') gold health plan for everyone for less? How does it get those 25 big ones back into your pockets?

Because we get Mafia Medicine out of it, and here's how we do that.

First, this plan essentially puts an end to the medical insurance industry before Big Data and the Human Genome Project does so, and ensures we have something much better in its place. Accordingly, your health needs will be paid for by American Medicare.

And it will price any medical procedure to suppliers by reference to the same procedures in Canada, France, and the UK, in all cases far below what Mafia Medicine charges here now.

And to ensure there's no messing with those prices as we go along, the Congressional Budget Office will continuously update the American Medicare, Canadian, French, and UK prices side-by-side on its website so everybody can see.

Any individual medic who refuses to deliver service at those prices will not be allowed to serve any American Medicare patients ever again. No ifs, ands, or buts. Never again. With all of us shifting onto American Medicare, any medic who refuses an American Medicare patient essentially has no future in medicine here. They won't like it, but they will play ball.

The remuneration of folk working in medicine will fall to levels of similar professionals in Canada, France, and the UK. Don't fret. Such folk there live just fine, thank you very much, and there are plenty of them. But Mafia Medical extortion will be gone.

And for you, all those forms, deductibles, gobbledegook, administration, terrifying personal gambles and phone calls with the health administrators, gone. When you are sick, you go to your doctor or hospital, pay the co-pay, and you're done. Simple as that.

Second, we will attack the legal arm of Mafia Medicine. Those serving American Medicare patients will have their personal liability capped at rates far below the exorbitant payouts lawyers have conjured up. Alongside, patients will by default, as a condition for accepting the Congress' Medical Plan, accept caps on the malpractice claims they can make against American Medicare. Any who want more coverage can buy it privately, like fire insurance.

And last, we attack the pharmaceutical Mafia. If a pharmaceutical firm holds patients to ransom by refusing to supply at the American Medicare set price, the patent for that drug or equipment will immediately be rescinded, and other suppliers sought. We aren't playing.

As American Medicare phases in, medical providers may need to go through Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. But just as airlines keep flying and emerge stronger from those, so they will too. And after it is fully phased in and Mafia Medicine extortion has ended, from then on prices paid to providers will be increased slowly so that total American Medicare spending rises as a share of all household expenditure incrementally over decades.

As each age cohort comes onto American Medicare, Medicaid will be wound down. Once the phase-in is complete, Veterans and Native Americans will be asked if they want to join.

There will still be a rump medical sector outside American Medicare for the stupid rich who want their hernias removed on their private jets while they sip champagne. That niche market will be the only option for medics unwilling to work on American Medicare terms.

Now do you see why we not only want your votes, but why we absolutely have to have your hell-yeah support? This "American Medicare, not Mafia Medicine" plan hits the health administration, legal, and pharmaceutical complexes where it really hurts to get those 25 big ones out of their pockets and back into yours.

So you know they will scream things like "death panels" and "socialism".

But like the Stoneman-Douglas kids, we call B/S on all that. These are the same people who brought you your "no coverage for pre-existing conditions" death sentences, opiates, and who gouged you with health costs twice the going rate.

As for socialism, we'll be benchmarking prices on Canada—the land of Maple Syrup, Mounties, and Gretzky—France—the land of Lafayette, Champagne, and the Statue of Liberty; let's spell that out L-I-B-E-R-T-Y—and the UK—the land of the Royals, tea for two, and James Bond. And if socialism is really so bad, ask seniors on Medicare how they like it. And ask all those Congressional Republicans how they liked the bit of "socialism" that they gave themselves for all those years under Congress' own health plan.

American Medicare will take a huge cost and administrative burden off the backs of businesses, large and small, urban and rural. And "Top Dollar For Your Work" will ensure that you get your full share of the benefits.

Doubters and diversionists will prefer to confront just one or two parts of Mafia Medicine, by for example just confronting drugs pricing or the lawyers, not the whole caboodle. But that would be like driving the Mafia only out of New York City; leave them free in Chicago and they'll find their way back to New York City before long. Others still will prefer to aim only for modest or incremental progress. But that ignores the electoral earthquake that you delivered in 2016. After that "we've had enough" message, health reform is all or nothing.

And as we know, that lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopies do really bad math, so they will shriek "but it will all cost scary billions and taxes will go crazy up!"

So I need everyone in this convention, right now, to help everybody out with that math.

If we drive Mafia Medicine out and shift to Congress' Health Plan for everyone under American Medicare, are you better or worse off? BETTER !

Hold on, I didn't quite hear you, and if I didn't hear you, then that lame prima-donna and his loopies sure didn't hear you either. So I ask again, if we drive Mafia Medicine right out and your health-care premiums, deductibles, the lot, go down by more than your health taxes go up—are you better or worse off ? BETTER !

And one more time, people, just for me, just to make sure everybody heard you, if we drive Mafia Medicine right out, are you better or worse off? BETTER!

Yes indeed. Congress' health plan for everyone, and what's left in your pockets goes up.

This is a really big job, and I, along with my fired up Democrat friends, am going to need all your "hell-yeah, blow it all up" political energy to get it done. That's what it will take for the Real Deal to get \$25 big ones a year for a two income family out of Mafia Medicine and back into your pockets.

That is a really big deal. It's the Real Deal. Come on board.

So how are we doing?

C'mon Democrats, let me hear from y'all what the Real Deal is so far as it flashes up there:

- No State Left Behind;
- Build Like We Mean It;
- Top Dollar For Your Work;
- Morning in America; and
- American Medicare, not Mafia Medicine!

Does it begin to sound to you like that the Real Deal might finally get you out of the mud after 50 years? There's more.

Wall Street! Play With Your Own Money!

You haven't forgotten. We sure haven't forgotten. Just over a decade ago, Wall Street ran us all into the ditch. That sure didn't help your 50 years stuck in the mud problem.

And the only thing we are sure of about all that is that Wall Street came out of it just fine. Because in the heat of the crash, they held us all to ransom: "Unless you rescue us big boys, we're gonna drag the whole of Main Street down with us. Whacha gonna do, sonny?"

So though it was no fun, we bit that bullet in 2009-10 and got America back on the road.

But those Wall Street Fat Cats are fatter than ever. And they haven't changed their spots. Remember "sub-prime" and "no-doc" and "securitized" lending? Well the latest name for their recklessness is "leveraged lending". Yet another new name, but there they go again.

The whole thing stinks.

Let me say that again.

It stinks.

But lets get a few things straight.

Sure, back in the 2000s, some laws were broken: Madoff stole from the greedy, rich, and gullible, and he now wears an orange jumpsuit. But if every banker had obeyed every law, Wall Street would still have taken us all to the woodshed just the same.

Because the problem wasn't bankers breaking laws; the problem is that there were almost no laws for them to break. That is where wild deregulation by the Republicans got us.

So we Democrats didn't just bite the bullet in 2009-10 to get Main Street out of the ditch. We also put new laws in place to fix that wild deregulation.

But that was just stage one of the job.

Essential as that was, it wasn't enough to get banks to play their part in getting you rolling after 50 years stuck in the mud.

Because it wasn't just wild deregulation by Republicans which got us into that mess. It was that the wild deregulation let Wall Street gamble with house money. Literally it let them gamble with your money, typically with the money you put into your own house.

Under the Real Deal, such Wall Street gambling with your money stops.

Every dollar financial firms owe that is not equity—like a bank owes you your deposit—will have to be backed by 20 percent of ringfenced equity of that firm. And not just any equity, only unencumbered common stock. And not just big banks; a herd of mid-sized banks can wreck as much damage as one big one, and they know it. And if banks have private insurance on those liabilities, that rule for those liabilities will apply to the insurers.

That requirement is more than double what it is now, and will be phased in over four years.

And alongside, unlike this lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopies, I will appoint as head of the institution whose job it is to stop financial hot-shots from hoodwinking and price gouging you, someone who actually takes that job seriously.

So the next time banks screw up big time, they will pay themselves, and the core of your financial system will be protected by a big buffer of private equity, not held to ransom.

And will they squeal? You bet. Cos they sure like playing with house money, your money.

But if they have to find investors to stump up their own money, those investors will make sure that if the banks are too big to manage, they are broken up, and that if CEOs withhold information, they are fired. And all because, even if the banks get into trouble, there is a whole lot of equity to get eaten up before you and I get called to bail them out again.

So that's why I really need you, along with all us fired up Democrats, with all your "hell-yeah, blow it all up" energy, cos we're going to have a fight on our hands to fix this too.

And I sure don't want to hear from the that lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopies about "there go the Democrats with regulation" when we all just saw where their wild deregulation led.

Nor do I want to hear their bad math again, that requirements have already doubled since the crisis; two times almost nothing is still almost nothing, and it sure ain't enough. Nor do I want to hear that capital can be raised when needed as crisis looms; might as well tell me we will put on our seat-belts only when we actually hit the truck in front.

And I most surely don't want to hear that this will crunch credit to small business. No small business wants to have a tottering financial behemoth behind it. But even if overall credit slows during the phase-in, the Federal Reserve has the mandate to offset that. They will secure banks and keep you moving; they can walk and chew gum at the same time.

The Real Deal is not going to get you rolling after 50 years only to leave you at risk of being driven into the ditch by wildly unregulated America-First Wall Street Fat Cats again.

And that is not just common sense, it also backs "Build Like We Mean It" by getting catastrophic risk down.

The days of cozying up to bankers are over.

The Real Deal message to Wall Street is: Play With Your Own Money!

So lets see: Democrats, help me out again, where are we with the Real Deal now?

- No State Left Behind;
- Build Like We Mean It;
- Top Dollar For Your Work;
- Morning in America;
- American Medicare, not Mafia Medicine; and
- Wall Street, Play With Your Own Money!

And the Real Deal is still not done with getting you rolling again.

China Is The New Kid On The Block

Let's talk about China.

Lets see: all these home-grown screw-ups these past years—States Left Behind Education, Don't Bother To Build It Infrastructure, Bottom Dollar for your work, Mafia Medicine, and Crazy Banks—but somehow, that lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopies want you to believe that China is THE bad guy?

And the fix? With a whole lot of hullabaloo, Republicans have raised the tariff-taxes on the everyday things you have to pay for at Walmart. Why? Because putting your bills up there even more is supposed to stop China being China?

Really?

Really?

Putting your bills up even more is going to stop China being China, to get you rolling?

It's a croc; they know it's a croc; you know it's a croc.

So lets talk straight. China is a very big deal. One in four human beings is Chinese. For every American, there are four Chinese. They have nuclear weapons. Their economy is as big as ours. When they reach our productivity, soon, their economy will be four times ours.

So China's accession into world trade in 2001, approved by Republican Leaders under President George Bush, was a very big deal. Everybody noticed, and it wasn't pretty.

But even though China's accession should have been phased because it was so big, it was nevertheless inevitable, as was the increasing automation—more machines doing more of your jobs—that China's accession spurred. There was no "Just Saying No" to China, and even had its accession been phased, the sun still rises if you put the clocks back by an hour.

But Republican leaders ignored its effects. They should have dealt with the impact on you.

But instead of doing that and helping you adjust to China's arrival—and I hate to repeat myself—you got: Your State Left Behind education, Let It Rot Infrastructure, Bottom Dollar For Your Work, Mafia Medicine, and Wild and Crazy Banks.

Did ANY of that help you personally to respond to China or to automation?

And now that lame prima-donna and his flunkys want you to believe that putting up your bills at Walmart even more, with tariff-taxes, is going to stop China being China?

It's a croc. They know its a croc. You know its a croc.

The way to respond to the impact of China and automation on you is the Real Deal—everything from No State Left Behind to Wall Street, Play With Your Own Money!

But just as Russia was the defining international relationship for the US for the past century, setting much of our domestic agenda up to and including the moon landings, so our relationship with China will be defining for us in this coming century.

So lets talk a bit about what should that relationship should be.

It's not the same as it was with Russia. With them, we were always much bigger; and whatever we did, they were always eventually going to collapse under their own self-contradictions. Not so with China. They are already as big as we are any way you measure it, and getting bigger. No stopping that now.

And partly because they are so big, and unlike how it was with Russia, the first thing we need to acknowledge is that we need China. We really need China.

That's not what you've been told, is it. You've been told that China is THE bad guy.

Well their leaders are Communists, their economy is State Capitalist, and they treat their minorities and dissidents, like Muslims and Christians, badly. We don't like any of that.

But China has already stepped in to help us big time. The financial crash we had a decade or so ago would have been FAR worse for us had China not done its big budget in 2009-10, which spent billions, including on our exports. That not only helped us all get through that crisis big time, but it was probably the biggest action of anyone anywhere to save the world from the consequences of the Republicans and their wildly un-regulated banks.

And we need China now as a market for our goods. Just ask the soya bean farmers who've been shut out of Chinese markets by this lame prima-donna's trade war. No China, no jobs.

So the time is long long gone for any "Just kick China in the ass" talk. We might have been able to do that back in the 1970s before China's growth spurt. But Watergate Republican President Nixon chose to "go to China" instead. Were China to collapse now, no-one would be more hurt than you. Big and mean-looking as it is, we need China to hold it together.

Things aren't so steady there right now. So our aim is to help China stabilize and to corral it into playing its part in an orderly international system, even when they are outsized in it.

And as with any new kid on the block, big and getting bigger, we have to prepare just in case they start to throw their weight around. Because they are and will be so big, we cannot do that alone. We have to round up all the other kids, and keep an eye out together.

That's not what we're used to. When we were the only big boy, picking on the others and making them squirm was fun and we didn't much care if that spawned bad blood against us. But if we carry on doing that now, the new big kid just sees a divided street with easy pickings. We already know what is going to happen if he sees that. We have to wise up.

So, if you back me and give Democrats the votes in Congress to implement the full Real Deal from No State Left Behind to Wall Street, Play With Your Own Money! then on day 1 in office, I will cancel all bilateral tariffs on China imposed by this lame prima-donna.

That tax cut will lower your bills at Walmart back down again and immediately clear the way for our farmers and others to get back into the Chinese market.

And as part of the same change in course, on day 2 in office, I will rescind all bilateral tariffs on Europe and on steel and aluminum, I will begin work clear out the silly nonsense put into the renegotiated NAFTA while keeping the necessary updating and rename it what it is, NAFTA II, I will formally apply to open negotiations with the members of the TPP and TTIP to join, and I will re-engage fully and amicably with NATO.

In these trade negotiations, the only thing off the table will be participation in any Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanisms. We need the other kids to deal with China. But our courts will remain sovereign and we want no sovereignty over others by those means.

So, through trade and other arrangements, we are going to get together with all the other kids on the block. This isn't us being ripped off by international commitments. This isn't us being the world's policeman. This is us getting together with all the other kids, Anyone But China, ABC, so we can all keep an eye on the big boy who is getting bigger, just in case. One in four humans may be Chinese, but they will stay in line if the other three gang up.

But the point of ABC is not to threaten or confront or provoke China. Our immediate and unilateral abolition of tariff taxes will reassure them on that.

And so will two other actions.

We are going to turn the issue of intellectual theft by China—which, amongst many other things, this lame prima-donna and his loopies have gotten completely wrong—on its head.

They have told you that China is stealing our patents and so that is your problem.

Your problem? How many patents do you own that China can steal?

Yes, I thought so.

So it's not your problem. It's the problem of the Republican's usual pals, the Billionaire Plutocrats, the Tax-Welfare-Queens, and the Big Patent Pussies. They want money and they're willing to upend everything and everyone including our ties with China to get it.

But hold on. Before China and India appeared on the street, patent owners were doing just fine. And then along came those new kids in the 1980s and suddenly patent holders all doubled their money because they could now sell their patented stuff in those new markets, the combined size of which is now considerably bigger than ours.

Big Patent Pussies literally doubled their money, for nothing, Double Fat Cats.

They don't need all that. They could do just as well as before if the duration of their patents was now halved, from 20 years to 10.

But if so, other US companies would get a level playing field. By cutting patents to 10 years, a bunch of patents would immediately expire, and other US companies would no longer have to pay them. That would put them on a level playing field with Chinese firms which do not pay those royalties now. That means more jobs for you, right here, right now.

So, if you vote for me, on day 3 in office, I will submit to Congress a bill immediately and permanently halving the duration of all US patents, no grandfathering, and working with China to enforce the remaining shorter patent durations. That will not only be welcome in Beijing, taking the heat out of the spat over intellectual property, but it will put US firms on a level playing field and help us beat back the pharmaceutical arm of Mafia Medicine.

Along with Top Dollar For Your Work, all that benefits you.

The only folk who will cry? You guessed it, the Republican Leaders' usual big money pals. Too bad: The Real Deal is not for them; it is for you.

Alongside, we will also work with China on other big issues.

Prime among those is global climate change. China has no more interest than we do in succumbing to global overheating. And climate is not an act of God; as with all things, we have been given dominion over it, and therefore responsibility for its good husbandry.

So, if you back me, on day 4 in office, I will recommit us to the Paris Climate accords. Along with others, including China, I will commit to work to accelerate work to meet its goals in light of the warnings that time is even shorter now.

Alongside, I will also submit to Congress a full proposal to support all our communities of coal to restructure and rebuild new futures. And I will establish a commission to report in a year on actions we can take to reduce our number 1 source of emissions—our food supply.

Unlike this lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopies, when the weather crashes down on you, I will not deny everything, toss paper towels at you, and scurry back to my golf course. Instead, under the Real Deal, we will undertake by the Paris Accords to do the work of God with all our partners overseas to preserve, protect, and nourish all of creation.

With our relationship with China recast in this way—New Kid on the Block—cooperative but wary, we will work with them to get our mutual headaches of Iran and North Korea down from migraine status back to something that Tylenol can handle. As the nuclear deal with Iran was essential, I will recommit the US to it, remove all additional sanctions that were imposed on our partners and Iran, including getting Iranian oil flowing again.

That done, I will send my Secretary of State to Tehran, Riyadh, and Beijing to discuss how we can together work to resolve the broader Iranian issues, including by the application of new sanctions on Iran if its regional provocations continue, balanced by similar condemnation of Saudi regional provocations, notably in Yemen. With relations with China thus fundamentally reset, together we will also get our arms around the North Korean mess, and reinvigorate the global nuclear non-proliferation effort.

And within this "China Is The New Kid On The Block" framework, we will send a strong military signal to Beijing, along with all our international ABC partners, that its encroachments in the South China Sea have to stop. We all respect their borders; they must respect the borders of its neighbors and the international law of the sea.

But be clear: all of this is about you.

It doesn't just get the tariff-taxes you have to pay at Walmart and gas prices down; it doesn't just level the playing field for your firms competing with Chinese firms with patent reform; but by resetting our relationship with China and tackling climate change, it cuts catastrophic risk, boosting Build Like We Mean It.

China Is The New Kid On The Block is all about getting you rolling after 50 years.

So now, don't tell me this is a lot to take in.

If we are going to really fix your problems, it takes the Real Deal.

Anything less is fake.

And from that lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopies, you've had nothing but fake: no fixes, just flying tweets, a flying circus, and fatter tax bills at Walmart.

But ... No Beef No Beef ... No Beef.

What the Real Deal is offering is all the beef you can handle.

C'mon Democrats, one more time so everybody can hear:

- No State Left Behind;
- Build Like We Mean It;
- Top Dollar For Your Work;
- Morning in America;
- American Medicare, not Mafia Medicine;
- Wall Street, Play With Your Own Money; and
- China Is The New Kid On The Block.

It's Our Money; Hands Off

Now lets talk taxes, the dollar, and such.

Those billionaire Tax-Welfare Queens sure like the handouts they got from this lame prima-donna quarterback and his flunkies. In the last round, a whole bunch of them got \$50,000 each per year. That is more in tax-welfare freebies than a lot of people earn by their own sweat in a year. No wonder those Queens were laughing, uproarious laughter.

Game's up!

Here's the deal.

The bottom two tax bands will be scrapped.

If you file jointly, and you earn less than \$60,000, you will pay no Federal income tax. The same for single filers earning less than \$30,000.

Let me say that again. If you file jointly, and you earn less than \$60,000, you will pay no Federal income tax. None.

It's your hard-earned money; you keep it.

And "keep it" means that unlike the handout to the billionaire Tax-Welfare Queens in which you were given crumbs, this is not temporary. It is the Real Deal.

The non-taxable earnings threshold for joint filers for earnings above \$60,000 will be phased out from there in six \$10,000 steps until it reaches zero for earnings of \$120,000 and above.

For earnings above \$60,000, taxable earnings will be charged at 30 percent. For earnings above \$120,000, the taxable earnings will be charged at 40 percent, and those above 240,000 will be charged 45 percent.

All thresholds halve for single filers. The Alternative Minimum Tax will be reset alongside.

And with interest rates still low, this is the time to end mortgage interest deductions. This will be phased out by a cumulative 100 basis points every year, starting in 2021. That will discourage folk from loading up on debt which they can't afford, helping us with Wall Street, Play With Your Own Money, and will end the tax bias against rentals.

Under the Real Deal, income tax will not be paid by those who really need the money; it will be paid by those who are able to pay. And the days of Warren Buffet paying a lower tax rate than you are done.

Alongside, Evangelicals are right to say that you can't take your money to heaven, and Bill Gates keeps saying that rich dudes should give half their fortunes away, wherever they are headed. But somehow they never quite get round to it. So the estate tax exemption will be lowered to \$1 million and the rate of tax for estates over \$3 million will be raised to 55 percent. All this will give the Fat Cats a big push to get off their golf buggies and do it.

All this, including the tax threshold and mortgage interest phase outs and estate taxes, will yield the same total revenue as the income tax and estate tax regimes prevailing before this lame prima-donna and his flunkys's giant freebie for their Tax-Welfare Queens.

I don't want to hear that Republicans talk about "Well, it's your fault that you are poor; we rich built America and so should enjoy its fruits". The Tax-Welfare Queens sure didn't build America; you did. It's your sweat; it's your money; they need to get their hands off it.

And let the lame prima-donna and his loopies scream "tax hike" all they want. If you earn less than \$60,000 as joint filers, your Federal taxes drop to zero. The end of Mafia Medicine makes everybody else better off too.. Put all that on a postcard!

These changes to personal taxation along with those to fund American Medicare will, as techies say, greatly increase our fiscal automatic stabilizers. In plain talk, that just means that if Wall Street goes AWOL again and clobbers Main Street, our budget immediately steps in to help you, no ifs, ands, or political butts. All that helps keep you out of the ditch.

As for corporation tax, the cut to 21 percent in the recent reform finally brought the US into line internationally. But that required a clearing of the underbrush of loopholes and sweetheart deductions alongside to preserve revenue. Guess what, that part didn't happen.

So here is where the Real Deal is going to deregulate for business big time.

I'm going to ask Congress to shift to a cash flow basis for the tax. But if I can't get that, then in stage 1, Congress will adopt a new corporate tax at 21 percent on the territorial system with a minimum tax on offshore profits, with no deductions bar depreciation and loss-carried-forward. Then, in stage 2, deductions will be added, one by one, each paid for by raising the headline rate to maintain revenue. This process will be enforced by my veto.

To establish neutrality between debt and equity for non-financial firms, supporting the Real Deal's "Wall Street, Play With Your Own Money program, interest will not be allowed as a deduction in either stage, including for for loss-carried-forward purposes.

The two step process under the Real Deal will clear out the underbrush of corporate tax regulations, restore revenue, streamline taxation of foreign earnings, and focus effort to achieve specific public policy goals where it should be, on the spending side of the budget where we all can see it, not buried by special interests in dark corners of the corporate tax.

This lame prima-donna and his loopies will moan that all this is bad for business.

But it gives business the tax deregulation it needs, not the wild and crazy stuff that led to the crash a decade ago, and it only raises the corporation tax rate to pay for deductions approved one by one, not in a big dark special-interest bundle. Alongside lower royalty payments under "New Kid On The Block", and with "Build Like We Mean It" and getting Mafia Medicine off of everyone's backs including theirs, business will boom.

It's your money, even corporate taxes, so it is going to be plain, simple, and out in the open.

And one last point about the Federal Budget. When you buy a truck, you decide which, you decide how to finance it, and then you sign on the dotted line, one time. So why does the Federal budget sign three times, once on spending, once on revenue, and again on borrowing as if these three are unrelated? This absurdity has caused Government shut-downs, putting all operations, including the military, and our credit rating at risk.

No longer. Under the Real Deal, we will amend the budget arrangements so that Congress approves taxes and appropriations, but that the associated borrowing does not require separate approval; that will automatically be authorized by the other two. This preserves Congress' role in the Constitution without causing incoherent Government shut-down chaos over disconnected borrowing limits. All that supports Build Like We Mean It.

And the mighty dollar is yours too, and we have to get that straightened out for you also.

The monetary job of the Federal Reserve is to support maximum employment and stable inflation. But no-one has ever sorted out politically what the "stable" part means, leaving that up to unelected officials in the Federal Reserve to figure out and impose on us.

Of course, those Federal Reserve types are crusty. So they're inclined to think that nothing much has changed in their line of work despite having recently presided over the greatest economic catastrophe and inflation undeshoot since Republican President Herbert Hoover.

That makes no sense. You wouldn't let your child-minder set the rules for your kids, not least as the the kids will behave better if they know that you, not the child-minder, set the rules. And if the minder just messed up big time, you sure wouldn't just leave well alone.

So just like a child minder, the Federal Reserve needs the backing of political authority for the effective execution its work. That will help it, like with kids, keep inflation between the

rails—not too high and not too low. And it needs to be given enough room to act to support employment if Main Street faces another big slump.

So, as in Canada, the Federal Reserve will be given its inflation objective by formal acts of Congress signed by the President, in a regular procedure to run every eight years in an off-election cycle year. If no change is approved, the goal remains. That provides formal political authority. Having been set right, like the child-minder, the Federal Reserve will then be allowed to get on with the job without operational interference but will be accountable to Congress for meeting the overall objective.

The objective will be set as a 10-year rolling average, centered on the latest month: five years of data, five years forward looking target. So if in the past 5 years, inflation has been low, the Federal Reserve has to aim to correct that in the next 5 years to hit its 10-year target. That form of target—an error-correcting 10 year rolling window—anchors the long-run inflation outlook. And it gives the Federal Reserve room and political authority to keep rates lower- for-longer to get Main Street out of big slumps which drag inflation low.

But even that added impetus to act in big slumps is not enough. The target for the decade rolling window, pre-announced for 2022, should be 3 percent. With inflation generally on target at around 3 percent, the Federal Reserve will have plenty room—at least 300 basis points in the traders' jargon—to cut interest rates to keep you rolling if there is another big hit to Main Street. That target will also help us work down the debt left after the last crisis.

It's your money, so the Federal Reserve and the mighty dollar are going to work for you.

But it's really not good enough, is it, for us simply to prepare the Federal Reserve and the Federal Budget to be better designed to respond to the next major hit to Main Street.

Instead, with interest rates already low and the Federal debt high in the US and globally, all limiting ability to respond after the fact, we also have to do a better job of spotting and heading off the risks of such big shocks before they materialize.

Sure, it's hard to spot where those big shocks might come from, even more-so when. Even maestro Governor Ben Bernanke, who was so essential to our effective response to crisis last time, said, ahead of time, that nothing was coming.

But one thing is sure, no Government, no Congress, no Federal Reserve—nor any of their powerful counterparts internationally—wants to be told that their beloved policies might

be driving the US Titanic towards the icebergs. So early-warning outfits controlled by these government institutions get their arms twisted hard to shut up.

That is a big reason why none of these institutions, either here or globally, issued early warnings ahead of the last big hit to Main Street, even though such warnings were correctly issued by others. The messengers got mugged.

And that is a central reason why we kept on heading towards that disaster.

The Real Deal will fix that.

There is one organization which has the technical chops, the resources, and the record of telling politicians publicly truths we don't want to hear—the Congressional Budget Office.

Accordingly, Democrats in Congress will instruct the CBO, working together with its sister organizations internationally, to prepare an annual public report highlighting the three top sources of risk of big hits to the global economy—and hence to US Main Street—and propose three specific steps which, at a minimum, are essential to head off those risks. It is then up to us to respond. But we will be warned as best as it is possible to be warned.

Under the Real Deal, no more Government mugging of Early-Warning. It's your money !

So by now, it should be crystal clear that when I say that we Democrats are serious about getting your rolling after 50 years stuck in the mud, we are DEAD serious.

C'mon Democrats, give me the Real Deal one more time:

- No State Left Behind;
- Build Like We Mean It;
- Top Dollar For Your Work;
- Morning in America;
- American Medicare, not Mafia Medicine;
- Wall Street, Play With Your Own Money;
- The New Kid On The Block Is China; and
- Its Our Money; Hands Off !

At this point, my Grandma would say to me: "Son, y'all are gonna be busy ... "

Yes Ma'am! And that is the point.

Compare this Real Deal to the excuses from this lame prima-donna quarterback and his loopies. There is no mono-party in DC. There is an all-a-twitter-no-beef-blame-everybody-else prima-donna working for Tax-Welfare Queens and Fat-Cat-Patent Pussies, and then there are Real Deal Democrats working for you.

I appeal to you: put an end to 50 years stuck in the mud; put us to work for you, again.

America Undivided

And as we do that, and after the poison of the past four years, we must heal our divisions.

So as we get you rolling by fixing the real problems, not name-calling and finger-pointing, we will get to work on the issues which have divided us for so long.

Immigrants did not get you stuck in the mud for 50 years. Instead, Your State Left Behind education, Let It Rot infrastructure, Bottom Dollar for your work, Mafia Medicine, Crazy Banks, Do Nothing About China, and We Got All Your Money all did a fine job of that.

With the Real Deal, all—I repeat—all of those get fixed. You will get rolling.

And we are all immigrants. It is plain as day from your genes and my skin color that none of us started out here. Even Native Americans hail from across the Bering Strait. Anyone really preferring to live in a caucasian country can always go back to the Caucasus.

This country was built by immigrants, we welcome immigrants, including those from the Caucasus, we need immigrants, and we all cherish Lady Liberty.

And unlike our fake-Patriot President, many Dreamers have served and are serving.

C'mon people, let's face facts. We are not going to turn ourselves into a jack-booted militaristic monster and round up millions and millions of our neighbors and friends, rip them from their and our lives, and dump them overseas. No we are not.

Instead, with you rolling again with the Real Deal, we will maintain both effective and humane control of our borders. ICE will be repurposed, but we will maintain our borders.

And with you rolling, we will continue to strive to slow the flow of illegals, including by working to improve conditions in the countries from which they come, and we will lay out a path to citizenship for those here, building on the bipartisan Gang of Eight proposals.

The Real Deal will welcome immigrants.

And I also have news on what has been another big divider.

No one, absolutely no-one, wakes up in the morning and thinks to themselves:

"You know what America really needs? America needs more abortions."

No-one thinks that, not me, not you, not Choice folk, no-one.

Despite decades of rancor, this great divide is but another politically-motivated myth.

Because the issue is not whether or not it should be legal. That decision is made. It is settled law, as the long series of virulent pro-life Judges have repeatedly reaffirmed.

So the way forward on this is not to pursue further additional detailed legal restrictions endlessly, but is to seek substantive remedies within the law.

And there are plenty of those remedies for us all to back.

By far the most promising is to support girls and women in disadvantaged communities, those left behind, who are overwhelmingly the most likely to confront this issue.

They will benefit greatly from the Real Deal, not just from better education, employment and wages, but also from direct and assured access to the best health care. All that will significantly reduce the number of abortions as we all want.

So I appeal directly to Evangelicals. I can't stop you from pursuing the legal issue, though I can't support it. But why not also swing behind us, in good faith, and work to encourage that different choices are made voluntarily, and in that way, to serve the least among us?

And in making that effort, we must all confront those attitudes and mindsets that treat women as secondary, as prizes to be fought over, as toys to be played with, and as properly subservient, even if those attitudes are espoused by women or by pro-life Justices.

Those mindsets are lethal, including by leading to abortions. And we all need to speak very plainly on this to all men and to all boys.

As nominee of the Democrat Party, and as your aspirant President, it is my job to take the lead on this, so my message on this to men and boys is, and will continue to be, as follows:

My daughter is not another notch in your belt; it is an insult to animals to call such attitudes animal. I don't care what fancy prep school, what frat house, or what old boys-will-be-boys club you associate with; that isn't macho, that is pathetic.

You can do so much better. C'mon fellahs, if the lady catches your eye, don't force her, tie her down, or grab her; try a smile, turn on that down-home charm of yours, add some patience and a lil swagger, and let her come to you if *she* chooses—you got this bro!

But don't be in any doubt: if it ain't "Yes", it's "No". And if you're her boss, don't imagine that you can use that to muscle her. And if you want her job as boss, then work harder and smarter than her and everyone else to get it. You got that too, bro.

The Real Deal will honor women and girls, just as it honors men and boys.

And we have to overcome the divides among us which have been enlarged by Big Digital.

We love our devices. But through them, Big Digital has invaded our homes, ensnared us with easy-click legal gobbledegook, snooped around our intimate lives, sold everything about us to the highest bidders, and has preyed on us not only with targeted advertising but also targeted pricing—to price-gouge the life out of us. All this has poisoned our national dialogue, turning it into a foreign-manipulated echo-chamber screaming match, dividing us.

And no, Big Digital, you will not "try harder" to fix these problems. The problem is your business model.

Enough!

Big Digital, from here on under Federal Law, your entry into our devices via optic cable will give you no more rights than the cable TV guy has when we let him in our front door.

So regardless of any of your prior easy-click never-read legalese, just as with the cable TV guy, we will decide on a continuous basis whether to let you in and what you do and do not bring in and take away with you. All these decisions will be made by a responsible adult.

By law, if you do not honor any part of these requirements for any individual customer, your liability will be based on the whole class of such individuals, not the individual concerned, with "class" defined broadly. All this will be policed undercover.

Yes, this means that there will be nothing standard or consistent about your access to our devices. So yes, your snooping-poisoned-dividing-advertising business model is done.

But I have news for you: there is nothing standard about the cable TV guy's access either. He adjusts to each of us. We are not here for his or your convenience. Our homes are *our* homes, our devices are *our* devices. And you are invited into them on our terms, not yours. We are not the product. You are the cable TV guy. Get used to it.

And no, this will not kill the internet. Like all the rest of us, you can levy subscriptions for your services. You are entrepreneurs; you already have huge network economies; you can find your markets on these terms.

Our national dialogue will no longer be held hostage to your current business model.

And with all that said, c'mon people, there is no-one and nothing online that needs your "like", your opinion, or your attention half as much as the little people kicking around your ankles. Let's get off our phones and talk to our children.

The Real Deal will put our devices back into our hands.

And guns.

This has never been about what the Second Amendment does or does not mean.

Those "well-regulated militias" were posses formed to round up runaway slaves, bandit organizations outlawed since 1863. The whole gun issue was originally token—because firearms were so scarce, malfunctional, and costly—until the Civil War flooded us with weapons. And given that the technology has changed out of all recognition, to continue to think about firearms in terms the constitutional framers used makes about as much sense as insisting that Interstate traffic rules should be those that applied to horse and buggy.

And as those remarkable kids from Stoneman Douglas in my home state of Florida have highlighted, the upshot is massacres of those most precious to us, our children, our infants. This, I can assure you, was never the intention, purpose, or desire of the Founding Fathers.

This issue really is not hard.

As Michelle Obama let her husband know:

‘... if I was living in a farmhouse where the sheriff’s department is pretty far away and somebody can just turn off the highway and come up to the farm, I would want to have a shotgun or a rifle to make sure I was protected and to make sure my family was protected.’

Absolutely right.

But politicians, who ridiculously denigrate our economic plans as leading to Venezuela, nevertheless espouse gun laws which literally—and uniquely among advanced nations—put us in the same firearm homicide league as Nicaragua. And we are totally in a league of our own on fire-arm-related suicides; Nicaragua and Venezuela are not even close.

It is not about good and bad guys with guns, or turning teachers into vigilantes, or some quasi-religious reverence for an incomprehensible ancient parchment. It is not about protecting basic liberties—your vote does that. And it most certainly is not about selling more and more and more and more guns.

It is about common sense gun controls to ensure access to them for those who need them and to prevent access to them for those who should never have access to them.

The overwhelming majority of gun-owners agree.

If playing with military grade weaponry floats your boat, join the military, and deal with the fact that there you will also have to face incoming.

If you want to support the police, don't send them your thoughts and prayers: work with us to get firepower out of the hands of the criminals and the mentally-ill that the police confront on our behalf every day.

And as we support them in that way, we also need to remind them: young black men, even when legally armed, are citizens like any others who you are sworn to serve and protect. You will not insult your badge, or your fellow officers, by using it as cover for murder.

The Real Deal will put guns right.

And it is high time to renew the integrity of our central national democratic institutions.

The Supreme Court must be returned its role as the neutral and living guarantor of the Constitution that the Founding Fathers envisioned, not a place of individual unchecked power for 50 years or more in a Republic expressly established to reject monarchy.

We will propose a constitutional amendment to the effect that:

- Justices, including those now on the bench, will each serve overlapping non-renewable 18-year fixed terms, to begin and end in off-election years.
- Nominees for any Federal court will require the votes not of Senators representing two-thirds of the States, but Senators representing two-thirds of the total US population.
- A Supreme Court Justice must recuse her/himself from any case pertaining to the personal criminal liability of the President (or of his family) who nominated him or her, whether that President is still in office or not.

A two-term President will thus get to nominate almost half of the court, but not for life, nor for his or her own personal ends. The President will be seen to be subject to the law. And given that the House of Representatives has no role, the popular voice will be reflected in the revised Senate Advise and Consent rule for appointments to all Federal Courts.

And we will propose a second Constitutional Amendment, to abolish the Electoral College. The candidate for President of the United States will henceforth be the candidate who wins more votes than any other candidate.

And as we speak of healing our divisions and restoring our central national democratic institutions, what is it, what is it with these false Patriot politicians treating our armed services like some sort of plaything to flatter their fragile egos:

- to be sent into a war of choice in Iraq on a whim while the war of last resort in Afghanistan was still in doubt, and which, as a result, is still ongoing;
 - to be dispatched here and there to act as a prop for this election campaign or that;
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- to be deployed to the Southern border to repel an invasion of ... refugees?

Our young servicemen and women put their lives on the line. They are eager to do what is required. The word "no" does not exist for them. That is precious. It is not to be abused.

So I stand before you with a head to dispatch our armed services when necessary, and a heart to do so only when that is absolutely necessary, having exhausted all other options. I will not put them in harm's way when we can only win battles; they will only be ordered to engage in wars that we can and must win.

And what is it with these politicians who go on and on about "there are no differences of race, religion, gender, sexuality, or region in a foxhole", and yet whose politics consist entirely in poisoning exactly these divisions—suppressing votes, gerrymandering, and skewing criminal justice, and not just dog-whistled but flat out in your face.

You cannot have it both ways. If there are no differences in a foxhole, there are none here.

And, Democrats, that is true for Republicans, but it is also true for us too.

If our lives in a foxhole might someday depend on a Red State, Born-Again Evangelical, straight, white, high-school-educated, male, die-hard Trump voter, then he is no less worthy of our respect, tolerance, and encouragement in the political arena.

On this, we Democrats will take our lead from our nation's servicemen and women: so every voter will be registered, everywhere; every vote will be fought for, everywhere; and every vote will be counted, everywhere.

We will be very sharp in confronting political leaders who undermine the American common good, as I have been tonight, and we will prosecute anyone who commits crimes in the name of their political beliefs to the fullest extent of the law.

But we will respect all ordinary citizens as fellow Americans, always. Because if we Democrats are Americans in a foxhole, we are Americans in our politics too.

We need each other. We cannot get the Real Deal done on our own. We need each other.

All of us.

That is the Real Deal.

- No State Left Behind;
- Build Like We Mean It;
- Top Dollar For Your Work;
- Morning in America;
- American Medicare, not Mafia Medicine;
- Wall Street, Play With Your Own Money;
- The New Kid On The Block Is China;
- Its Our Money; Hands Off; and
- America Undivided.

Forward

We know how we got here. This is the way forward now.

Let us put an end to the rerun of the old Republican playbook, which has got you stuck in the mud for half a century and has brought us all to the brink, again, in the past four years:

It is not America First; it is America Undone.

It is not Make America Great Again; it is Set America Up to Fall Again.

It is not our future, and we would be nowhere now, if it had been the story of our past.

We reject all of it and all of its corruption of our public life.

We reject its deceit and reclaim what has carried us through all of our past struggles.

We reject the low; we go high.

We choose the way set out by our founding fathers and celebrated in the Statue of Liberty.

We choose, with them and with her, not just to be a beacon to the world, but to be that beacon by binding ourselves together.

We choose to be one nation, all Americans, undivided, however and whenever we came here, men and women, the Real Deal, blessed by Liberty, all of us.

Peter Doyle
Washington DC
October 25, 2018
