

AMERICAN FREEDOM CAMPAIGN

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Senator Clinton Provides Statement to American Freedom Campaign; All Democratic Presidential Candidates Have Now Expressed Strong Support for the Constitution

Republican candidates have not responded to American Freedom Campaign's request for commitment "to fight to protect and defend the Constitution"

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WASHINGTON - Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) today provided the [American Freedom Campaign](#) with a [statement](#) expressing a commitment to respecting the Constitution while defending the nation from the threat of terrorism. With Senator Clinton's statement, all of the Democratic presidential candidates have now either signed the American Freedom Pledge or have provided the American Freedom Campaign Action Fund with a detailed statement addressing the issues described in the [American Freedom Campaign Agenda](#). (The full agenda is included at the bottom of this release.)

The American Freedom Campaign (AFC) Action Fund is encouraging all candidates to sign this pledge, the text of which is as follows:

"We are Americans, and in our America we do not torture, we do not imprison people without charge or legal remedy, we do not tap people's phones and emails without a court order, and above all we do not give any President unchecked power.

"I pledge to fight to protect and defend the Constitution from attack by any President."

The Campaign also sent letters in August to the announced Republican presidential candidates. None of the Republican

candidates have provided AFC with a response. Earlier this year, however, Representative Ron Paul (R-TX) signed a similar [pledge](#) circulated by the American Freedom Agenda, an organization formed by conservative leaders, including former Reagan official Bruce Fein and former congressman Bob Barr.

For more details about the American Freedom Campaign Action Fund's presidential pledge campaign, including the written responses from two of the candidates, please visit [this page](#).

The mission of the American Freedom Campaign is to preserve the vision of the nation's Founders - that no President shall be above the law. As part of this mission, it seeks to make the issue of defending the Constitution a prominent part of the 2008 presidential campaign. Later this fall, with a grassroots army to call on, the Campaign intends to turn up the heat on candidates who have not made their commitment to defending the Constitution clear.

"It is great that all of the Democratic presidential candidates have conveyed their strong feelings about defending and protecting our Constitution," said American Freedom Campaign co-founder Naomi Wolf. "But we are only half-way to our goal. We will not be satisfied until we receive a solid commitment from each and every one of the presidential candidates. We hope that this will not be difficult. It will be a tragedy if we discover that defending the Constitution has become a partisan issue."

The American Freedom Campaign and the American Freedom Campaign Action Fund were founded by MoveOn.org co-founder Wes Boyd, scientist and social entrepreneur William Haseltine, Fenton Communications CEO David Fenton, and Naomi Wolf, author of "The End of America" (Chelsea Green Publishing).

The American Freedom Campaign -- which is affiliated with the AFC Action Fund -- is an online and offline effort to build grassroots support to restore checks and balances and reverse abuses of power by the executive branch. In late July, the Campaign was launched with the participation of the [Center for Constitutional Rights](#), [Human Rights Watch](#),

MoveOn.org and others. With the recent additions of [Amnesty International USA](http://AmnestyInternationalUSA.org), the [Brennan Center for Justice](http://BrennanCenterforJustice.org), the [Campaign to Defend the Constitution](http://CampaigntoDefendtheConstitution.org), [Electronic Frontier Foundation](http://ElectronicFrontierFoundation.org), and [True Majority](http://TrueMajority.org) as partners, the Campaign is now backed by organizations with nearly five million members combined. ** Please note that these organizations are not involved in the effort to have presidential candidates sign the American Freedom Pledge. **

For more information, visit the American Freedom Campaign Web site - <http://www.americanfreedomcampaign.org> .

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The American Freedom Campaign Agenda

At critical moments in our history, Americans have been called upon to protect our Constitutional guarantees of liberty and justice. We face such a moment today. The American Freedom Campaign is a non-partisan citizen's alliance formed to reverse the abuse of executive power and restore our system of checks and balances with these ten goals:

Fully restore the right to challenge the legality of one's detention, or habeas corpus, and the right of detained suspects to be charged and brought to trial.

Prohibit torture and all cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Prohibit the use of secret evidence.

Prohibit the detention of anyone, including U.S. citizens, as an "enemy combatant" outside the battlefield, and on the President's say-so alone.

Prohibit the government from secretly breaking and entering our homes, tapping our phones or email, or seizing our computers without a court order, on the President's say-so alone.

Prohibit the President from "disappearing" anyone and holding them in secret detention.

Prohibit the executive from claiming "state secrets" to deny justice to victims of government misdeeds, and from claiming "executive privilege" to obstruct Congressional oversight and an open government.

Prohibit the abuse of signing statements, where the President seeks to disregard duly enacted provision of bills.

Use the federal courts, or courts-martial, to charge and prosecute terrorism suspects, and close Guantanamo down.

Reaffirm that the Espionage Act does not prohibit journalists from reporting on classified national security matters and that they may do so without fear of prosecution.

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