

Draft personal letter Pat Stryker to DA partners (For revision by Al Yates)

Dear

I am writing today to tell you why I am supporting the Coloradans for Fairness and Equality campaign, and to ask you to join me in this effort. **To that end, I am extending a challenge grant to Democracy Alliance partners. I will match dollar for dollar up to \$100,000 for all contributions from Alliance partners.**

For too long, religious conservatives have been successful at using the issue of same-sex relationships to divide progressives while exploiting their own base. I think the resurrection of the federal constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage by President Bush and the congressional leadership shows that, when necessary, religious conservative leaders will continue to use the same-sex marriage issue for purely political purposes.

That's why at the core of the Colorado campaign is a strategy to turn the tables on religious conservatives. By placing a Domestic Partnership referendum on the same ballot as the same-sex marriage ban, we will provide voters with something they've never had before on this issue: a *positive choice*. For the first time, fair-minded voters who aren't ready for the idea of same-sex marriage can vote to provide committed partners with the *fundamental legal protections and responsibilities* we all want for ourselves and our loved ones.

The power of that choice is considerable. With **54 percent** of Coloradans supporting the Domestic Partnership referendum, it's clear that religious conservatives don't speak for the majority of Americans. If *Referendum H passes* in Colorado, religious conservatives will have to face a new *national dynamic*. In future attempts to use these issues as a wedge, they will be confronted by Domestic Partnership campaigns that appeal to fair-minded voters. *What* had once been a successful electoral tool for them will become a political liability.

I am enclosing TK, which outlines our strategy and plan in greater detail. I hope you'll take the time to look it over and consider the importance of supporting this campaign. Success in Colorado will provide not only a model to splinter the conservative coalition that supports these constitutional amendments, but also a way for progressive candidates and activists to connect with moderate voters and find unity on this issue.

The campaign has caught the attention of progressive donors from around the country who are lending their support. **Please take the time to complete the enclosed reply form and pledge your support now. We must stand together to build a stronger progressive coalition. I hope I can count on you to join us.**

Sincerely,

Pat Stryker

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