

## Equality for All

What is the problem with our federal government, specifically congress and the white house, about which most Americans are concerned? The problem is special interest. Both parties in Congress have divided the citizenry into special interest groups, each of which generates lobbyist to encourage the congress to give their group a special benefit at the expense of the general populace. Thus, the hard working citizens who are not part of a special interest end up paying for those in the special interest groups. This trend has gone so far that special interest groups now rule congress at the expense of the average American that are not part of the special interest. In addition, the division of the citizenry into groups divides the country against each other. This is a tactic to prevent all citizens from benefiting in the same manner, but seeks to divide to gain votes for funding special interest. More importantly, members of congress are in a position to accept all kinds of favors from special interest lobbyists as well as fund special interest to gain votes from a segment of society. This is not equality for every citizen, but benefits for some citizens at the expense of other citizens.

Therefore, in order to eliminate lobbyist, eliminate the opportunity for members of congress to benefit from either monetarily or from voters due to special favors to one group, the Tea-publican approach is to treat each citizen equally in laws and opportunity. This action can take the form of congressional legislation or a new president could veto any and all bills that provide special interest funding and do not treat every citizen in the same manner. Simultaneously, those groups of people with special needs, previously special interest, will be taken care of thorough Americorps. See Tea-publican Commitment No. 2.

In this manner, members of congress will not be arguing over which special interest to fund and blaming the other party for motives, but will be discussing how to help every citizen enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If every citizen is treated the same in all laws and regulations, there will not be division in the country.

The government does not have the resources to provide extensive support for our fellow citizens, especially those of our fellow citizens who are not responsible for themselves in terms of education, hard work, personal health, family support, and addictions. Personal responsibility, opportunity for success, and hard work has been the foundation for this great country. Therefore, we commit to making laws that treat each citizen equally in a manner that organizes and regulates a base level of support for personal retirement, personal health, and personal employment opportunities.

In some sense, this commitment is a redistribution of the work of the country, which is opportunity, instead of redistribution of the wealth of the country. In this manner, success is dependent upon the individual initiative and individual effort, commonly known as hard work. This commitment will reward those who work and study and strive to succeed, who follow the rules and who take responsibility for themselves, their family, and their community. The foundation of this approach is that each citizen has a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and only what they earn from their initiative and hard work.

Yes, equality for all includes gay citizens which should be granted the same benefits in law as married people. Therefore, we propose to make a civil union contract part of every union. This approach is a call to those who want to preserve marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman to agree that the civil advantages of a union should be available to all and those gay couples to agree that the marriage definition is unique to a relationship between one man and one woman. The price for those who favor the uniqueness of one man-one woman marriage will be to agree that all unions, straight or gay, enter into a civil union contract and the price for gay couples that want the benefits of civil unions will be to agree that that marriage is indeed a union between one man and one woman. This approach declares that the marriage definition between one man and one woman will stand as a special arrangement that is the common definition in society that is beneficial for children. More importantly, marriage is a religious and child beneficial union that is above and beyond the benefits of a civil union.

Equality is fundamental in the law in that each citizen should be treated independent of their social status or income. Equal application of the law is fundamental to the pursuit of happiness. Equality is fundamental to the government treatment of citizens. Equality means that every citizen should be treated in the same fashion by the government, independent of social position, race, creed, religion, and political connections. These actions are most apparent in taxing and regulation policies. If a government regulation exists, it is a magnet for lobbying and payoffs to those that make the regulations, to give one group of citizens an advantage over citizens at large. The objective then is to eliminate all government regulation loopholes that favor any group or individual in order to make Equality a true commitment.