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Brett, attached is the draft of Mrs. Bush's remarks for a W for Women event tomorrow in Maine. Campaign is currently reviewing as well. Many thanks and again, I apologize for the late notice.

**Remarks by Mrs. Bush**  
**W Stands for Women – Lewiston, Maine**  
**Friday, September 10, 2004**

*AS PREPARED*

Thank you, Jenna, for that very sweet introduction. One of the great things about having our girls on the campaign trail with us is getting to hear them talk about how much they love me – and in public, no less. Thank you all for your warm welcome. And thank you for the privilege you've given my husband and me of serving this great country. [REDACTED] b(6)

[REDACTED] b(6) I'm so happy to be surrounded by strong women who are shaping the political process in America and making a difference in their communities. Two such women are also two of Maine's highest leaders. Special thanks to Senator Olympia Snowe and Senator Susan Collins for being here. Thanks also to Carolyn Cianchette [Chin-KET] and to her husband, Peter for leading the campaign's efforts here in Maine – and to Kathy Watson and Karen Raye for their work on behalf of the Republican Party. President Bush and I also appreciate the many volunteers who are working hard to get out the word about the President's accomplishments and his vision to move America forward. [REDACTED] b(6)

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[REDACTED] b(6) This is a beautiful state, one with its own distinct character – and the people who live here are unique characters as well. I *happen* to be related to a few of them! The Bush family has made neighboring Kennebunkport their home for generations. President Bush has enjoyed spending summers and holidays here since he was a boy. We're all kids again in Maine – even President Bush. Two summers ago, we visited George's parents here to celebrate the Fourth of July. George woke up at 6 A.M. as usual and padded downstairs for a cup of coffee. He sat down on the sofa with his parents and put his feet up. All of a sudden Barbara Bush hollered, "**Put** your feet down." George's dad replied, "For Goodness sake, Barbara, he's the President of the United States." And Bar replied, "I don't care, I don't want his feet on my coffee table." So you see – even President's have to listen to their mothers.

But President Bush doesn't just listen to his mother. My husband knows that empowered women are vital to democracy. And he has three strong women at home who don't let him forget it. I'm proud that in my husband's administration, there are more women in senior positions than in any other administration in history. Dr. Condoleezza Rice advises the President on foreign policy and Margaret Spellings is in charge of domestic policy. That means in the White House, women are in charge of everything abroad and everything at home. And that sounds just about right to me.

And it's not just that way in the White House. Across America, millions of women are raising a family, working full time, going to college, starting their own businesses, and caring for their parents. And some women are doing all of these things at the same time. Women's roles have changed dramatically from just a few decades ago. There are more single moms doing double duty. There are more women in college and more women entrepreneurs. More single women are independently leading their lives. Women are also living longer and we have more opportunity than ever before. My husband wants to extend this opportunity to every corner of America, so that all women have a chance to participate in an ownership society. Last week in New York, President Bush outlined his agenda for a new term. Helping women and families face the challenges of our changing world is at the heart of the President's plan.

Opportunity starts with education – and all women deserve to go to college if they choose, and to learn good job skills so that they compete in our evolving workforce. Many full-time mothers find that after the last one leaves the nest they want to start a new career. For some women, this means going back to school to learn new skills. The President will work with community colleges to make career training more accessible for women. And because higher education is a lifelong dream for so many, we'll make more Pell grants available so more Americans can go to college. And to help better prepare our high school students for college and beyond, President Bush wants to strengthen math and science education and broaden Internet learning so young people can compete in our technology-driven world.

And when these graduates enter the workforce, many of them will go to work for a woman. Ten million women own their own business in America, and this sisterhood just keeps growing. Women are opening businesses at twice the rate of men, and they employ more than 19 million Americans. Last month, I met business owner Nancy Garberson of Cedar Rapids.



Several years ago, Nancy left a fast-paced marketing agency in Chicago to be a full-time mom. Raising her children was her most important job. She enjoyed the freedom of being able to attend parent-teacher conferences and tuck her daughters into bed. But she still missed working. So with her husband's support, she started an advertising business in her spare bedroom. Today, she manages an agency with a full-service public relations department and 15 employees. And Nancy credits the President's tax relief with helping her to open a new office in Miami.

Small business owners like Nancy are some of the hardest working people in America, and my husband wants to enable all women to share in their success. This starts with making tax relief permanent! Because of tax cuts, 25 million small business owners have each saved an average of \$3,000 this year alone. Women are investing this extra money, expanding their operations, and strengthening our growing economy. And my husband wants to help working mothers keep more of something they never have enough of, and that's time – time to play with their kids or to take care of their parents. Working mothers shouldn't have to use vacation time to take their children to the doctor. And President Bush will work with Congress to make flex-time and comp time available so more Americans can better manage the demands of work and family.

Another important issue for women is affordable and accessible healthcare. It's estimated that women make up to seventy percent of their families' financial and health care decisions. And it can be tough to make those decisions when you're not in control of your health coverage. Women should be able to choose the doctor they entrust their families health to. The President is making health care more accessible with new ideas like health savings accounts. These plans enable people to save tax-free for routine expenses like eyeglasses and doctor visits. Women can even take these accounts with them if they start a new job or if they leave work to have a child. This is health care that we own, we manage, and we keep.

Another growing crisis that is of particular concern to women is medical liability reform. When I traveled to Philadelphia a few weeks ago, I met Erin Zezzo who learned about junk lawsuits the hard way. Erin had a trusting relationship with her OB-GYN, who delivered her first two children. Shortly into her third pregnancy, Erin's doctor announced that he stop delivering babies because he couldn't afford malpractice insurance. A few weeks later, Erin was notified that her doctor was closing his practice.

Erin was forced to find a new doctor while she was six months pregnant. Frivolous lawsuits raise the costs of health care and drive good doctors out of practice. To help women like Erin, President Bush will reform the medical liability system and reduce junk lawsuits.

Women are also living longer than men, and it's more important than ever that we own and manage our own retirement plans. Today, full time moms who may not contribute to their husband's Social Security will receive very little if anything ever happens to their spouse. President Bush wants to enable women to be joint owners of their spouses Social Security account. This way, if anything happens to your husband, you inherit the money, not the government.

All of these issues are important to women, to our families, and to the strength of our nation. But as we grieve for the families in Russia, and as we approach the third anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup> – I believe what's most important is my husband's work to protect our country and to defeat terror around the world. The terrible acts of September 11<sup>th</sup> showed us the face of evil in the world, but they also called us to the great work of promoting freedom and democracy in the far corners of the world. President Bush and I want all of our men and women in uniform and their families to know how much we appreciate their sacrifice. We appreciate the dedication of courageous Americans like Army Reserve Sergeant Tim Martin who is serving in Iraq. His wife Krystie is with us today. Krystie we want you to know that Tim and all our troops and their families are in our prayers. Sergeant Martin and his comrades can be proud, that as we do the hard work of confronting terror, fifty million more men, women and children live in freedom thanks to the United States of America and our allies.

After years of being treated as virtual prisoners in their homes by the Taliban, the women of Afghanistan are going back to work. After being denied an education, even the chance to learn to read, the little girls in Afghanistan are now in school. More than 10 million Afghan citizens have registered to vote in this fall's presidential election, and more than 40 percent are women. Because we acted, the people of Iraq are now free from the tyranny of a brutal dictator. The Iraqi interim government is preparing for national elections in January. And we have pledged to stand with the Iraqi people during this historic and hopeful time for their nation.



We must remember that building a democracy takes time. Think of how long it took us in our country, even though we were given such a perfect document by our founders. Our nation has not always lived up to its ideals, yet those ideals have never ceased to guide us. We are the beneficiaries of the works of the generations before us, and it's our responsibility to continue that work. My husband believes that there's more to do to make our country safer, stronger, and more hopeful. And he will continue the great and privileged work of leading America forward while holding true to our timeless ideals.

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These are times of change for our nation – and these are also years of promise. We have great confidence in our ability to overcome challenges. We've gained a new appreciation for the many blessings of America, and we've been reminded of our responsibilities to the country we love. George and I grew up in the same small town, in Midland, Texas where the sky seems endless, and so do the possibilities. Little did I know that I would literally marry the boy next door! But after twenty seven years of marriage, I can tell you my husband brings that optimism, that sense of purpose, that certainty that a better day is before us, to his job every day. b(6) Thank you all, may God bless you and may God bless America.