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To: "Kavanaugh, Brett M."
Subject: Updated Remarks for Mrs. Bush
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[10-19-04 Victory 04 Rally - Primos PA - PREPARED.doc](#)

Brett, attached is an updated political stump speech for Mrs. Bush for tomorrow in PA. We've added some new lines about Social Security, and the volunteer military. Just wanted to run by you. Many thanks.

Remarks for Mrs. Laura Bush
Victory '04 Rally – Primos, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, October 19, 2004

AS PREPARED

- Congressman Curt Weldon
- Julie Nixon Eisenhower
- State and local elected officials
- Volunteers who are working so hard to reelect President Bush

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As I have traveled across our country over the last several months, I've met so many people who have a deep love for our country – and for our President. People all across America see what you and I see, and that is my husband is a man of great character and conviction. We've watched as President Bush has led this country through the most historic struggles of our generation. We've been through a lot together these last four years. But today, our economy is growing, we're closing the achievement gap in our schools, and America is safer and stronger thanks to the President's decisive leadership. In Ohio, I visited with a woman business owner who summed up our success this way. She said, "President Bush was born for such a time as this. He never wavers when it comes to doing the right thing. It makes me feel so secure to know that our leader has such a love for our country."

These are historic times, and they're also times of change that require new ideas to move America forward. Just think about the differences in our lives today and the lives of our parents or grandparents. Today in most families, both parents are working outside the home, including two-thirds of all mothers. And more single parents are doing double duty alone.

More entrepreneurs are starting their own businesses. Workers are changing jobs often during their lifetimes, and more people are going back to school to keep up with our changing economy. At our convention in New York, President Bush outlined his agenda for a new term. And helping families face the challenges of this changing world is at the heart of the President's plan.

We know that all opportunity starts with education. Thanks to the No Child Left Behind Act, our schools are improving with higher standards, accountability, and the most federal funding ever for elementary and secondary education. More children are reading at grade level and scores in math are improving, and we owe much of this success to America's incredible teachers. As we help our younger students, we also want to make sure that our students in high schools are well prepared for the new jobs of the 21st century. We want high school students to have increased training in math and science, because we know new jobs will demand those skills. President Bush wants to make it easier for high school students to take courses at community college and earn credits toward their degrees even before they graduate. He also wants to make federal student financial aid more flexible, so more Americans can receive training, earn a degree, or take specialized courses that will help them get a great job.

And when these graduates enter the work force, I'm proud to say that a lot of them will go to work for a woman boss. Ten million women in America own their own business, and that sisterhood just keeps growing. Millions of families and small business owners are saving more of their own money, because the President worked to pass the largest tax relief in a generation. And just in case you don't know, a lot of small businesses are either sole proprietorships or sub-S corporations, which means they're taxed with regular income tax. So when you talk about tax cuts, you're also talking about the tax cuts that help small business owners expand their businesses and hire workers. America has added more than 1.9 million jobs since August 2003. That's more jobs than Germany, Japan, England, Canada, and France added, combined! And here in Pennsylvania, you've added more than 57,000 jobs since the beginning of this year.

We know that we have more work to do to make sure everybody who wants a job can find one. This month President Bush signed a bill extending the tax relief so that families and small businesses can stay on the path to greater prosperity.

The bipartisan bill, which Congressman Weldon supported, extends the 1,000 dollar child tax credit, the marriage penalty relief, and the expanded 10 percent bracket. Overall, 94 million Americans will have a lower tax bill next year, including 70 million women and 38 million families with children.

My husband also believes that every American should have access to the most reliable and most affordable health care. And one way we can reduce the costs of healthcare and doctor's insurance premiums is by ending the practice of lawyers suing doctors with frivolous lawsuits! In August I was in Bucks County and I met Erin Zezzo, who learned about junk lawsuits the hard way. Erin had a trusting relationship with her OB-GYN, who had delivered her first two children. Into her third pregnancy, Erin's doctor stopped delivering babies, because he couldn't afford the medical liability insurance. Erin had to find a new doctor when she was six months pregnant. President Bush will work to reform the medical liability system and reduce frivolous lawsuits, so more women don't have to experience what Erin went through. And my husband will make sure that patients and doctors are in charge of health care, not bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. George believes that government should try to help people improve their lives, not try to run them.

And one of the most promising ways government can help improve our lives is by supporting medical research. The President is strongly committed to advancing research. He has doubled the budget for the National Institutes of Health and he has requested 28.8 billion dollars for the NIH next year. This money will support research that leads to new and better treatments for heart disease and cancer and many other illnesses. The President also looks forward to medical breakthroughs that may arise from stem cell research. You may not realize that, because many people try to distort his record. But the truth is George W. Bush is the only President to authorize federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. Last year, the federal government invested nearly 25 million dollars in embryonic stem cell research and nearly 191 million dollars in adult and other stem cell research. Many millions more are spent by researchers in the private sector.

My father died of Alzheimer's disease and I share the President's eagerness to find a cure for this devastating illness. We are hopeful that stem cells will yield cures and therapies for a myriad of

illnesses. But we know that the promise of research lies in the advancement of scientific knowledge and a greater understanding of how stem cells can be used to treat illnesses. The President's policy makes it possible for researchers to explore the potential of stem cells while respecting the ethical and moral implications associated with this research.

Another issue of great importance for all Americans is Social Security. President Bush is exploring ideas to strengthen Social Security like allowing younger workers to save some of their payroll taxes in a personal savings accounts. These are accounts that they can call their own, and that the government can not take away. But Social Security will not change for those who are receiving it now, or for people my age who will receive it soon. A lot of people are trying to scare America's seniors by saying that President Bush will privatize Social Security. My husband believes that Social Security is a central part of our compassionate society. And the truth is as long as my husband is President, America will keep the promise of Social Security to all our seniors.

As President, my husband has met the toughest challenges with courage. He believes that his duty, the responsibility of every leader, is to find solutions to problems, not pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. And his first and most important duty is to protect our country and to defeat terror around the world. President Bush and I appreciate the men and women like the fire fighters in this company and all around our country who are keeping their neighbors safe. We also want our men and women in uniform and their families to know how much every American appreciates their service and their sacrifice. President Bush will always make sure that America's troops have the resources and support they need to complete their missions. And although some people continue to say otherwise, under the President's leadership, the United States military will remain an all volunteer military!

We appreciate the patriotism and courage of volunteers like Marene [mau-REEN] Allison, who was in the first class of women graduates from West Point in 1980. Marene served six years in the Army and today her son, John, is following in his mother's footsteps as a cadet at West Point. Thank you, Marene, and please thank your son for us, and know that you and your family, and all of our military families, are in the thoughts and prayers of every American.

As we do the hard work of confronting terror, we can be proud that 50 million more men, women and children now have the chance to 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 now able to leave their homes without a male escort. And the little girls of Afghanistan, who were literally forbidden to be educated, are now in school. Ten days ago, the Afghan people voted in the first free presidential election in the history of their country. Despite resistance from terrorist elements who still try to prevent democracy, millions of citizens went to the polls. A 19-year-old woman became the very first voter in the election. She said: "I cannot explain my feelings, just how happy I am. I would never have thought I would be able to vote in this election."

And because we acted, the people of Iraq are free from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein. President Bush met with Iraq's new leader, Prime Minister Allawi, at the White House recently. Prime Minister Allawi said that the Iraqi people are determined to exercise their right to vote, even as they face violence from those who oppose democracy. Already an Iraqi independent electoral commission is up and running, political parties are planning campaigns, voter registration will begin next month – and free and fair Iraqi elections will be held this coming January. A recent poll found that more than 75 percent of Iraqis want to vote, and they have confidence in the electoral progress. And more than 75 percent are hopeful about the future of their country. The Iraqi people are showing that the violent acts of a few can not divert the momentum of freedom.

Americans know that building a democracy takes time. Think of how long it took us in our country. It took almost 100 years after our founders declared all men are created equal to abolish slavery, and not until 84 years ago did American women get the right to vote. Our nation has not always lived up to its ideals, yet those ideals have never ceased to guide us. In the presidential debates, the people of America saw the strong and thoughtful man I know and love. They saw a leader who has led America through some of our darkest moments. The American people know my husband. They know that at times he has a blunt way of speaking. We like to joke that he gets that from his mother. But Americans also know that my husband tells you exactly what he thinks, exactly what he's going to do – and my husband keeps his word.

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These are times of change for our nation, but they're also years of promise. George and I grew up in West Texas, where the sky seems endless and so do the possibilities. My husband brings that optimism, that sense of purpose, that certainty that a better day is before us to his job every day. [REDACTED] Thank you all. And may God bless America.

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