

September 23, 2014

Hon. John Boehner
Speaker of the US House of Representatives

Hon. Greg Walden
Chairman, National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee

Members of the Republican Majority Leadership
US House of Representatives

Hon. Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader of the US Senate

Hon. Jerry Moran
Chairman, National Republican Senatorial Committee

Dear Speaker Boehner, Chairman Walden, Senator McConnell, Chairman Moran and Members of the Republican House and Senate Leadership:

The undersigned organizations are writing to inform you that we actively oppose the election of Republican House of Representative candidates Carl DeMaio (CA-52) and Richard Tisei (MA-6) and Oregon US Senate candidate Monica Wehby and will mount a concerted effort to urge voters to refuse to cast ballots for them in the November election.

This decision was reached only after having exhausted all attempts to convince the Republican leadership of the grave error it was making in advancing candidates who do not hold core Republican beliefs and, in fact, are working to actively alienate the Republican base. We believe that Republican candidates should embrace the full spectrum of conservative principles – economic, national security and social issues – that have defined our party since President Reagan led us to a transformative victory. While we acknowledge that a national party must accommodate varying points of view on matters of prudence, we also believe a party must stand for certain core principles that it expects its candidates to defend. That, indeed, is the purpose of a party platform.

Carl DeMaio, Richard Tisei and Monica Wehby are antithetical to the Republican platform.

Mr. DeMaio supports and aggressively advocates for the redefinition of marriage, and welcomed the judicial activism of the federal courts which stripped the people of California of their votes in support of maintaining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. DeMaio is strongly pro-abortion and supports legalizing the use of marijuana under some circumstances. He also has taken positions in support of gun-control.

Mr. Tisei also has been an outspoken advocate for redefining marriage and even boycotted the state party convention to protest Republican support for preserving marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Tisei also supports abortion, has received a 100% rating from both NARAL Massachusetts and Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts and says he sees “no problem” with Planned Parenthood receiving hundreds of millions of dollars a year in taxpayer funding. Tisei supports expanded use of marijuana and “is open” to complete legalization of marijuana. And Tisei has spoken favorably about eliminating tax credits, thus increasing taxes.

Ms. Wehby also supports redefining marriage and, similarly, is in support of abortion. She has even run a television commercial celebrating the fact that Oregon now permits same-sex “marriage.” This has only occurred because a single federal judge has overruled the decision of state voters to define marriage as one man and one woman, and because state officials have refused to mount a meaningful defense of the marriage amendment or appeal the decision. We are incredulous that a Republican candidate would celebrate such judicial activism and political complicity to overturn the votes of the people on marriage.

We cannot in good conscience urge our members and fellow citizens to support candidates like DeMaio, Tisei or Wehby. They are wrong on critical, foundational issues of importance to the American people. Worse, as occupants of high office they will secure a platform in the media to advance their flawed ideology and serve as terrible role models for young people who will inevitably be encouraged to emulate them.

We realize that capturing these three seats are top priorities for the Republican leadership. It is most unfortunate that the support of DeMaio, Tisei and Wehby by various Republican leaders puts us at odds with your objectives. It is our sincere hope that you will work with us in the future to nominate conservatives who can proudly represent Republican values and ideals, people we can enthusiastically support.

Sincerely,

Brian S. Brown
President, National Organization for Marriage

Tony Perkins
President, Family Research Council

Tom Minnery
President, CITIZENLink