

Family

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Research Council

Gary L. Bauer, President

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Dear Friend:

I hope you don't mind reading over my shoulder this month. I want to share with you my recent letter to the new Congress. There is a special reason for this, since you are uniquely responsible for the major pro-family victories we've seen in the composition of this Congress. Even the press, which once derided critics of Joycelyn Elders as "gnats," now says that the formidable pro-family movement is composed of "lions and tigers." Of course, we are neither. But it was always a mistake for Washington insiders to underestimate the power of the people. And nothing energizes Americans like a threat to their children's future.

The Family Research Council will not only watch and record the formation of policy on Capitol Hill, but we will also actively participate in discussions and debates. We have an historic opportunity to help shape the most "family friendly" Congress in history. Keep your copy of this letter. It will serve as a yardstick to measure the accomplishment of the 104th Congress.

An Open Letter to the 104th Congress:

You have been elected to serve at an historic time. No one can deny the power of the mandate issued by the electorate on Nov. 8. You will serve in a Congress in which a majority of members have been elected since 1990. Change is inevitable, but change demands leadership. Your leadership is desperately needed to make the tough decisions that will restore confidence. We have elected you to clear away the roadblocks that bar the way to the American dream. Never before have we been so rich, and yet poverty is at an all-time high. While we are free from major foreign enemies, our streets are unsafe. Though we spend lavishly on education, our schools are beset by academic and social failure. And well respected polls clearly show most Americans believe our nation is "on the wrong track."

Leadership is a double-edged sword. It is never easy, because where much is given, much is expected.

The majority that elected this Congress was emphatic: no more "Beltway solutions." The American people want positive change, change they can feel.

I've prepared a list of urgent concerns that must be addressed if we are to restore families to their rightful place in national life. It isn't a list of political "goodies," nor does it ask for a blank check drawn on the public purse. It doesn't "wire" the legislative process to benefit a select few. Some items on this list will be particularly hard for some to accept, because they substitute personal responsibility for government provision. Other items will be hard for you