



**NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK LEGAL DEFENSE FOUNDATION, INC.**  
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September 4, 2008

Mr. Todd Palin  
Alaska State Capitol Building  
Third Floor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Mr. Palin:

Congratulations on the selection of your wife as the Republican candidate for Vice President of the United States.

We understand you are a member of the United Steelworkers of America (USW) union. While I'm sure you're excited by your wife's candidacy for this high office, you may be discouraged to learn that the union dues you pay are already being used to defeat her.

When USW union bosses endorsed Barack Obama for president in June, they pledged to support his campaign using funds collected from union members. Steelworker dues will pay for a variety of political activities throughout the electoral season, and a significant portion of those activities will be aimed at defeating the McCain-Palin ticket.

In fact, at the USW's 2008 convention, union officials adopted a resolution "vowing to play a key role in electing Obama," thus pledging workers' dues to the effort to defeat your wife's candidacy. Moreover, a top USW official whose paycheck you help fund is viciously ridiculing your wife's candidacy on the Steelworkers' website, calling Governor Palin's selection "cynical" and claiming that by choosing your wife "McCain has clearly shown he lacks the judgment to be president."

I'm writing to inform you that under Supreme Court precedents won by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, employees have the right to resign from formal union membership and, as nonmembers, cannot be lawfully forced to fund union political activities. The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation believes that no worker should be forced to pay dues to a union to get or keep a job, but Alaska is not yet a Right to Work state, so certain dues and fees can be required.

Should you wish to exercise your legal rights not to financially support your wife's electoral defeat, please be aware that the Foundation can provide you with free legal assistance in securing these rights.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing a brochure that explains your rights in greater detail. Also, please feel free to contact me at 800-336-3600 at any time.

Best wishes,



Mark Mix

P.S. – I've also enclosed a copy of USW Legislative Director Holly Hart's statement on the addition of your wife to the Republican ticket entitled: "McCain chooses VP based on cynical calculations, not qualifications."

Defending America's working men and women against the injustices of forced unionism since 1968.

# McCain chooses VP based on cynical calculations, not qualifications

Posted August 30, 2008 at 7:14 pm, in [From the Hill](#)

***By Holly Hart***  
***USW Legislative Director***

Presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Sen. John McCain, on his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday, announced a selection that revealed the depths of his cynicism and the shallowness of his judgment – and his disregard for women's intelligence.

After looking into a pool of vice president candidates deep with qualification, he plucked out the least experienced person.

This follows four months in which he and his surrogates continually blathered that Democratic nominee Barack Obama was unqualified. Former New York City mayor Rudy Guiliani just got done giving that GOP talking point to TV commentators during the Democratic Convention, contending repeatedly that Sen. Obama's credentials made him unfit to be commander-in-chief – an accusation Sen. Obama effectively refuted in his nomination acceptance speech Thursday night.

That speech was so effective, the McCain campaign had to do something – anything – to steal the spotlight away from a defining moment in American history.

The very next day the McCain campaign played their trump card - McCain announced that he'd selected Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin to be his running mate.

Although a dedicated public servant, wife and mother, here's the sum total of Palin's experience: not quite two years as governor; two terms as mayor of the Alaskan town of Wasilla, population, 8,000; two terms on Wasilla city council; chair of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; TV sports reporter; small business owner for three years; mother of five; bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of Idaho, and Miss Alaska runner-up.

If McCain, who has suffered melanoma, were elected, Palin would be a heartbeat away from the presidency.

Palin's competition for the VP slot included Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, Sen. Joe Lieberman, former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Every one of them has at least one advanced degree; Romney has two, both from Harvard. Every one has substantially more years of experience in governing than Palin.

The least experienced might be Pawlenty. But even he has, in addition to that city council experience, a dozen years in the state legislature. And he's serving his second term as governor, not his second year.

With Palin at his side, McCain now is open for the same ridicule he's heaped on Obama. And the reason he opened himself up for that mock-fest is clear: He believes women are stupid.

Put a woman on the ticket, he cynically figured, and he'd garner disgruntled supporters of unsuccessful Democratic candidate Sen. Hillary Clinton.

The strategy of selecting Palin shows he believes women, who supported Sen. Clinton, an abortion rights advocate, are so Stepfordesque that they'll just follow the Republican ticket now that there's a woman attached to it.

Palin, unlike Sen. Clinton, is anti-choice. She is a member of an anti-abortion group called Feminists for Life. In 2002, when she ran for lieutenant governor in Alaska, she sent an e-mail to the anti-abortion Alaska Right to Life Board saying she has "adamantly supported our cause since I first understood, as a child, the atrocity of abortion."

She's a member of the National Rifle Association and backs drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. (McCain picked her, though he does not support drilling there.)

But McCain doesn't think Clinton's supporters will notice any of that. He figures they'll blindly accept any female – whether she has a strong record on the issues that affect working families or not. There is no doubt that Palin's a successful woman. But what we know of her record does not qualify her to be one heartbeat away from the Presidency. McCain has so little respect for women's intelligence that he thinks we will make a choice based solely on gender.

When Obama was in the process of vetting vice presidential candidates, he told reporters he couldn't make a hasty decision. The reason, he said, was the selection of a running mate was "the most important decision that I will make before I am president."

In choosing Palin, McCain has clearly shown he lacks the judgment to be president. In this most important decision, he made his choice based on cynicism and politics instead of choosing a leader qualified to govern this country should something dreadful befall the president.