

National Republican Senatorial Committee

SENATOR JOHN CORNYN
CHAIRMAN

September 15, 2010

Mr. Tony Perkins
Family Research Council
801 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Sent via fax: 202-628-0677

Dear Tony:

Thank you for your letter of September 13, and for recognizing our cooperation and collaboration on many issues that impact America's families. Our work together has helped defend the sanctity of human life as well as traditional marriage. I also appreciate your own personal support and counsel on matters of public policy.

My record on social issues is well established. I support the Defense of Marriage Act. I support a referendum to allow residents of the District of Columbia to vote on the redefinition of marriage by the Washington City Council. I support current federal law related to homosexuals serving in the U.S. military, commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Just this week I expressed opposition to changing this policy in the Department of Defense Authorization Bill.

I particularly share your concern over judicial activists who seek to impose their own liberal policy views on the American people. Judicial activism threatens not only the institution of the family, but also the very form of our government. That's why I have voted to confirm federal judges who understand the important but limited role of the courts, such as Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, and have voted against those whose records reflect a more activist view, such as Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. I also favor a constitutional amendment to define marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman, which would permanently place marriage beyond the reach of an activist judiciary.

All these positions were well known to the Log Cabin Republicans when they invited me, in my capacity as Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, to attend their event later this month, and I accepted for two reasons. First, part of my job is to reach out to those committed to defeat Senate Democrats this November. The Log Cabin Republicans are doing just that, as they stand for fiscal discipline, limited government, and a strong national defense. We may not agree on several key issues, but we do agree that every committee in the United States Senate should be chaired by a Republican.

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Second, as social conservatives we affirm the basic dignity of every human life, including not only unborn children, but also adults with whom we may disagree. I believe we are all made in the image and likeness of God. I believe the beauty and blessing of America is that people of different faiths and creeds can live together in peace, despite serious disagreements. Respecting each other's dignity does not mean ignoring those disagreements, but rather being honest about them, and working together where possible despite them. I trust that was the spirit in which I was invited to this event; I know it is the spirit in which I accepted it.

As always, I appreciate that you took the time to share your thoughts with me. I respect your opinion, and I trust that our own dialogue will continue in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cornyn". The signature is stylized, with the first name "John" and the last name "Cornyn" written in a cursive-like script.

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator