

Position Statement, October 19, 2006

## WHERE DO CANDIDATES FOR THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

CONTACT: Evelyn Saiz, (505) 385-2821

The New Mexico Human Rights Coalition is disappointed with the negative advertising used by District One candidates for the US House of Representatives, Patricia Madrid and Heather Wilson. They are attacking each other about what they should have done and didn't, or did do but shouldn't have. Who cares? What we want to know is WHERE DO THEY STAND ON IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES that impact upon the daily lives of the people in District One. Sniping at one another in offensive advertising safely keeps them from committing to take action on issues that really matter, therefore it is more difficult for constituents to hold them accountable.

The coalition cares about what actions they plan to take on issues, particularly those affecting the human rights and human dignity of American Indians, Asians, Blacks, Hispanics, Whites, women, people with disabilities, gays, lesbians, transgendered people, families and children, immigrants, senior citizens, and others.

What the 22 member organizations of the coalition and others concerned with human rights and human dignity want and deserve to know is where the candidates stand and what they will do in Congress on:

\* Biased Based Policing (formerly know as Racial Profiling) \* stopping efforts to weaken the Americans with Disabilities Act \*stopping efforts to weaken or dismantle federal mandates for bilingual education \*affirmative action \*issues affecting immigrants \*discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation \*equality in employment \*protecting women and children from domestic violence and abuse \*homelessness \*social security \*etc. etc. etc.

What do the candidates plan to do? This is what constituents REALLY WANT TO KNOW.

The New Mexico Human Rights Coalition calls upon the candidates to stop the negative campaigning and address these important human rights issues and other issues that are important to all of the constituents of District One.