

United States Congress



March 6, 2008

Governor Howard Dean, M.D.  
Chairman, Democratic National Committee  
Democratic Party Headquarters  
430 South Capitol St., SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Governor Dean:

In the wake of Tuesday's primary election, the race for the Democratic nomination continues, and there is a strong possibility that neither Senator Clinton nor Senator Obama will have accumulated enough delegates before the Democratic Convention in Denver. This uncertainty makes it absolutely imperative to resolve the status of the Florida delegation as soon as possible so that the delegation is credentialed and seated at the Convention.

To continue to write Florida out of the entire Presidential selection process goes against the Democratic Party's commitment to an inclusive delegate selection process.

There are two options for seating the Florida delegation. Either the DNC should seat the delegation according to the election results from the Jan. 29 Florida primary or allow a do-over election in early June, paid for by the DNC.

I believe a primary would be the only fair way to resolve the issue in Florida, which has no tradition of a caucus. It would be manifestly unfair to replace a primary with a caucus, in which only a fraction of the 1.7 million Floridians who voted in the January 29 in the Democratic primary would participate.

Allowing the massive disenfranchisement of Florida voters to go uncorrected is not in keeping with your responsibility as head of the national party.

I call on you to find a means – immediately – to bring the party and the Clinton and Obama campaigns together immediately in agreement on a plan to seat the Florida delegation.

Sincerely,

*Bill Nelson*