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RESPONSE TO CONNERLY: Obama/Clinton Messaging

- Exceptions don't make the rule
- Equal opportunity laws have brought the U.S. a long way to the point that Senator Hillary Clinton, a woman, can be a viable presidential contender for the Democratic Party and, Senator Barack Obama, can emerge as the first African-American Democratic presidential candidate.
- There could only be an Obama because changes in government policy led to African Americans getting the full rights of citizenship in the late 1960s – the right to vote, access to jobs they'd been excluded from, equal access to public transportation, housing and public educational opportunities, etc.
- There could only be a Hillary Clinton because changes in government policy during the same period opened up roles for women in education, government, and the workplace.
- Obama and Clinton are not the masses of African Americans, minorities or women in the United States. They are exceptions, but exceptions don't make the rule.
- Let's consider where the masses of minorities and women are relative to white males in just one area – pay equity. In 2005, women earned 77 cents for every dollar that white men earned. African-American men earned 79 percent and Hispanic men earned only 64 percent of the wages of white men.
- It's ludicrous to suggest that we dismantle equal opportunity programs for ALL women and ALL minorities just because we have ONE Obama and ONE Clinton.