

JOE COURTNEY FOR CONGRESS

May 21, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: BRIAN FARBER

PHONE: (917) 568-5066

REP. COURTNEY: OBAMA FOR PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, DC – Democratic super delegate and U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-02) announced his endorsement of Barack Obama for President during a press conference call with reporters this morning.

Representative Courtney is the final member of the Connecticut delegation to endorse a candidate after waiting for a vast majority of Democrats nationwide to have a voice in this historic primary contest.

“I am proud to accept Congressman Courtney’s support today as we continue to fight to bring the change our country needs. Congressman Courtney is a fighter who won the closest race in America in 2006 and understands what’s at stake in this election. In his first term in Congress, Congressman Courtney has shown a true understanding of the need to restore our image abroad and invest here at home. We share the common goals of giving all our children the world-class education they deserve, solving our energy crisis and reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and creating good jobs for American workers. I am proud to have his support today as we continue to build a movement for change across the country,” stated Obama.

Congressman Courtney released the following statement praising Senator Obama for his vision for America and accolades to Senator Clinton for offering Democrats nationwide a vigorous debate.

“Today, I am pleased to announce my endorsement of Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States.”

“Our country has experienced a remarkable contest for the Democratic nomination with a field of unprecedented talent, including Connecticut’s senior Senator Chris Dodd whom I originally endorsed. The race has boiled down to an historic choice between the

nation's first African American or woman president, and the party, and our nation, are richer for this contest."

"The results last evening from Oregon have clarified that Barack Obama will be the nominee for our party. As John McCain continues to act with a free hand in the Republican contest, it is clear that we must unite and rally around a nominee to give the nation a strong alternative in the Fall. With our economy languishing and our foreign policy in tatters, the last thing our country can afford is a third Bush term, which I believe John McCain would deliver if elected President."

"While I am making this endorsement, I want to take the time to recognize Senator Clinton for her contributions to this contest and to our nation. Hers was a gutsy effort, and one that spoke to the economic anxiety that so many in eastern Connecticut and across the nation are feeling after eight years of George Bush's rule. As the father of a young daughter, I was also heartened that we took a step closer to the long overdue day when we elect a woman to serve as President. Senator Clinton has been an important leader of our party and will continue to play a key role in the years ahead."

"I am enthusiastically endorsing Barack Obama because I believe that he can lead this nation and bridge the partisan divide that has hindered progress in our nation over the past eight years. Barack Obama has demonstrated leadership in pledging a new direction to drawdown our forces in Iraq and end our disastrous engagement that has stretched our military to the breaking point, damaged our economy, and diverted our attention from terrorist threats in Afghanistan and across the globe."

"Senator Obama's economic vision would revive our sluggish economy and invest in our middle class which has been so neglected in the Bush era. The power of Barack's words is matched by the force of his ideas."

"In addition, by endorsing Senator Obama I am keeping faith with the new and young voters who helped propel me to a razor-thin victory in 2006. At UConn and on campuses across eastern Connecticut and the nation, Barack Obama has inspired new voters to engage in the political process and make their voices heard. A torch has been passed to a new generation to help solve the serious challenges facing our nation."

“Our country is in desperate need of change in the White House. Today, I endorse Barack Obama to deliver that change in January after victory in November.”