OPENING STATEMENT SPEECH

FOR

JAIME McMILLAN

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, (**if protocol is to say hello to the moderator and other candidates, please do that**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It’s an honor to be here, in the presence of such capable competition. The vantage point from up here on this podium is unique for a simple reason. **I AM YOU**. I want you to know that I know who you are. I know what issues affect you and I know what needs to be improved in order for every American to be able to reclaim his or her quality of life, because they’re the same issues that affect my family and me. I stand before you as a candidate for the US Senate, and I am **also** an American struggling with the same issues facing **YOU**. I have devoted my life and my career to finding the means to support positive growth in the US. I see conditions that no longer work for our constituents and I am standing before you tonight to declare that I intend to take **OUR** collective voice to the place where it can be heard – to a place where all of us can make a difference and be counted, and I intend to represent **YOUR** concerns in order to effect change in the way we live our lives as Americans. It’s time that we reclaim our **SELVES**, our **LIVES**, and our **COUNTRY**. We have all gone through our own personal, intellectual and professional struggles. It’s gotten to the point that we have almost begun to accept those struggles as “The New Normal.” It’s **NOT** normal to have 14% unemployment rates, questionable rights to privacy, and nebulous foreign policy. It’s not okay to pretend to groom the next generations of citizens while they are financially strapped by college loans-**IF** they can even attend college, inadequate minimum wage, and a lack of consensus for support of our own commercial and economic infrastructure. Many years ago, scientists coined a term called “The Stockholm Syndrome.” It’s a condition used to describe someone who begins to identify and sympathize with his or her captor. We are all being held prisoner by unacceptable conditions and I am here to declare that has come to an end. As you Senator, I will pledge my energies to reclaim **our “turf”** and I will work to restore this country to be what we all know it **CAN BE**.

From the day my grandfather climbed into a B-17 bomber to fight for freedom in World War II; from the day my mother was born **right here** at Fitzsimmons Hospital; from the day she began to raise me mostly as a single mother at only 18, to the day she saw my sister and me graduate from college; to the day I had two young boys of my own to watch over, we have been blessed to be given the opportunity to live the American Dream. …. Remember I said we’ve been given **the opportunity**. That doesn’t mean it’s a done deal. It means we have to work together to make the dream happen and sustain. It means that if **YOU** are still struggling, so am I. It means that if your family doesn’t have the opportunity to experience health and well being, neither do I. And it means if any one that you know is not experiencing basic civil rights, then you don’t have them either and neither do I.

It’s time to address the issues like immigration reform, reinvesting in America and rebuilding infrastructure, taking a stand and supporting the future by investing more in higher education, raising the minimum wage, and it’s long overdue to support civil rights for ALL, including those in the LGBT community…. And **THEN** it’s time to work **together** to find the solutions.

It’s also long overdue to put personalities aside and to work as a team to rebuild confidence and commitment to this great country of ours. My team and I are ready to work and we need your partnership. **Nothing** can be done without your support. Thank you all