Dear Voter:

I believe we can be doing much more to solve our health care problems and to bring about new treatments for debilitating medical conditions. If I’m elected to Congress, I’ll work hard to increase funding for medical research. As a graduate biomedical engineer, I’ll fight to build a new biomedical industry in the South Bay that will not only create new jobs and long-term economic stability, it will produce life-saving medical products that restore function to people suffering from disease.

Our current leadership in Congress has not made this a top priority, in large part because they’ve been too busy trying to satisfy their friends in the aerospace and banking industries. Both businesses have given hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions to the last two holders of the 36th Congressional seat. We need to change politics as usual in Washington D.C. in order to bring about this new era in medicine and in government.

Some people say it can never happen and that my campaign has no chance. I say: WE can make it happen. I’d like to know if you agree. Call or email me with your thoughts.

Sincerely,

James C. Cavuoto
Democratic Candidate for U.S. Congress
We CAN Cure Killer Diseases
Imagine this scenario: The government of Cuba is planning an invasion of Florida with the intent of wiping out the city of Miami. You can bet that the Department of Defense would spare no expense to fight this enemy. Yet we do have an enemy, heart disease, that will kill 500,000 Americans this year. I say it's a matter of national security to fight an all-out war on this and other killer diseases like AIDS, cancer, diabetes, and Parkinson's disease. I believe we should double the amount of federal money we spend on medical research, and we should move forward on a new Manhattan project to defeat these enemies. Preliminary progress in areas like cancer vaccine therapy need to be moved forward. We should be doing more to bring products to market, as soon as we possibly can.

We CAN Restore Lost Function
Our nation spent billions of dollars implementing increased access for handicapped Americans, as mandated by the Americans for Disabilities Act—and indeed we should have. But if we can do that, shouldn't we be doing everything in our power to restore lost functions to people with disabilities? The new field of functional electrical stimulation has already made tremendous progress in building products that restore muscular function to paralyzed limbs and restore hearing to deaf people. We can hasten these products to market by issuing government contracts to manufacturers, and by making it easier for health insurance plans to cover these treatments.

We CAN Make the Disfigured Whole
The exciting new field of tissue engineering is already building replacement body parts using clever new techniques. In one approach, scientists create a temporary polymeric "scaffold" onto which the patient's own cells are grafted. The scaffold then dissolves, leaving a newly formed organ in place. In another approach, bioengineered growth factors are inserted into a wound site, causing replenishment of missing tissue. These approaches offer the promise of building replacement livers, kidneys, breasts, and intestines for patients who have lost them to disease or trauma. There is also very promising research being done on tissue regeneration, using embryonic stem cells. These special cells can give rise to almost any type of cell, including heart, muscle, nerve, and blood cells.

We CAN Do this Work Right Here
Many of the medical products and treatments mentioned above are being developed in Southern California, at university research centers and start-up biomedical product manufacturers. If elected to Congress, I will do everything in my power to bring this new industry to the South Bay. For example, the Harbor-UCLA Research & Education Institute in Torrance has an excellent plan for building a biomedical research park on former Navy property in San Pedro. I support this plan, because it could serve as a locus for new biomedical companies in the South Bay, employing thousands of people. The biomedical industry promises to be a more secure source of long-term employment that the defense industry, which we have relied upon in the past with disastrous consequences.
We CAN Have Fair Elections
Like John McCain and Bill Bradley, I believe that it is possible to have fair elections in this country. But the first step to achieving that goal is eliminating the undue influence of campaign contributions on the legislative process. I believe that broadcasters should provide free airtime to federal candidates and that the Post Office should offer lower postage rates for candidates who agree to campaign spending limits. I also support limits on “soft money” contributions and expenditures.

We CAN End the Influence of Special Interests
I believe that members of Congress should be required to recuse themselves from voting on any bill that would benefit one particular business or industry that has contributed a significant amount of money to their campaigns. This would put a cap on the amount a member of Congress could accept from a particular industry without forfeiting the right to vote on behalf of that industry. And it would lessen the expectation of major campaign contributors that they would get something in return for their largesse. Given the fact that most politicians get more campaign cash than salary, this seems like a logical conflict-of-interest protection.

We CAN Increase Voter Participation
One of the biggest problems with our political system is the low level of voter participation. Our current political system has little motivation to change this situation because most campaign consultants prefer to work with a readily identifiable voter base that they can manipulate. I believe we can increase both the percentage of citizens who vote and the level of participation that voters exercise in their government. One of the most promising tools is the Internet. Voters can use candidates’ web sites, and non-partisan organizations such as the League of Women Voters (www.dnet.org), to learn about candidates’ positions. And candidates can interact more readily and cost-effectively with voters and their opponents. But we must also expect more from our political leaders; voters would take more interest in government if our elected officials would offer them more meaningful ideas and solutions instead of rehashing slogans and buzzwords.

We CAN Handle the Truth
Sometimes, political leaders need to discuss unpopular or controversial ideas when it is in the nation’s best interest. Too many politicians are afraid to speak the truth for fear of losing votes, whether it’s about the Confederate flag in South Carolina or a police department that’s out of control in Los Angeles or a war on drugs that has failed its mission and cost us all dearly. Ultimately, it is up to us, the voters, to demonstrate to politicians that telling the truth is not a losing proposition — it’s what our democracy depends upon.

We CAN Reform Our Political System
Candidate James Cavuoto speaks to North High School students at a rally introducing CAMPAIGN reFUNDS. This plan diverts funds that otherwise would be spent on political advertising to public high schools.
Warning: Offensive Material Inside
The opinions expressed in this mailer by James Cavuoto, Democratic candidate for Congress, are likely to offend some people. That’s because James Cavuoto believes that too many politicians simply tell people what they want to hear. James Cavuoto is running for Congress to end politics as usual and to put forth new ideas and true solutions to our nation’s problems. Solutions that are just not being offered by a political system in Washington that cares only about raising money and winning elections. No PACs, businesses, or special interests contributed money to pay for this mailer—just the candidate and a few of his friends. Look inside and see for yourself if you agree with James Cavuoto’s positions. If you don’t, let him know—he wants to hear from you. If you do agree, then please remember to vote for James Cavuoto for Congress on March 7.

VOTE CAVUOTO on MARCH 7th