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United States Senate

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CRIME, CORRECTIONS AND VICTIMS' RIGHTS
RANKING MEMBER
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER
CAUCUS ON INTERNATIONAL
NARCOTICS CONTROL
CO-CHAIRMAN

Dear Young People,

I am pleased to have an opportunity to share a little bit about my life and my path to the United States Senate. Unlike some of my colleagues, I did not plan from my childhood to become a U.S. Senator. My passion for civil rights and other important issues motivated me to take opportunities to serve my community and eventually led me to the Senate. Throughout my career I have learned that with determination and hard work, a person can achieve his goals.

I grew up in New Castle County, Delaware with my two brothers and my sister. When I was a young teenager, perhaps thirteen or fourteen, I began to consider a career in public service. Our family dinner table discussions revolved around the Cold War and the Civil Rights movement as often as they covered our daily activities at school, and we were always aware of the implications that those national and international events could have upon our own lives and futures. That is why I encourage every young person to keep abreast of today's local, national, and international affairs.

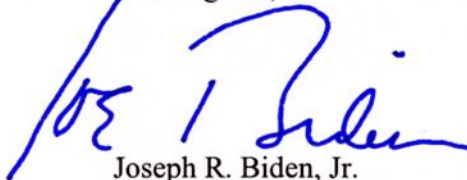
I believe that I learned a great deal about leadership and teamwork on the athletic field. My own belief is that a well-rounded education (including extracurricular activities) is the best preparation for any career, and that what is really important is not so much what courses you take, or which activities that you participate in, but that you get involved, interact with people and pursue a goal or promote a cause. By getting involved, you will learn about people, teamwork, and leadership, all of which are fundamental qualities for a successful life.

I graduated from the University of Delaware in 1965 and earned a law degree at Syracuse University in 1968. After moving to Wilmington, Delaware, and practicing law, I was elected as New Castle County Commissioner in 1970. I was elected U.S. Senator from Delaware in 1972, at the age of 29. Since my first election, the people of Delaware have re-elected me five times.

Over the years, I have encountered enormous personal and professional challenges. With determination and collaboration with others, I have overcome difficult times and continued to champion causes such as crime and drug control, national security and foreign relations, and access to education and technology for all. My ability to persevere stems also from my never losing sight of my core values and the reasons I chose public service.

Good luck in all of the dreams that you choose to pursue. Please visit my website <http://www.senate.gov/~biden> to find out more about my work in the U.S. Senate.

Best regards,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senator