

From the Desk of Sydney Gruters

August 12, 2016

Dear Fellow Republican Woman,

I have done my best to stay above the fray and out of the muck in my husband's state house race. You haven't seen posts from me on social media or received robo calls telling you why you should vote for my husband. You may not see much of me at the 1,001 political events or rallies all over Manatee and Sarasota county. Please don't confuse me not being front and center with me not caring or not being a supportive wife. The bigger reason is that this race is not about me. And, to be quite honest, my husband being an elected official is not my top priority. Raising my children, Spencer (4), Jack (2) and Elle (1) is my top priority. And this race is about them and their future.

Recently, my husband's opponent attacked him for being a father. He said our "three babies will distract him from representing his district." No child should ever be labeled as a distraction.

This is disgusting.

Children are the greatest blessing and I feel sorry for any person that would believe otherwise.

I admire the families and especially the mothers that sacrifice their time to serve as public officials. They are setting an example for their children that we must all give back to the people and the communities in which we live.

If being a father makes you unfit for public office, I can only imagine how he feels about any MOTHER that is an elected official or works outside of the home. This is an attack on all the mothers, fathers, and children.

He also attacks my husband because we haven't personally been able to give our campaign \$100,000 of our own money like he has. We are just your average, middle class family. My husband owns a small business and I work full time. We aren't interested in buying our way to win this race. Our support has come from family and friends who believe in Joe.

I am proud of the example my husband is setting for my children. I am proud that my husband works so hard to provide for his family.

This is why my husband and I have decided to put ourselves out there and dedicate our time to the community. Because of our children. I hardly call that a distraction. I call it motivation. **For someone to label any child a distraction is truly a disgrace.**

Thank you for your time. If my words resonated with you, I would ask that you vote for my husband, Joe Gruters, in the August 30th Republican primary.

Sincerely,

Sydney Gruters

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