Dare I review? Search and seizure protections are out the door, the rights of the criminally accused are undermined and now his administration wants to designate birth control as abortion and thus prohibit it from federally funded programs. So let’s be clear. No sex education, no contraception and no abortion for those who view it as a choice. Is it any wonder that teen pregnancies and births are on the rise? If you do not believe in providing a choice, and partly political interest.”

I read with great interest that our soon-to-be-out-of-office president (Baruch Hashem) has opined that “Wall Street is drunk.” Incredible. Not just because of President Bush’s own colorful history, but also because of the horrific inroads into our constitutionally guaranteed freedoms that have occurred since this fellow and his minions took office. The only excuse one can look to is inebriation.

Two hundred and forty six members of the House of Representatives have cosponsored H.Con.Res. 362, which calls on the Administration “to focus on the urgency of the Iranian nuclear threat and to impose tougher sanctions on Tehran.” The resolution urges the president to sanction Iran’s Central Bank and private banks and energy companies investing in Iran. It also calls on the U.S. “to lead an international effort to ban the sale of refined petroleum products to Iran” to increase pressure on Tehran to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

Senator Barack Obama traveled to Israel on July 22nd and, as he has on many occasions, affirmed his support for a strong US-Israel relationship. Yediot Aharont, the country’s largest-circulation daily newspaper, likened the senator’s arrival to that of a “rock star.” Prior to his visit, Israelis had some doubts about Obama. After chats and photo-ops with political leaders, an hour-long trip to meet Palestinian leaders in Ramallah, and visits to Yad Vashem and the Western Wall, he appeared to have satisfied the skeptics.

“Everyone in Sderot thinks he was a charming young man,” Cheryl Ben-David, a Sderot mother whose house has been hit twice by rockets, told the Forward. “People were impressed, especially those he visited whose house was hit. I think it was partly sincere and partly political interest.”

Israeli President Shimon Peres, accompanying Obama to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, told him: “The world and so are we with you. God bless you.”

In the last poll before the visit, only 28% favored McCain, while 37% said they preferred Obama.

Sen. Hillary Clinton has issued a call to “arms” to all of us to learn about this effort and work to stop this insanity. I encourage each of you to heed her warning and get involved by contacting the elected official of your choice.

Israeli President Shimon Peres, accompanying Obama to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, told him: “The world and so are we with you. God bless you.”

In the last poll before the visit, only 27% of respondents said they would like to see Obama become president, with John McCain preferred by 36%. But in a poll taken on the afternoon of the visit, only 28% favored McCain for president, while 37% said they preferred Obama.

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), speaking alongside Sen. Clinton, said the proposal goes way beyond current law. The draft proposal defines abortion “as any of the various procedures that result in the termination of the life of a human being in utero between conception and natural birth whether before or after implantation...Last time I checked, by medical definition, a pregnancy does not begin until a fertilized egg implants in a woman’s uterine wall...” Rep. Lowey is working with her colleagues in the House of Representatives to send a letter to HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt “demanding that he stop this proposal.”

As of July 18th, 90 House members had signed on to the letter. Sens. Clinton and Patty Murray (D-WA) wrote to Secretary Leavitt earlier in the week. (ABC News, 7/18/08)

Action Alert: Contact your representative and senators and express opposition to requiring federally funded health programs not to deny employment to medical personnel who oppose forms of contraception including birth control pills.

Capitol Switchboard: 202 224-3121.
Choice, not the Internal Revenue Service,” said that should be dictating to pastors what speech protections. “The only thing the pulpit should be given special status of religious groups is a right, not just a privilege and that religious leaders speaking from their pulpits should be given special speech protections. “The only thing that should be dictating to pastors what they can and cannot say is the Bible, not the Internal Revenue Service,” said Gus Booth, a Minnesota pastor who has endorsed Senator John McCain from his pulpit. The new ADF initiative comes in response to the IRS’s increased efforts to seek out non-profit violators. The IRS issued a set of detailed guidelines in 2004, including one that precludes all clergy from endorsing from the pulpit. In the country’s early years, it was neither unusual nor illegal for clergy to back political candidates from the pulpit. That changed as a result of federal legislation passed in 1954 and updated in 2004. Erik Stanley, ADF’s senior legal counsel, said it would argue that “the tax-exempt status of religious groups is a right, not just a privilege and that religious leaders enjoy a number of special protections under the First Amendment. Marc Stern, general counsel of the American Jewish Committee President, said “there are violations all over the place, and I don’t think any side has a monopoly on virtue here...the legal arguments offered by ADF are beyond weak.” (Forward.com)

As his star rose in Israel, Obama lost popularity among Palestinians and much of the Arab world. Palestinians had cheered Obama when he first emerged as a candidate, but now, just three months later, Hamas leaders greeted Obama’s Israel visit with undisguised vitriol. “Hamas considers the remarks of the Democratic candidate today to be part of the American policy of bias towards Israel and giving legitimacy to Israeli crimes against our people,” Hamas official Fawzi Barhoum told Western reporters in Gaza shortly after Obama appeared in nearby Sderot. Even in Ramallah, where Obama met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian shopkeepers, students and housewives voiced similar sentiments.

Not every Israeli was won over. The chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria, Dani Dayan, told the Forward: “He’s wrong in his backing for a two-state solution, and though a candidate who promises change, has fallen into the same trap as President Bush...”

Centrist journalist Yair Lapid warned in a Yediot column that Obama’s warm words masked a lack of passion for the region. “In the coming days, he will prove to us in many ways how much he likes us,” Lapid wrote. “Yet after that he will go and take care of the things that really matter to him” like the Iraq War, gas prices, and the mortgage crisis.

Whatever Israelis thought of Obama after seeing him up close, most agreed on one point: America’s choice of president is a critical matter for Israel. “whereas in the Arab world there is a sense it will make far less difference who becomes president.”

A proposed Montana state constitutional amendment to ban abortion by defining a fertilized egg as a “person” failed to gain enough support to qualify for the November ballot. Constitutional Initiative 100 would have changed the definition of a “person” and bestowed on a fertilized human egg all the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Supporters needed 44,000 signatures from Montana voters to qualify for the ballot. Only 21,280 were obtained.