

**Statement from Obama for America communications director Robert Gibbs:**

“We aren’t going to get in the middle of a disagreement between the Clintons and someone who was once one of their biggest supporters. It is ironic that the Clintons had no problem with David Geffen when was raising them \$18 million and sleeping at their invitation in the Lincoln bedroom. It is also ironic that Senator Clinton lavished praise on Monday and is fully willing to accept today the support of South Carolina State Sen. Robert Ford, who said if Barack Obama were to win the nomination, he would drag down the rest of the Democratic Party because ‘he’s black.’”

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**South Carolina State Senator Robert Ford said an African American couldn’t be elected:** "It's a slim possibility for him to get the nomination, but then everybody else is doomed," Ford said. "Every Democrat running on that ticket next year would lose – because he's black and he's top of the ticket. We'd lose the House and the Senate and the governors and everything. I'm a gambling man. I love Obama," Ford said. "But I'm not going to kill myself." (AP, 2/13/07)

**Clinton Thanked Sen. Robert Ford For His Support.** At a South Carolina rally, Clinton recognized Ford's presence in the audience and she thanked him for his support. [New York Times, 2/19/07]