

October 21, 1996

To: Moakley Staff  
From: Sean

Re: Moakley/Gryaska Debate  
Friday, October 25, 1996  
Blake Middle School, Medfield

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**Paul Gryaska Summary:**

Paul Gryaska grew up in West Roxbury and currently lives in Medfield. He is a surgeon at the Newton Wellesley Hospital and is married with three children. This is his first run for public office and he has only been registered to vote as a Republican for less than two years. His civic activities include serving as a Boy Scout Leader and as Medical Director for the Northwest Region of the American Cancer Society.

Politically, Gryaska can be described as a fiscally conservative and socially moderate Republican who frequently compares himself to Governor Weld. His Campaign slogan is "Let's Put a Doctor in the House." Gryaska recently committed over \$70,000 to a three week cable advertising buy that touts his support of Bob Dole's 15% tax cut proposal, his pro-choice position on abortion, his opposition to all quotas, and his support of welfare reform. Other consistent campaign themes include term limits (he would limit himself to three terms), tougher judges and tougher penalties to deal with violent criminals, and block grants/local decision making on how federal tax dollars are spent, particularly in education.

Gryaska has stated that his goal in this debate is to make Joe Moakley appear out of touch with the concerns of suburban voters.

**Gryaska's Positions by Issue:**

**Taxes/Economy:**

- Gryaska consistently has claimed that the government takes 52% of everything Americans earn through taxes, fees, and regulation. He claims the government takes this money from the people who earn it and give it to people who don't. He also believes a tax cut is necessary to improve the economy.

- Specifically, Gryaska has endorsed Bob Dole's 15% percent tax cut and has, in different interviews, indicated that he supports a cut in the capital gains tax, a middle class tax cut and a cut in estate taxes. Gryaska has never publicly said how he would pay for these tax cuts, although he has indicated that he is opposed to increasing the deficit and opposed to Medicare cuts to finance tax

breaks. In one interview, he said that a tax cut would fuel economic growth, producing more tax revenues which would help balance the budget.

- Another theme Gryska uses related to taxes is what he refers to as "Local Solutions to Local Problems." He favors returning control of how federal tax dollars are spent to state and local governments, presumably through block grants, although he does not use that terminology. Gryska asserts that local officials are more accountable to the people

### **Balancing the Budget/Deficit Reduction:**

- Reducing the size of the federal government is a consistent theme used by Gryska although he has not to our knowledge offered any specific proposals as to how he would balance the budget. As he supports a \$550 tax cut and does not support deep cuts in Medicare, it will be difficult for him to explain how he would balance the budget within these parameters.

- Gryska did indicate in one interview that he believes a tax cut to stimulate the economy is more important than balancing the budget.

### **Medicare/Health Care:**

- Gryska consistently mentions that one in five people in Massachusetts are employed in the field of health care. He believes that the Republican proposal to cut \$240 million out of Medicare would "rape Massachusetts economy" and that it would have hurt medical research and doctor training. He also believes that being a doctor and a Republican would better position him to make Massachusetts case in a Republican House. He would support a more moderate cut in Medicare designed to slow its growth and keep the system solvent.

- He believes medical savings accounts are part of the solution for dealing with the growth of Medicare.

- He is against a national health care plan.

- he wants to lift the payment burden on small business owners

- He believes the spread of HMOs has gone too far and is on the edge of affecting patient care.

### **Crime:**

- Gryska believes the solution to crime centers around punishment. He believes we should abolish parole for violent offenders and that tougher judges should be appointed. He also indicated in one interview that he would favor elected judges. Gryska would also limit appeals by criminals.

- Gryska cites his work in hospital emergencies rooms with victims of domestic violence. He has pledged to toughen penalties for abusers and to support programs to deal with the issue of domestic violence.

- Would probably support the death penalty for certain types of crime.

**Education:**

- Gryska supports education based on the three R's and on computers. He claims classes like sensitivity training have taken the place of essential ones like Shakespeare. He has made a general call for a return of educational standards.

- While he has not publicly called for the elimination of the Department of Education, his position is consistent with that proposal. Gryska believes control of federal education money should be returned to local school boards and decisions should not be made by bureaucrats in Washington.

- He believes immigrants should be taught in English, not in their native language.

**Abortion:**

- Gryska believes in a woman's right to choose and has attacked Joe's position on abortion in his cable ads and in newspaper stories. Gryska said, "I believe a woman should have a right to decide whether or not to have an abortion -- the government should stay out of it."

- He has been endorsed by the Republican Pro-Choice Action Committee and traveled to the Republican Convention claiming that he was going fight for inclusion of abortion rights in the Republican platform.

- Of all the issues Gryska raises, this is the most effective according to our June poll.

**Term Limits:**

- a consistent theme Gryska uses is that he will be a "citizen legislator" as the founders of our Constitution intended the Congress to be. He supports term limits and has frequently criticized Joe in the media for being a career politician, out of touch with regular people. If elected, he would limit himself to three terms.

**Affirmative Action/Quotas:**

- To my knowledge, Gryska has never raised the issue of quotas in a newspaper interview but it is one of the four themes featured in his cable ad. He supports the abolition of all quotas.

**Welfare Reform:**

- Gryska has only made brief references to welfare reform in interviews but, again, it is one of the four themes used in his cable ad. He has stated that too much money goes to welfare. Gryska supports welfare reform, presumably the bill that was past but that JJM voted against.

**Environmental Protection:**

- He has consistently stated that businesses are overregulated and that these burdensome regulations must be repealed. Gryska does not specifically identify these regulations and has generally been silent on the issue of environmental protection.

- We should keep in mind that Gryska's wife is on the Medfield conservation commission and Medfield does have a problem with clean drinking water.

**Foreign Affairs:**

- All of Gryska's comments on foreign affairs have centered around criticism of JJM's trip to Cuba. He uses the slogan, "The 9th District needs a Congressman more than Cuba does." Our poll showed that only a tiny portion of JJM's constituents are even aware of the trip and, even when made aware, do not feel strongly about it one way or the other.

**Tobacco:**

- Gryska criticized President Clinton's move to classify Nicotine as an addictive drug to be regulated by the FDA and other anti-tobacco measures aimed at preventing teens from smoking as meddling by big government and political grandstanding. His campaign press secretary suggested that this could lead to the prohibition of cigarettes and a slippery slope of restricting the use of other substances - even chocolate.

- While admitting tobacco is addictive, the spokesperson said a candy bar can be a drug delivery system.

**Other Gryska Issues:**

- Gryska has consistently knocked JJM for only caring about Boston. He claims JJM does not know the new suburban areas of the District and never makes appearances in these towns. He has criticized JJM's use of the term "outlying areas" to refer to these towns.

- While making an early commitment not to campaign on JJM's health, Gryska has raised it indirectly since he began to campaign. He tells people that Joe is not well, may die before the election, and has most recently called for JJM's medical records to be released.