

# **NOW H IL OPPOSES SPITZ PLAN. SAYS SHE'S AGAINST IMMIGRANT LICENSES**

Daily News (New York)

November 15, 2007 Thursday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 16

**Length:** 401 words

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## **Body**

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WASHINGTON - Sen. Hillary Clinton tried to put her biggest stumble of the campaign in the rearview mirror yesterday by coming out **against** driver's **licenses** for illegal **immigrants**.

"As President, I will not support driver's **licenses** for undocumented people," Clinton (D-N.Y.) **said**, adding she "will press for comprehensive immigration reform that deals with all of the issues around illegal immigration."

She delivered her first unequivocal statement on the issue after Gov. Spitzer dropped the idea yesterday, a day before today's Democratic showdown in Las Vegas, where she hopes to get her front-runner's groove back.

Clinton hit her first serious bumpy stretch of the race two weeks ago at the Democratic debate in Philadelphia when she refused to **say** if she backed Spitzer's **plan**.

Analysts predicted there would not be a repeat of Clinton's Philly flubs in Vegas, and that she'd try to get back on the high road. "Her answers will not evolve over the course of a few minutes," **said** Marist College pollster Lee Miringoff, who found a tightening race after that debate.

"**She's** got to get back to the big issues - health care, Iraq, global warming - which is what the voters really want," he **said**.

In a preview of tonight's showdown, the campaign of Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) served notice he won't just let the **license** issue go. "When it takes two weeks and six different positions to answer one question on immigration, it's easier to understand why the Clinton campaign would rather plant their questions than answer them," **said** Obama spokesman Bill Burton. Obama **said** he liked Spitzer's **license plan**.

The campaign of Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd, who **opposed** Spitzer's idea, also hammered Clinton.

"It's flip-flopping cubed," **said** Dodd spokeswoman Colleen Flanagan, mocking Clinton's convoluted answers in Philadelphia. "She was for it before she was **against** it, before she was for it, before she was **against** it."

Camp Clinton responded by criticizing her rivals' tone and highlighting the new difference between Clinton and Obama on the **license** issue.

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David Damore, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas, political scientist, said Clinton's "parsing of policy has made for sound bites, but people are making a calculation of strategic viability, and right now they think Clinton has the best chance of winning.

"The biggest threat for her is a repeat performance of the last debate," he added.

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## Classification

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**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** IMMIGRATION (90%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2008 (90%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (90%); US STATE IMMIGRATION LAW (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2012 (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES 2016 (78%); DRIVERS LICENSES (78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); LICENSES & PERMITS (78%); US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (78%); IMMIGRATION LAW (72%); GLOBAL WARMING (51%)

**Organization:** MARIST COLLEGE (55%)

**Industry:** DRIVERS LICENSES (78%); GLOBAL WARMING (51%)

**Person:** BARACK OBAMA (89%); HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (79%); CHRISTOPHER DODD (58%)

**Geographic:** PHILADELPHIA, PA, USA (87%); LAS VEGAS, NV, USA (72%); PENNSYLVANIA, USA (90%); NEVADA, USA (79%); CONNECTICUT, USA (79%); ILLINOIS, USA (79%); IRAQ (79%); UNITED STATES (79%)

**Load-Date:** November 15, 2007