August 28, 2012   Contact James Davis or Kyle Downey
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Sher Valenzuela
Candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Delaware
(Remarks as Prepared for Delivery)
August 28, 2012

Good evening. My name is Sher Valenzuela.

Two years ago, I never would have imagined that I would be here tonight, speaking at the Republican National Convention.

I've seen these on TV – what an honor to be here with you.

I'm a mother from Delaware, a co-owner with my husband of First State Manufacturing.

And after this November, I plan on taking on a new title: the next Lieutenant Governor of the Great State of Delaware.

Tonight, it is my honor to talk about the three themes that inspired me to run for office:

- My family.

- The business we built.

- And my belief in America's unlimited potential.

But it starts with a wonderful story.

Shortly after our son was born, my husband and I received some news that would change our lives forever.

We learned that our son Simon was autistic. We loved him with every fiber in our being.

But the "experts" told us not to expect much.

"Your son will never learn to read, write, or communicate effectively," they said.

"Accept these limits," they seemed to say.

It was a tough time.

We quickly realized that the jobs we had wouldn't pay for the professionals Simon needed to overcome the odds.

So we followed a deep and long-standing American tradition.

We took a risk.

We bet on the future.

We started our own business.

When he was serving in the Army, my husband had taken a mail order course on upholstery.

One day I came home to find him pulling out the second hand sewing machine he'd learned his craft on.

He called her "Old Betsy."

A second-generation Mexican-American, my husband will do whatever it takes to provide for his family.

Our friends thought we were crazy. Didn't we have enough challenges trying to raise Simon?

Why not just accept our lot in life?

That's when I remembered something my dad used to say.

My dad was an old school guy. A former drill sergeant. Blue collar union worker his whole life.

He taught us to work hard and think big. I remember he once pulled off the road and pointed at a big factory.

"That's more than a building," he told me.

"It took a lot of work to get that big. It started out as just an idea at some guy's kitchen table."

I guess you could say our upholstery business was OUR kitchen table idea.

 Fifteen years later we employ more than 70 people in our 70,000 square foot factory.

And we're so proud of what we do.

We make umpire vests for Little Leagues.

Products for the men and women serving our country.

Restaurant seats for pizza chains.

And protective gear for our allies in the Israeli military.

We're actually taking work away from Chinese and Mexican competitors – and bringing it back to Delaware!

How did it happen?

We defied the odds.

We rolled the dice on losing – or gaining – everything. We didn't listen to the experts. We grew our dream.

And with our son Simon, we didn't listen to the experts either.

Yes, he still struggles with autism. But this past June, he completed his first year at the University of Delaware.

I can't tell you how much this means to him – and how much it means to me, the mom of a special needs child.

Raising our family and building our business have been the passions of our lives, and what struck me is how similar they are.

If you've ever raised a child or started a business, you know what I'm talking about.

You put your heart and soul into it.

You work to find the 25th hour in the day

You struggle to overcome insurmountable odds.

And you do it all because you believe in an unlimited future.

"An unlimited future." Isn't that what America is all about?

But today, when I talk to the young families and the struggling businesses I meet throughout Delaware, I have to ask: are we creating an unlimited future for them?

A Gallup report recently said nearly 50% of small businesses owners aren't hiring because of what they call "regulatory uncertainty."

Can you blame them?

This Administration has imposed 106 new major regulations.

They are on track to create 109 million new paperwork burden hours.

And by year's end, $110 billion dollars' worth of new regulatory costs will be laid on the backs of business owners and taxpayers.

You might call that "regulatory uncertainty."

I call it an all-out assault on free enterprise.

That's what worries me about this Administration. They seem so eager to "fix" society.

But they don't have a clue about how to fix the economy.

In the end, it all comes down to what you believe.

And yes, they are believers!

The Obama Administration believes in "experts" and blue ribbon panels.

They believe in creating new agencies and boards.

They believe in all that – but they just don't trust the entrepreneur's ability to grow her own business and to create jobs.

Mitt Romney not only believes in the values of economic freedom. His entire life has been committed to advancing it.

Last April, I was privileged to be one of a dozen business leaders in Delaware to sit down and meet with Mitt Romney.

This wasn't some scripted photo op; this wasn't a staged event; this was a real discussion with someone who understands where small business is coming from.

You see, for Governor Romney, free enterprise isn't just a theory you study in graduate school. It's a creed. A commitment. A world view.

It's what connects Americans, families, and communities, to an unlimited future.

That's why this election is so important to our small businesses and to our country.

I represent the small businesses, the women, and the families working so hard to rebuild our communities.

In order to secure our unlimited future, we need a leader who understands the moral case for free enterprise.

Someone who believes in an unlimited future.

These aren't just words to Mitt Romney. His track record proves it.

Let's secure that future together by sending Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan to the White House in November!

Dios lo Bendiga! God Bless America!

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