

STUMP SPEECH

Elizabeth Warren – Stump Speech

Hello Cedar Rapids! I know it's hot, but thank you all for coming out tonight. It's such a pleasure to be here at McGrath Amphitheatre with all of you.

I got here yesterday, and I feel so lucky to have had the time to explore the City of Five Seasons a little bit.

I got dinner last night at the Parlor City Pub. Have you guys been there? Not only did I eat the most incredible Bohemian Burger, but I also got to see a monument dedicated to the brave law enforcement of this city as well as the rich Czech history that Cedar Rapids was built on.

Now that I've learned a little bit about you all, I want to take this opportunity to tell you all more about who I am and where I come from.

My name is Elizabeth Warren and I have been the senior senator from Massachusetts for 6 amazing years. If you haven't heard by now, I am running for president of the United States.

I didn't grow up like most politicians in office today. I grew up in Oklahoma on the ragged edge of the middle class. My daddy worked as a janitor and my mama stayed home to take care of me and my three big brothers.

When my daddy had a heart attack, I had to find work waiting tables. I was 13 years old. We lost our family car from the burden of losing my dad's income.

We faced the reality that so many other middle class families face when burdened with medical bills and a system that is rigged against us.

It got so bad, my mama had to find a minimum wage job answering the phones at Sears, just so we could keep our home.

I channeled the frustration that I felt from this time in my life into learning how to defend myself with words.

My parents didn't have the money to send me to school, so I earned it.

When I was 16, I landed a debate scholarship to study at George Washington University.

There weren't many women doing debate back then. But just like today, I didn't let that slow me down.

I was the first in my family to graduate from college.

I'm not ashamed of the fact that my life took me on a lot of twists and turns to get to where I am today.

I got married to my high school sweetheart when I was 19. This meant I had to leave school and graduate from a commuter college closer to my home.

I ended up earning my law degree by taking classes at night and practicing law out of my living room.

I was juggling books and babies, struggling to find childcare for my daughter, Amelia.

Being a mom and a law student was one of the hardest times in my life. But nevertheless, I persisted.

This gave me the motivation to fight for working families and make sure that working moms and dads don't have to choose between family, education, and having a job.

This country wasn't built for hardworking middle-class families. This country wasn't built for families like yours or mine. This country was built by and for the wealthy and powerful.

In my state of Massachusetts, much like the rest of this country, there has long been a history of racial discrimination when it comes to housing.

I was tired of the way our system was designed at a disadvantage to families of color, so I did something about it.

I proposed legislation that would level the housing playing field to be more accessible for all families.

Our country desperately needs a president who will see an injustice, and do something about it.

Students should be allowed to be students again. If elected, I will work tirelessly to tackle the student debt crisis. Today's students are the leaders of today and tomorrow, we should be giving them the tools to start their careers, not saddling them with insurmountable debt.

My family couldn't afford to send me to college when I was in high school, and that was over 50 years ago! Education is a right and should be accessible for all people who want it.

We can't continue to ignore the issues that threaten our future.

I feel comfortable with you all so I feel like I can say this here, but I believe in science! I believe that climate change is the single greatest threat to our future and every moment we waste not acting is putting our children and our children's children at risk of extinction.

The American government needs to develop a conscience again.

Our immigration and healthcare policies are hurting innocent families and making the world question our ethics as a people.

We have an immigration system that operates without rhyme or reason, that tears families apart, and that stands against everything we value as Americans. We desperately need comprehensive and humane immigration reform.

We have a healthcare system that causes people to die because they can't afford basic life-saving medication.

We have reckless gun control policies that are responsible for the deaths of countless people around the country, mostly in communities of color.

We have tax policies that make it so that the wealthiest companies in the world, Facebook, Amazon, Google, pay fewer income taxes than hardworking Americans like you all.

Something that sets me apart from the rest of the candidates in the field today is that I don't just complain about the injustices in our country, I will do something about them.

I have already proposed policies to break up the big companies and guarantee that families won't be destroyed because they need to pay for their child's medicine.

I don't just talk, I do.

Join me in creating an America that works for everyone, not just the rich and powerful.

Join me by volunteering, pitching in whatever you can, helping us organize.

Together we'll stand against bigotry and seize this important moment in history.

Together we'll WIN!