



# ROB SIMMONS

FOR U.S. SENATE

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Mrs. Linda McMahon  
Linda McMahon for Senate 2010  
973 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06127

Dear Mrs. McMahon,

I was surprised to hear your campaign object to my issuing you questions through a spokesman yesterday since it is a routine practice your campaign relies on daily, but I nonetheless welcome the invitation to submit them personally if it will help evoke answers.

I do regret that the debate Tuesday night offered no opportunity to discuss these important issues. I wish it did. But I look forward to a future engagement when we might discuss them for the benefit of the voters.

Now, you are running television ads financed by WWE profits touting your WWE experience. But to use your millions to boast of your record at WWE while dodging the tough questions about your record only lends further credence to suggestions, such as those issued last night by CNN, that you are trying to "buy" this election.

For someone touting themselves as an outsider, it seems highly political to try and have it both ways regarding your sole credential for office – touting it via expensive, saturation television ads and glossy mail funded by the profits you earned, but refusing to personally address the troubling aspects of your career.

I hope these questions begin to give you an opportunity to address all aspects of your record, not just those that make for nice television ads. I look forward to your responses to these critically important questions.

Sincerely,



Rob Simmons

P.O. Box 268, Drawer 271 • Stonington, CT 06378  
Office: (860) 415-4633 • Fax: (860) 415-4629

Paid for by Simmons for Senate.

## 10 Questions For Linda McMahon

1. It has been reported that you regard the tens of thousands of dollars you have contributed to liberal Democrats, including White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, as a "cost of doing business" for you and your company.<sup>1</sup> Most people would interpret that as an admission of influence buying. It has also been reported that the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy has to date not acted on Congress's request of last year for further investigation into the WWE's failure to adequately address the pervasive abuse of steroids in your organization.<sup>2</sup> Is the White House's failure to pursue this investigation a consequence of your political support for Rahm Emanuel?
2. Republicans can ill-afford another political scandal in Connecticut and they deserve to know if it is possible that their nominee may come under federal investigation during the course of this campaign since it would deal a fatal blow to our chances as a Party to win the U.S. Senate seat and likely have serious negative ramifications on down ballot races as well. Is it possible that the Obama administration and Congressional Democrats may choose to wait until the general election before it conducts further investigation into your tenure at WWE in hopes of doing maximum damage to the Republican Party and our chances for victory?
3. In a statement reported Sunday, a WWE spokesman said the company "agrees with the ONDCP and Chairman Waxman that the abuse of steroids presents a pernicious public health threat."<sup>3</sup> However, in testimony given for the House Government Oversight and Reform Committee's investigation, your husband, business partner and WWE Chairman, Vince McMahon, stated "I'm not a doctor. I don't know if there are really any long-term effects of steroid usage."<sup>4</sup> Do you deny that Mr. McMahon, as WWE chairman, was speaking for the WWE and do you share Mr. McMahon's ignorance about the potentially crippling and deadly effects of steroid abuse, as evidenced by the scores of professional wrestlers who have died in their 30s and 40s as a consequence of the value WWE attaches to super-human appearance among their performers?
4. It was reported Monday that WWE performer Eddie Fatu died last December at the age of 36 of a heart attack brought on by "acute toxicity" due to abuse of pain-killers, Valium, and muscle relaxers – a common mix of drugs abused by pro wrestlers due to WWE's occupational health and safety hazards. Six months before his death, WWE made the unusual move of releasing Fatu after only a "second strike" failure of the WWE Wellness Policy that allows for three strikes before contract termination.<sup>5</sup> The first strike was presumably when he was among the 14 WWE performers – four of them now dead - identified in a federal drug raid of illegally receiving steroids and prescription drugs from an online pharmacy in 2007.<sup>6</sup> According to the WWE Wellness Policy, Fatu theoretically would have passed as many as 20 drug tests in the 22 months prior to his sudden second strike release.<sup>7</sup> Is it really possible that Fatu, a known drug addict who ultimately died of his addiction, passed all of WWE's drug testing with flying colors for nearly two years before your decision to suddenly release him on only a second strike, and will you release all the results of Fatu's drug tests to prove it? Further, given Fatu's issues, is it true that WWE had sought and or secured an agreement for services by Fatu in the days prior to his death and will you provide supporting documentation?<sup>8</sup>
5. You have said repeatedly during the course of this campaign that WWE has taken all steps measurable to prevent steroid abuse and that "We have had drug testing policies in place at WWE for many, many years and as I said maintaining the health and wellness of the performers who are in the ring is paramount to us."<sup>9</sup> However,

<sup>1</sup> Linda For Senate 2010 Website, <http://www.linda2010.com/news/2009/10/why-mcmahon-will-go-the-distance/>, 10/18/09; Linda For Senate 2010 Blog, <http://www.linda2010.com/blog/2009/09/update-staying-focused-on-the-issues/>, 9/16/09

<sup>2</sup> Brian Lockhart, "Fizzled Steroid-Abuse Investigation May Be Linda's Lucky Break," *Hearst Newspapers*, 2/28/10

<sup>3</sup> Brian Lockhart, "Fizzled Steroid-Abuse Investigation May Be Linda's Lucky Break," *Hearst Newspapers*, 2/28/10

<sup>4</sup> House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Letter To Office Of National Drug Control Policy, 1/2/09

<sup>5</sup> Simon Rothstein, "Drug Cocktail Killed Umaga," *The UK Sun*, 3/1/10

<sup>6</sup> T.J. Quinn, "Top WWE Names Emerge In Doping Scandal," *New York Daily News*, 8/30/07; Paul Farhi, "Pro Wrestling Suspends 10 Linked to Steroid Ring," *The Washington Post*, 9/1/07

<sup>7</sup> WWE, "2006 Substance Abuse And Drug Testing Policy," [http://corporate.wwe.com/company/abuse\\_policy.jsp](http://corporate.wwe.com/company/abuse_policy.jsp), Accessed 3/1/10

<sup>8</sup> Irvin Muchnick, "Umaga's WWE 'Wellness' Scorecard", 3/1/10

<sup>9</sup> WFSB's "Face The State," 1/17/10

Congress's investigation into your steroid policy determined exactly the opposite, and that, in fact, you had eliminated the WWE's drug testing policy for a decade between 1996 and 2006 and that since then you have "not taken adequate steps to address this problem," that your program is riddled with "systemic deficiencies" and lacks "independence and transparency."<sup>10</sup> Who is not telling the truth?

6. Vince McMahon has admitted to using steroids and is a frequent performer on WWE programming. Yet, in his testimony, he told Congressional investigators that he was not subject to the WWE substance abuse policy, including drug testing.<sup>11</sup> Why is Mr. McMahon not subjected to the drug policy, and are there any other performers, including members of the McMahon family, such as your son-in-law, Paul "Triple H" Levesque, who have been exempt from the drug testing policy and, if so, why?
7. The Congressional investigation found that former WWE champion Chris Benoit, who murdered his wife and seven-year old boy before committing suicide in June 2007, tested positive three times under the WWE Wellness Policy while you were CEO. The investigation found that he "received no suspension or other penalties as a result of these positive tests, and the Committee found no evidence indicating that efforts were made by WWE to discourage his steroid use. An autopsy of Mr. Benoit revealed that at the time of his death, he had ten times the normal testosterone level in his system."<sup>12</sup> Why did you choose to allow Chris Benoit to continue abusing steroids despite repeatedly violating your steroid policy, do you think enforcement of the WWE's policy against Benoit might have saved him and his family, and knowing of Benoit's repeated abuse of steroids, why, in the immediate wake of the incident, did you go on Good Morning America and lay responsibility for the tragedy on Benoit's son, claiming he suffered from "mental retardation," a claim refuted by the prosecutor in the case, the child's teacher and other members of Benoit's distant family?<sup>13</sup>
8. As CEO, you allowed a "therapeutic use exemption" to allow some WWE performers to continue using anabolic steroids.<sup>14</sup> Experts have called this exemption a "loophole...that guts the entire program."<sup>15</sup> In testimony given to Congressional investigators, the WWE's own medical review officer for the steroid testing program, Dr. Tracy Ray, admitted that he is not a trained endocrinologist and that he conducts no examinations on WWE performers and holds no discussions with their doctors before approving therapeutic use exemptions. Further, he told the Committee there was "shadiness in almost every case that I've reviewed."<sup>16</sup> What do you think he meant by that?
9. While WWE was under federal investigation leading to an indictment for conspiracy to distribute steroids, you said the company says "no to drugs" and pledged that steroid users "won't be working for us," but over a decade later you testified to Congress that you were "not surprised" that 40% of your performers tested positive for steroid use.<sup>17</sup> What caused you to believe that a large percentage of your performers were using steroids, and why did you not do anything about it despite your earlier promises?
10. Despite your extraordinary personal wealth, you claimed that for financial reasons you were forced to eliminate drug testing in the WWE for a decade between 1996 and 2006. Testing was reinstated only after the high profile death of WWE performer Eddie Guerrero.<sup>18</sup> How much did you save by eliminating drug testing and, given the enormous cost in lives and health of your performers, was it worth it?

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<sup>10</sup> Interview of Linda McMahon, Committee On Oversight And Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives, 12/13/07; House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Letter To Office Of National Drug Control Policy, 1/2/09

<sup>11</sup> Interview of Vince McMahon, Committee On Oversight And Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives, 12/14/07

<sup>12</sup> House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Letter To Office Of National Drug Control Policy, 1/2/09

<sup>13</sup> ABC News' "Good Morning America," 6/28/07; "Prosecutor Disputes WWE's Assertion That Son Had Mental Retardation," [ESPN.com](http://ESPN.com), 7/3/07

<sup>14</sup> House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Letter To Office Of National Drug Control Policy, 1/2/09

<sup>15</sup> CNN, "Death Grip: Inside Pro Wrestling," 11/7/07

<sup>16</sup> Interview of Dr. Tracy Ray, Committee On Oversight And Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives, 9/24/07

<sup>17</sup> Jackie Fitzpatrick, "The Lady And The Champs," *The New York Times*, 6/5/93; Interview of Linda McMahon, Committee On Oversight And Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives, 12/13/07

<sup>18</sup> Interview of Linda McMahon, Committee On Oversight And Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives, 12/13/07