

**Statement of ACLU client Leslie Young, November 21, 2005**

No Americans should be denied their Constitutional right to free speech because of a bumper sticker, a t-shirt, or any other peaceful expression of a viewpoint. Our president is elected to represent and lead all Americans, and he should feel comfortable speaking with all of us at his town hall conversations.

It is a sad day when Americans are forcibly removed from a public event by White House event staffers solely because of the content of a bumper sticker on their car. For months we have been seeking an explanation as to why this happened to us, but regrettably we have received nothing but stonewalling from anyone involved – including the White House. We now intend to pursue legal remedies in order to obtain the answers we deserve, and to prevent this from happening to other citizens in the future.