



October 20, 2008

Girl Scout Troop 528
1015 Avenue B
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Dear Students,

Thank you for all your letters and for your support. I am impressed with your interest in politics, especially at your young age. I appreciate reading your declaration of young person's rights – I also believe young Americans deserve bright futures, access to affordable education, good jobs, healthcare, and a clean environment. I encourage you to visit my website www.barackobama.com to learn more about my campaign and my policies. I hope you will always be active participants in the world around you, as are learning as Girl Scouts, and that you will seize every opportunity to make the world better.

Creating change and making the world better is not always easy, and you will probably find in your life that it is more comfortable to ignore injustices that don't affect you directly. Don't take that comfortable road. Challenge yourself to make a difference.

If you don't already know what it means, I want you all to look up the word "empathy" in the dictionary. I believe we don't have enough empathy in our world today, and it is up to your generation to change that.

I leave you with three bits of advice that will make your life more fulfilling: Look out for other people, even when it does not directly benefit you; strive to make a difference everywhere you go; and get back up every time you are knocked down.

Thanks again for letting me share these thoughts with you. Seeing young people like you who care about making things better inspires me and gives me great hope about the future of our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a circular flourish at the end.

Barack Obama

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