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cc: winning  
Rebecca Cameron  
- support file

December 9, 1996

Dear Mr. President:

I want to begin this informal letter by congratulating you on your victory on November 5. I believe that you deserved to win based on your overall record as President and your message of inclusion. I have always had an interest in politics, however, it was your 1992 campaign that inspired me to study it and become involved in the political arena. I have looked at you as a role model as a politician and as a person in many ways as well. That is why your support of the DOMA legislation really upset me.

If your true position is that you are against gay marriages, I respect that. What I could not believe is that you would sign that legislation. I understand the pressure to sign the bill, but you could have said "I do not support gay marriages. That has always been my policy, but this bill is garbage legislation clearly aimed at exploiting and hurting one group of Americans for political gain. Therefore, I will not sign it. If it passes into law it will have to do so without my signature. This legislation is a waste of time and deserves none of my time. There are many more important issues to fight for....." That would have been the honorable way to stand up against division and I would have respected that. But you let the bigots win, and when they won you lost and America lost. The thing I have always liked most about you is your call for diversity and your pro minority stances. You really let me down. I only hope that you can become an even stronger president by not having to face the voters again. I hope you will be able to more easily stick up for your beliefs, and your pro minority stances. I have read that draft dodging letter that has been used against you a number of times. In that letter you mentioned your hatred for racism. I find it honorable and inspiring that you have taken your deep rooted belief that inequality is bad, all the way to the White House decades later. Don't back down. We need you. You have made a mistake in backing down but one act alone does not define a presidency or a President. Now that the election is over, get back on track. Please don't let me or America down.

When you get down about this whole thing just know that there are people like me out there that respect you as not just a good President, but a superior one. I read your interview in USA Today about your first mother's day without your mom. I take that article out whenever I need an added push in my school work when I am feeling down and out. I admired your strength. Even when your mom died, you still had a job to do and a foreign trip to make and you did it. If you could do that, I can write a paper for school when down about lesser things. I also look to what you said quoting from the scripture: Let us not grow weary in doing good for in due season we shall reap if we do not loose heart.

Mr. president, don't lose heart. Don't lose conviction. I wish you the best. It is important to me that you red this letter. Please respond if you have. I know you are so busy but a quick note would do.

With best wishes

*Adam*

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 20, 1996

Adam I. Sanders  
Post Office Box 72  
Nanuet, New York 10954

Dear Adam:

Thank you for your letter. I read it with great appreciation for your deep belief in me and my Presidency, as well as understanding over our disagreement on the same-sex marriage bill. You can be sure that I will continue to seek the path of courage and wisdom that will help me lead our nation during the next four years.

Also, I want you to know how touched I was by what you said about my Mother's Day article. When I'm in need of inspiration, I can always hear her telling me to keep doing my best and working hard.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton<sup>A</sup>

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