

January 21, 2009

Dear President Obama,

Congratulations on your historic and inspiring victory. Your lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens, along with families, friends, and heterosexual allies, would like to welcome you to the White House. We are thrilled to see that true change has come to this country.

During your election campaign you wrote an open letter to us, making it clear that you were committed to gaining 'full equality for the millions of LGBT people in this country.' In that letter you asked for our vote and promised to:

- **Repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and ensure that states treat same-sex couples with full equality in their family and adoption laws**
- **Enact a fully inclusive Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) to outlaw workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity**
- **Repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'**
- **Enact the Matthew Shepard Act to outlaw hate crimes against our community**
- **Confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the stigma surrounding it**
- **Amend the Uniting American Families Act to afford same-sex couples the same rights and obligations as married couples in our immigration system**

We come to you as esteemed citizens of the United States of America in need of equal protections under the law for all families. The LGBT community is part of this diverse country, but do not share the same rights as their heterosexual brothers and sisters. In the spirit of family, respect, and of course, hope, we will work with you to make these promises become a reality.

We paid attention to the statements you made during your campaign, and we voted for you. Now, as you take office, we ask something in return. Please keep your promises to the LGBT community and provide the leadership needed to achieve true equality for all Americans.

Sincerely,  
Your Fellow Americans

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