



37

Correspondence
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Cassandra Richard

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September 2, 2013

✓ The President

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Tim Kaine
388 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
475 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Wolf
233 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. President, Senator Kaine, Senator Warner, and Mr. Wolf:

I am writing to all of you because frankly I don't know who is most appropriate to receive this letter. Since I have the same things to say to each of you, I'll send the same letter to each of you.

Immigration Bill

Two weeks ago I heard a rumor and it made me so mad I decided to write. But I was so mad I knew I needed at least 24 hours to cool down. I have been waiting to cool down, but time has not helped.

The Rumor: The U.S. government is paying for advertisements in Mexico (and elsewhere?) that tell people what words to use in asking for political asylum in the U.S. and how to get food stamps. By the governments own admission 60% of asylum applicants do not appear in court. And most of these are from Mexico, our neighbor and friend.

This has me so angry that I no longer support in any way the proposed immigration bill. The rumor and abuse of the asylum process—with the government's blessing—tells me that the section of the proposed bill that supports "securing the border" is bogus. Supporting or voting for the proposed, 800-page debacle tells me that neither you, Mr. President, nor Senators Kaine and Warner, nor Representative Wolfe are serious about border security. I now completely reject this bill.

First we give guns to Mexican drug cartels and dealers and now we give them asylum and food. How can one respect, honor, and support a government that promotes such extreme foolishness?

I propose:

- 1) Throw out the proposed immigration bill – hook, link, and sinker! It is simply a way to legalize the illegal. It does nothing to solve the problem; nor does it protect us from the 9/11 and Boston Marathon terrorists.
- 2) Pass, fund, and enforce a law that secures our borders. This must be done without pork-barrel add-ons or back room deals -- or fund and enforce (and revise if necessary) current laws.
- 3) After the border is secure, address the needs of children born in the U.S. to illegal aliens.
- 4) After the border is secure, develop a work permit program – or fund and enforce the current one.

I do not mean to ignore or belittle the plight of our illegal aliens and friends, but I am sick and tired of a government that consistently fails to resolve this problem. The guilt lies with both Republicans and Democrats: Presidents Reagan (who started this amnesty fiasco), Bush, Clinton, Bush, and now you, Mr. Obama are not and never have been committed to securing our borders. The most reasonable thing is to withdraw this bill and secure our borders. (And you don't need an incomprehensible, unreadable, 800-page bill to do this.)

Affordable Care Act

I wrote to you, Mr. President, earlier this year when my employer cut my part-time hours from 30 to 28 hours a week because the additional funds for health insurance did not exist (unlike the Federal government, state and local governments and businesses have to live within their actual income/budgets.) I realize that you did not intend for this to happen. I am also grateful that my employer chose to reduce my hours instead of firing me and my co-workers.

As an update, I have since learned that part-time employment is a permanent fixture of the American economy. I will probably never have a full-time job but can only dream that somehow several part-time jobs will provide enough income to live. I have also learned that most part-time jobs are during my regular part-time job hours and are getting harder to find. I recently learned that a full-time job I applied for had 62 applicants. The applicant pool was very competitive and almost all were part-timers seeking full-time work. Clearly, I'm not the exception.

As for health insurance, I have used up my savings and small inheritance paying for health insurance. As of September 1st, I am part of the uninsured. I was told that in October I'll learn what my options are under the Affordable Care Act. In January, I'll be able to purchase the option of my choice. If I do not purchase one, I'll be fined. The fine will be small at first but increase each year until the fine will equal the cost of insurance. If I cannot afford health insurance, how will I afford the fines you gentlemen have imposed on me?

I have been repeatedly told and believed that I would benefit from this law. I have yet to see any benefit. The Affordable Care Act appears to be "The Government Doesn't Care Act." But the Federal Government appears determined to make me pay for something that will not help me and will make me as bankrupt as it is. If you cannot help me, can you at least stop hurting me?

I heard that the IRS will not be running our new health care system. This truly is a move in the right direction. Do any of you go to your CPA for your medical problems?

I understand that the House of Representatives is responsible for funding this. Representative Wolf, is there any way to not fund this law? Messieurs Wolf, Kaine, and Warner, can this law please be rescinded? Personally, while I want very much to solve our health care problem, I cannot afford this law. If I cannot afford it, I seriously doubt that most part-time people can afford it.

Religious Freedom among the Military

As long as I am writing, I will make a complaint on behalf of several military individuals who cannot complain without jeopardizing their military careers. It is unfortunate that our military, who are being killed and wounded to protect you and me, are afraid to exercise their religious beliefs.

It has become disturbingly clear that the First Amendment Rights of our military (and civilians) are being violated. The First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." By requiring our military chaplains and personnel to deny their religious beliefs or to be silent about them means they are being "prohibited from the free exercise thereof." This is both unconstitutional and wrong, and it needs to stop. I understand a bill has been introduced to protect the religious rights of our military. While I strongly support it, it is indeed a sad day when a country founded on religious freedom has to have such a law. Forced atheism is communism, not religious freedom.

By the way, who is this Wein-guy (Weinstein, Weinman, Weinberg??)? How can he walk into a military base and demand that a plaque be removed from the wall and then have it removed in 45 minutes? Normally, I just ignore such things but I understand that the sign read "Blessed are the peacemakers". What is his problem? Is it wrong for our soldiers, sailors, airmen/women, and marines to be peacemakers? What does he want on the walls? "Warmongers Unite!" "Survival of the Fittest: Kill to be Fit!" or perhaps "He/She who kills the most is the Most!"

Regarding religious symbols in military or government lands, I am truly amazed by the lack of creativity on the part of atheists. They are offended by others' religions; therefore, others must not exercise their First Amendment rights. They bellyache but can't create. For example, the cross in California that caused so much concern among atheists. A Buddhist would probably say "That cross does not apply to Buddhists. Let me make a statue that pays homage to my fellow Buddhists." Why can't they design and erect a memorial to pay homage to atheists who sacrificed their lives and eternal non-existence for our peace, prosperity, and safety. We should be grateful for all who have given so much for us regardless of their beliefs, and we should be allowed to express that gratitude in accordance with their religious beliefs—even when their remains are on government land.

Mr. President, let me take the opportunity—long overdue—to thank you for overseeing the death and burial of Osama bin Laden. His burial at sea was both respectful and brilliant. I'm quite proud of you for your handling of that.

Most Respectfully,

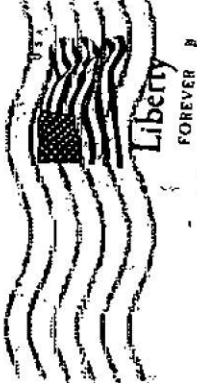

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