

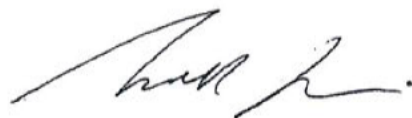
JUNE 28, 2015
GAY PRIDE DAY

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

I JUST WATCHED YOUR WONDERFUL SPEECH CELEBRATING THE SUPREME COURT'S LEGALIZATION OF GAY MARRIAGE AND I HAD TO WRITE TO YOU WITH SOME WORDS OF GRATITUDE. I HAVE WATCHED WITH APPRECIATION EACH SMALL STEP THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN THROUGHOUT YOUR TERMS IN OFFICE TO ENABLE US AS A NATION TO REACH THIS HISTORIC DAY. I HAVE ARGUED WITH FRIENDS WHO COMPLAINED THAT YOU HAVE NOT DONE ENOUGH OR THAT YOU MOVED TOO SLOWLY, REMINDING THEM THAT WITHIN AN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT AND HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT, YOU HAVE MANAGED TO SKILLFULLY STEER US TO THIS MOMENT.

THANK YOU ALSO FOR ACKNOWLEDGING THE COURAGE AND SACRIFICES OF SO MANY OF US WHO TOOK THE RISK TO COME OUT OF THE CLOSET. WE RISKED SCORN OR REJECTION FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WE RISKED LOSS OF JOBS AND EVEN PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BECAUSE WE BELIEVED IT WAS CRUCIAL TO BE ABLE TO LIVE OUR LIVES OPENLY AND FREELY. YOUR RECOGNITION OF THAT PAIN AND SACRIFICE HAS MOVED ME DEEPLY AND, YET AGAIN, MAKES ME PROUD THAT YOU ARE MY COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT.

WITH DEEPEST APPRECIATION,



EVAN M. CAPOBIANCO
ITHACA, NY 14850