



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN  
2-7-00  
THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

February 3, 2000

*6/14*

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I understand that you admired one of our "Afterschool for All" pins in Congressman Gephardt's office following your State of the Union address last week. It was being worn by a staff member from the Afterschool Alliance, a partnership of the U.S. Department of Education, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation, the Creative Artists Agency, *People* Magazine, the Ad Council, and JCPenny.

Needless to say, all of the partners are thrilled with your announcement of \$1 billion for afterschool programming and are very grateful for your efforts. They wanted you and Hillary each to have a pin, and so do my folks and I. Several are enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

*Dick*  
Richard W. Riley

2-7-00

*To Burkhardt for thank  
you?*  
Yes ☒ No ☐

*B.*

2-7-00

Send to Burkhardt for reply?

Yes ☒

No ☐

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

2-7-00

RICHARD BEN-VENISTE

1615 L STREET

SUITE 700

WASHINGTON, DC 20036

*Capra for  
need nice reply  
BR*

*BC  
SIG*

*B.*

February 3, 2000

William Jefferson Clinton  
President  
United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President:

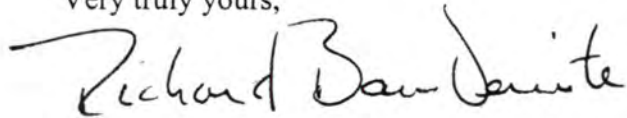
I am deeply honored by your expression of intent to nominate me as United States Ambassador to Argentina. For a number of reasons, I believe my experience, language skills, judgment and understanding of our democracy would qualify me to perform this important assignment in a way that would validate your confidence in me.

However, there is an overriding reason why my nomination should not go forward. Pursuant to discussions with you and with Bob Nash, I asked Senator Biden and others to make discrete inquiry into the prospects for an expeditious confirmation, if you were to nominate me. Although Senator Biden has advised me that Chairman Helms promised him that he would support my confirmation, Senator Biden and other friends in and out of the Senate have advised me that no assurance can be made that my confirmation would not be delayed for reasons entirely unrelated to my qualifications for this post. Because of the importance of sending a United States ambassador to Argentina in the very near term, I do not believe it would be in the national interest to risk a protracted delay at the hands of one or more members of the Senate who might seek to hold up my confirmation for purely partisan political reasons.

William Jefferson Clinton  
President  
February 3, 2000  
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It was wonderful to see you after your outstanding State of the Union address. Donna joins me in expressing our deep appreciation for your many kindnesses. As you and Hillary undertake the important work that lies ahead, please know that you have our continued support and willingness to help in any way we can.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Dan Levine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "R" and a long, trailing "e".



UNITED STATES  
COMMISSION ON  
CIVIL RIGHTS

624 Ninth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20425

February 3, 2000

00 FEB 7 PM4:09

President William Jefferson Clinton  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am dismayed to read in the Washington Post that the Department of Education has given a green light to Governor Bush's elimination of affirmative action in Florida's institutions of higher education. As you know, the Governor has proposed a substitute plan to admit 20 percent of the graduates from each high school in the state, with details such as what requirements to include, what colleges and universities the students could actually attend, and whether remediation would be offered, to be worked out.

I know from my work in the Carter administration, and from following the issues since, that desegregation plans arising from the long-standing Adams litigation and the Fordice Supreme court decision, may require affirmative action in some instances. More importantly, the Department's action is inconsistent with your strong support for affirmative action. The Department's position is particularly puzzling when Governor Bush is reviewing his actions after protests, including a sit-in by political supporters of affirmative action.

To be sure, novel suggestions to increase diversity in higher education may be welcomed on a trial basis. But we all know that affirmative action works and what is known about this plan at present indicates that it will not work. Therefore, nothing should be done to embolden anti-affirmative action attacks during this critical period.

I also, do not understand why such a sensitive matter should be left to a regional official to misinterpret. I hope the administration will correct the record and reiterate strong support for affirmative action before the Department of Education's position further undermines efforts to increase equal opportunity in higher education.

017100

Sincerely,

  
Mary Frances Berry  
Chairperson

Send to Bushardt?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Carl

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE:

2/3/00

TO:

Name:

Betty Currier

Company:

City/State:

Fax No:

FROM:

Name:

Mary Frances Berry

Number of Pages, Including Cover:

2

Supplemental Message:

Please see to it  
That the president gets  
this  
Thames

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