

Chron
di

1998 APR 16 PM 4:28

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

20 March 1998

Dear Mr. President,

I wish to thank you, once again, for the opportunity to visit with you in the White House last week. I am also grateful to you for the strong expression of support for the Memorandum of Understanding that I negotiated in Baghdad, and for the resolution of the issue of United States arrears to the United Nations.

I am aware that both these positions require leadership and political courage and I would like to express my special appreciation at this pivotal time in the relationship between the United Nations and the United States. Our discussion on other issues of mutual concern was also extremely useful from my point of view.

Your visit to Africa will take place at a time of great change and significant progress throughout the Continent. I am confident that your visit will provide the greatest encouragement to those Governments genuinely dedicated to the betterment of their peoples, and renew the momentum for Africa's march toward its rightful place in the global community.

Please accept, Mr. President, my continued good wishes and highest consideration.



Kofi A. Annan

4-16-98

↓ NSC for reply,
per Phil.

B.

es of America

Phil -
How should we
handle? Should
we login?
-Christy
NO - To NSC for
reply

Edward A. Powell, Jr.
1217 N Point Lane
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452
757-486-2345 (Ph)
757-486-3600 (Fax)
e-mail: eapjr@aol.com

98 APR 15

April 14, 1998

President and Mrs. William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20050

4-16 98
TO BURKHARDT
FOR REPLY.

Do we
Are we
doing this?
Phil

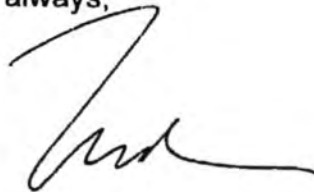
Dear Mr. President and Hillary,

Enclosed is a letter from my first cousin, Mary Lewis Grow concerning an issue I know is close to your heart, gun violence and students. Mary Lewis is the National Coordinator for the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence. She also works with Vicki Kennedy on other gun control issues.

The attached letter speaks for itself, and I pass it along to you for your information. You will be hearing more from Vicki about the issue of the Student Pledge. Mary Lewis has a great deal of additional supporting information should you desire it.

Congratulations for all your efforts in Ireland. Diane and I have been reminded once again of our special weekend with you and Hillary. Our prayers are with you both.

Best always,



P.S. Steve King is all set to make hats for Hillary and Chelsea - he just needs hat sizes!

Info for
Shoals
After
Vance about



Student Pledge Against Gun Violence

April 9, 1998

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D C. 20500

**Re: A Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence and a
Student Pledge Against Gun Violence and my hope for your involvement**

Dear Mr President:

I am grateful to my cousin, Ned Powell, for bringing the enclosed ideas to your attention.

One of the things that has impressed me deeply during your time in the White House is the special gift you have for finding healing words for people who have suffered loss. In the wake of the Jonesboro shootings and a real national yearning for constructive responses to our many gun tragedies, I am writing to ask you to use your special-gifts and the weight of your office in calling now for a Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence and a Student Pledge Against Gun Violence.

You could launch the national initiative from Jonesboro or one of the other sites of a recent shooting, and while there, you could watch students sign the Pledge and lead them in saying it. T-shirts could be made up with the logo and the words; blown-up posters could be a back-drop. You could use the occasion to call on communities, churches, and schools to begin planning for and building towards the observance now.

The Senate, in both 1996 and 1997, passed unanimous Resolutions calling for this observance, and you have issued Proclamations for both years. The enclosed press release and update from last November's observance will tell you about some of the wonderful and creative ways in which cities around the country observed the Day of Concern.

But, in spite of the way in which this observance has grown over the last two years, the potential for this national observance has not yet begun to be realized. I believe that what will give power and resonance to the Day is a strong message, best delivered by you, that the decisions that young people voluntarily make that day: never to carry a gun to school, never to resolve a dispute with a gun, and to use their influence with their friends to keep

112 Nevada Street, Northfield MN 55057
Phone: (507) 645-5378 Fax: (507) 663-1207
mlgrow@microasslt.com

them from resolving disputes with guns – are important, acknowledged at the highest levels, and reinforced. We need to let young people know that the country is watching them as they make potentially life-saving choices.

The rationale behind the Day of Concern was to help young people feel the immediate multiplication effect of their individual decisions by giving them a common day and a common promise. I've always believed in the incredible power of simultaneity: a large number of people doing the same thing at the same time.

But nothing could give participating young people a sense of the importance of their decision more than hearing about it from their President. If you and Mrs. Clinton talk about the Pledge Against Gun Violence when you visit schools, and remind students of the importance of the decisions they will be asked to make on October 8, and if you call on the country to build towards the observance with meetings, forums, essay, poetry, and poster contests for students who are addressing ways to reduce gun violence, I believe that this could become a truly watershed event.

I can imagine you and Mrs. Clinton reading from one of the children's books recommended in the resource materials that I give out in connection with this Day. I can imagine your reading from Walter Dean Meyer's book, Scorpions, to older children and young teenagers. The book gives a poignant and believable account of two young boys who want to make good choices but get drawn, by a series of events, into thinking that "carrying" will protect them – with tragic consequences.

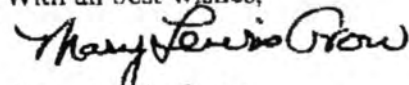
I can imagine your personally calling on star athletes such as Michael Jordan and asking them to make public service announcements asking young people to sign the Pledge Against Gun Violence on October 8 – and to live it and mean it.

I can imagine your appealing to corporate sponsors, asking them to put the words of the Pledge on grocery bags, posters in video stores, and billboards, so that the Day of Concern and the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence become part of our national consciousness during the weeks and months leading up to the observance.

I can imagine that this event could give us a focal point and a unifying way in which to address the issue of gun violence among the young. It is not about legislation; it is not partisan. (Senators from across the political spectrum – from Paul Wellstone to Jesse Helms, Strom Thurmond and Larry Craig – signed on as co-sponsors.)

This is my dream and my vision. I would love to see you and Mrs. Clinton help it happen.

With all best wishes,



Mary Lewis Grow



I will never bring a gun to school;

I will never use a gun to settle a dispute;

I will use my influence with my friends to keep them
from using guns to settle disputes.

My individual choices and actions, when multiplied
by those of young people throughout the country, will
make a difference. Together, by honoring this pledge,
we can reverse the violence and grow up in safety.

Student Name: _____

Grade Level: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Student Pledge Against Gun Violence

November 7, 1997

Re: Day of Concern: an update

I have been getting calls, faxes, and e-mails all day today about some of the wonderful things that happened in cities around the country yesterday in connection with the Day of Concern. Here is a sample of some of the details that have been coming in:

The **White House** issued a Proclamation calling for November 6 to be observed as a Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence.

From the **Chicago Police Department**, an Investigator who worked on the observance said that in twenty-two years of police work, she had rarely been part of something that had been more wonderful. The radio music station listened to by most Chicago teens donated more than one hour of air time to a call-in show that was beamed into schools and throughout the city. During that time, students heard from **Mayor Richard Daley**, who lead the students in oral recitation of the Pledge Against Gun Violence (which they had also received in written form), from both of Illinois's U.S. **Senators: Carol Mosely-Braun and Richard Durbin**, from **Chief Executive Officer of the Public Schools, Paul Vallas**, **Police Superintendent Mike Rodriguez**, and two students who talked movingly about their own reasons for wanting their peers to turn away from gun violence. One had lost a brother to gunfire. The program ended with former police officer **Mike Robbins**, **founder of H.E.L.P. for Survivors**. Robbins, shot a number of times in the line of duty, talked about his conversion from someone who had always looked on punishment and prosecution as the answer to crime and violence to someone who wanted to stress prevention and getting young people to take responsibility for their individual decisions. Robbins was honored, along with Jim Brady, at the last Democratic National Convention.

Last year, Chicago distributed the Pledge in all its public schools. This year, they extended the observance to include parochial and private schools.

112 Nevada Street, Northfield MN 55057
Phone: (507) 645-5378 Fax: (507) 663-1207
mlgrow@microassist.com

In **Seattle**, School Superintendent **John Stanford**, led a Peace March attended by students from all over the state. More than 120 schools from around the state participated in the Day's events.

In **Milwaukee**, the Chief of Police attended one of various assemblies held around the city yesterday, and listened to the essays and letters students had written him with their thoughts about how to reverse the gun violence. Then he replied to the students, taking their thoughts into his response. An African story-teller, Olusegun Sijuwade, told traditional stories about non-violence and led discussions with students about gun violence and the significance of their personal decisions. One of the people who planned the observance in Milwaukee (which distributed materials to all the schools) said that everyone was already excited about beginning to plan for next year.

In **Oakland, CA**, the Pledge was distributed to the city's 53,000 students. In one of the observances that marked the day, students stood on a stage, holding candles. One by one, they blew out the candles, symbols of the lives snuffed out by gunfire.

Santa Clara County, CA: November 6 served as a launch date for county-wide distribution of the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence in all **thirty-three** of the County's districts.

One teacher from **Phoenix** wrote: "The students here at Barry Goldwater High School in Phoenix, Arizona participated in the National Day of Concern Against Gun Violence. It was a huge success!!...Please send us information so we may participate again next year, but on a larger scale." She said that the event was covered on the local CBS news station on the noon news and again at 5:00. Reporters from both papers were going to interview her students about the observance. A local Phoenix anchor showed the blown-up version of the Pledge on camera and read the words as part of the lead story on the nightly news on the eve of the Day of Concern.

In **Connecticut**, the State's Attorney General appeared at a middle school to lead students through the Pledge and to show his support for the national day.

News about the ways in which communities observed the Day of Concern continues to come in.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REGION I
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY'S REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
J.W. MCCORMACK POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE - ROOM 540
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109
(617) 223-9317

stop
Se

99 APR 15 11:21

FAX # 617 223-9324

TEL# 617 223-9317

FAX COVER SHEET

TO:

Rebecca Cameron
White House

Tel #

Fax #

202-456-2883

FROM:

Jan Paschal
DOE/I

Number of pages (including cover sheet)

4

Message:

4-15-98

I Burkhardt for reply?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Should do letters to
Soter Paschal B.
and Baker. Check
Baker letter with Craig
Smith Phil



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REGION I
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY'S REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
J.W. MCCORMACK POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE - ROOM 540
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109
(617) 223-9317

Dear Mr. President,

Our Regional Office is working with schools across New England who wish to reach out to the Jonesboro students. We will be sending letters, books and presents from New England's children to the children of Jonesboro.

I thought you'd appreciate that the Timilty Middle School in Roxbury has prepared letters talking about love and concern as well as unity. This is a natural fit with your Racial Initiative. The Timilty is almost all black. It is an amazing award winning school reaching out to a predominately white school because we are all Americans. Their Superintendent loves you too!



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REGION I
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY'S REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
J.W. MCCORMACK POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE - ROOM 540
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109
(617) 223-9317

I'm sending along a letter
from Radius Baker. He is
Superintendent at Valley View in
Jonesboro. I hope that you'll
be able to call on the
day we send all of our
gifts.

Thank you for all you are
doing.

Sincerely,
Jon Paschal

Halley High Public School

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

2118 VALLEY VIEW DRIVE
JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72404

Dear President Clinton

I know your thoughts and prayers are with the students and staff in the Jonesboro area. I wish to convey my deep appreciation to you for your caring. You will never know how much you have helped our community by your positive comments. Although the incident happened on the Westside Middle School Campus, it effected us all. From the Jonesboro area, we wish to say thank you very much.

Rodney Baker
Valley View School