Example 1

Dear First Lady Michelle Obama,

My name is Abigail Peloquin. I am 22 years old, and I have been married to my husband for about a year and a half now. Both of us love children and have thought about having children numerous times. However, my husband is currently proudly serving in the United States Marine Corps, and due to the fact that he is likely to get deployed for at least a third of the year next year, and we are unable to afford me not working, having a child is not a realistic thought right now.

What is unfortunate is if we lived anywhere else in the world – with an exception of seven countries, such as Suriname and The Marshall Islands (WORLD Policy Forum, 2015) – the joy of having a child would not be met with the stress of not knowing how we will be able to take care of said child while still making ends meet. America, “is the lone developed country with this status,” (Rosen, 2014).

You’re a mother. You know the joys of motherhood. I understand that you are blessed when it comes to the financial aspect of life. If you wanted to take time off to raise children, you could with no issue. But what about the overwhelming number of American women that look up to you who are robbed of the joy of motherhood due to financial insecurity? What about the mothers that cannot enjoy their children to the fullest due to stress from work and having to work long hours?

Not only is America ranked among countries such as Liberia and Papua New Guinea, but there are multiple loopholes in maternity leave that makes many women ineligible for maternity leave at all. “About 40 percent of workers fall through the crack because the law only requires many companies with 50 or more employees to comply. To get the benefit, employees must also have worked for the company for at least a year and logged 1250 hours within the last 12 months,” (Bernard, 2013). If women are going to be awarded the bare minimum, it is my belief that they should at least be guaranteed it.

It is upsetting to me that our great nation that prides ourselves on being the land of opportunity does not provide adequate opportunity for new mothers. In Estonia, Mothers are awarded 108 weeks of paid maternity leave as well as 180 week of job security (Livingston, 2013). Does it not seem strange then that the United States of America offers zero weeks of paid leave with merely 12 weeks of job security?

It is my understanding that “a bill that would provide 12 weeks of paid maternity leave is stalled in the House,” (Rosen 2014) and while you may not have a lot of influence in their decisions, I’d like to think you would at least be able to get that rusty old ball rolling again for the sake of women and mothers alike.

Thank you for your time,
Abigail Peloquin

Example 2

Dear  Mr.  President  and  First  Lady,

My  name  is  Eric  Morales,  I  live  in  Los  Angeles  California,  one  of  the  most  over  populated  cities  in  America  today.  I  am  24  years  old,  a  student  and  I  work  two  part-time  Jobs  basically  I  live  from  check-to-check  and  I  still  lean  on  my  parents  more  than  I  like  to  ok  but  that  my  problem  and  with  God  help  it  will  only  be  temporary  and  a   little  while  longer.  Mr.  President  I  would  to  ask  if  there  is  anything  you  can  do  to  help  the  homeless  youth  in  my  city.  The  problem  has  gotten  so  bad  that  people  are  becoming  fearful  to  go  to  the  market,  the  laundry,  or  even  walk  their  pets,  I  see  many  youths  on  the  streets  everyday  begging,  some  are  crying,  weak,  depressed,  and  alone  and  many  are  at  risk  for  violence,  and  other  negative  abuses.  These  are  societies  forgotten  children  and  people,  I  use  to  be  one  of  those  who  looked  the  other  way  when  I  was  outside,  until  my  mother  reminded  me  that  I  could  just  as  easy  be  one  of  them ,  or  my  little  sister  and  she  also  said  “no  one  would  choose  to  live  like  this  if  they  had  a  choice”  I  don’t  have  any  spare  change  is  the  only  answer  I  can   give  when  they  ask  me  for  any  spare  change,  I  use  to  believe  that  homelessness  was  a  personal  problem  but  now  because  of  the  number  of  individual  that  are  homeless  especially  kids,  homelessness  has  become  societies  problem  and  something  has  to  be  done  about  the  number  of  homeless  children  in  Los  Angeles  and  America.  It  is  a  law  that  every  human  has  a  right  to  housing  and  those  of  us  lucky  enough  to  have  housing  have  a  right  to  feel  safe  in  and  around  our  homes.  Mr.  president  I  know  that  you  will  never  experience  what  I  am  saying , but  just  imagine  your  children  living  on  the  streets,  not  knowing  when  or  where  the  next  meal  will  come,  or  not  being  able  to  wash  their  face  or  brush  their  teeth  everyday  or  use  the  bathroom  in  private   or  worry  about  being  attacked  or  abused  by  another  street  person  just  imagine,  I  know  that  you  as  a  parent  would  do  everything  in  your  power  to  get  your  child  off  the  streets  so  as  a  parent,  a  father  and  the  President   of  the  United  States  I  am  asking  for  your  Help  for  the  homeless  youth  in  Los  Angeles  and  the  nation.  Sir  we  know  homelessness  has  become out  of  control  and  the  largest  percent  are  in  south  Los  Angeles  and  Metro  Los  Angeles  it  has  been  estimated  that  on  any  given  night  in  Los  Angeles  82,000  people  are  homeless  and  of  this  number  unaccompanied  make  up  4,800  to 10,000  in  the  Hollywood  area  alone.  African  American  make  up  the  highest  percent  of  homeless  youth  population  and  the  number  is  growing  daily.  Thank You for your time.  Please  remember  Charity  starts  at  home.

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| Eric. |   |