

Mrs. Kamala Harris,

As an Asian American, everyday events are sometimes punctuated by tough moments that perhaps you can relate to, based on our shared demographics. I would like to share a glimpse of my encounters at school.

Opening the door to the enormous building and entering, I am immediately cloaked by boisterous chatter. I walk through the crowded hall and catch conversations of classmates I pass. A blond haired boy leers at his classmate. *"We know that Chinese people like you get good grades. You don't need to brag,"* I hear him smirk. Wincing, I walk past. Nearly colliding with two kids who are double my size, I step aside, but not before I hear them arguing about the 2016 elections. I turn a corner and shake my head as I open my locker.

As a young girl, I always thought of the world as a beautiful place with pristine geography and joyous people. But, growing older, I realize that the world was a much different place. It's when I go home that I get to stretch my thinking, pushing myself to immerse in this culture that sometimes pushes me away. Stuck in this enigma, I opened my laptop one day and typed desperately: "Quotes about courage for Asians in America" ... and I found your quote, *"The American dream belongs to all of us."* Inspired, I kept reading about you, soaking in your words.

Your story—from your 'stroller-eye' view of justice, to becoming the Attorney General, to being elected as Senator—is fascinating for me. Every right you tirelessly fought for has given me courage. I hope that now, since you have become Senator, you will take into account the greater issues America faces today as you continue your amazing fight for justice.

Two key factors that have clashed with my childhood images of the world are global warming and social injustice. Interestingly, both problems stem from a common cause—a lack of respect for what's around us. I've witnessed climate change turning fresh streams into muddy ponds, and forests into power plant factories. Although Americans made progress during Obama's administration by doubling the generation of wind and solar energy, we need a bigger plan in order to effectively reduce global warming...and I hope that you will be up for that job.

Social injustice is one issue that, like the quality of the air we breathe, constantly affects the lived experience of so many people—myself included. People with darker skin are still often treated as inferior to their lighter-skinned counterparts. Men are often considered stronger and more capable individuals than women, and their options appear more limitless. I imagine that you are no stranger to these issues, and I hope that you will make an effort to eradicate such injustice. I am looking forward to a world where it won't matter what gender you are or what color your skin is—no one will feel restricted from following their dreams. I believe that, with your help and leadership, America can indeed fulfill my childhood beliefs.

Sincerely,
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