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TO ANN O'LEARY

Hello, my name is Justin Newland. I am from Neodesha, a small town located in the southeastern part of Kansas. I am currently a sophomore at Coffeyville Community College, where I am majoring in Agriculture Education, with a minor in Agriculture Business.

I was born and raised on the family farm, and have developed a large interest in agriculture. My father was a first generation farmer. From his small start we have grown into a production agriculture business which includes 1800 acres of diversified crop production, and 400 head of cow calf pairs. I really enjoy living in a rural area, and having the opportunity to experience farm life.

During High School, I was active in several organizations. One of my favorite activities was athletics. I played football, basketball, and track for my high school, and soccer and baseball in the community. I also served as an officer in several youth organizations, including FFA (Future Farmers of America), FCCLA (Family Career Community Leaders of America, formerly known as FHA), NHS (National Honor Society), and 4-H. FFA and 4-H played an important role for me in high school, as agriculture was one of their main focuses. Through 4-H I was a Key award winner, and developed my interest in public speaking. FFA allowed me to compete in what I knew best, production agriculture. I am a three-time winner of a National FFA Proficiency Award, the highest honor awarded to SAE (Supervised Agriculture Experience) programs.

Upon graduating from high school, and enrolling in college, I was elected to serve as the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives Youth Ambassador. My responsibilities allowed me to travel several times, and meet with business leaders in the cooperative industry. Through my work with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, I became acquainted with the National Safety Council. At their annual Safety Expo, I was selected to a two-year position as a youth intern. I have helped plan the youth activities for the Expo, and served as a member of the board of delegates to the National Safety Council. I also served with an organization called NOYS (National Organization of Youth Safety). NOYS is a group combined of over 40 youth organizations throughout the United States. Three times a year the groups gather to discuss ideas and programs, and offer support. It was through NOYS that I was nominated to my current position with NYAC.

The National Youth Action Council for Teen Violence Prevention, (NYAC for short), is a part of the National Campaign Against Youth Violence started by President Clinton in an

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effort to decrease youth violence in America. NYAC is made up of 18 youth from all walks of life and backgrounds across the United States. Our responsibility is to bring a youth experience and influence to the National Campaign.

I plan to transfer to Kansas State University next semester where I will finish the hours for my degree. After graduating from college I would like to work Public Relations for an Agricultural Industry for a few years, then either teach Agriculture Education or join my father in the family farm.

FAX COVER SHEET

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Here is my biography for the First Lady. I am looking forward to attending the White House Conference on Teenagers on May 2.