

A Letter To President-Elect Obama

As you are about to become the 44th President of the United States, I know how anxious you must be to form your cabinet, committees and councils and such, especially in light of the dismal state of things. I hear you have already formed a high powered economic team. I realize your zealotry is driven by the need to boost the world's confidence, but I really wish you had called me first. I know some people right here in Wilco (that's our short name for Williamson County, Texas) whose input to your plan is vital. Hopefully, it's not too late. I thought I'd save you the time flying here (with the erratic fluctuation in fuel prices and all) by writing you this letter. Here are some ideas I'm sure you'll find helpful in putting your plan together.

First of all, don't be fooled by the age of these advisors. They're young but they're smart. Take five year old Isabelle for instance. You can't tell me that kindergarteners don't know what's going on in government. When I asked if she knew what the President of the United States does, she hit it right on the head, "He gets asked questions and talks and talks and talks." I'm sure you wouldn't dispute that.

Yes, youngsters here in the Hill Country have much to say about how to fix critical issues like global warming for example. Alex Stone, age 7 suggests you "talk to scientists and get a really big fan." Taylor Billingsly, ten years old, says you need to "advance scientific labs and solar powered cars that will go faster." Ten year old Kennedy says the president needs to improve air conditioning—find a way to air condition the universe". And 8 year old Vanessa said you should "get rid of some cows because the manure makes the ozone layer worse." I'm sure your advisors weren't aware of this.

On the topic of crimes like terrorism, the kids were long on ideas. "The president should talk to them about their bad attitudes", advised Isabelle. Kennedy said you should "make more laws so people will behave and be nice to each other". Maybe you'd like to include her in the next peace summit. Four year old JT says "we should be nice and talk nice to each other." Dana says you should try mediation and mentoring and if that doesn't work, "put the bad people in jail or put them under house arrest and micro chip them."

About the war, Frances Stone said you should "try to end the war and plan not to have another one". Alex Stone says you need to pray.

To fix our education system, most of these young people said you should make college mandatory. Elizabeth Billingsly, age 9 says you need to "send more textbooks to schools". One young advisor responded that you should tell students how bad their jobs are going to be and that they'll "be out on the street" if they don't go to college. One respondent, on the eve of report cards said the new president needs to "make teachers a lot nicer because they are mentally hazardous right now." She also said that if you need help, you could go to the book store and buy "Presidential For Dummies". Frances Stone, age 11 says "we need to do more educational activities, fund raisers and donations to pay for education. We should give money to homeless kids and sell tickets to play football and charge to snuggle with puppies."

And how to fix poverty and world hunger? Steve Billingsly, age 10 said you should “have the government build more foundations, give them (poor people) breakfast, lunch and dinner and a warm bed—nothing fancy. And donate more to shelters”. Seven year old Aubrey Chichurka strongly urges you to “get food from the store and give it to people”. Kennedy says you should “give them food instead of money”. Vanessa agrees you shouldn’t give them money either because they might spend it on something else.

Kennedy also said you can solve unemployment by “coming up with new jobs like cleaning up the streets or something”.

I know you’re wondering where the money will come from for all of this. Our advisors have a succinct and decisive solution, “make the money printers print more money”.

After reading this letter, I’m sure you will understand my urgency in getting it to you. I’m hoping your aides will also realize the importance of this crucial information and deliver it before your inauguration on the 20th.

Yours truly, Alicea Jones, a humble freelance writer who hasn’t received her stimulus check yet.
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P.S. Alex Stone says you should get a Chihuahua.