

September 3, 2018  
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about civil rights. The Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department has been a powerful advocate for equality both around race and sexuality. As a gay man I have seen the effectiveness of government action both to further and to reduce bigotry even at an individual level. With the Hardwick decision around sodomy laws, the military ban and DOMA many people felt righteous in their bigotry, while the Cammermeyer case opening the military and the Obergefell case opening marriage helped a rapid shift in public opinion and an improvement in my daily experience. Under Secretary Sessions this Division has switched from advocacy for the oppressed all the way to advocacy against. DOJ has backed bigotry around voting rights in Texas and Ohio, around policing by dropping consent decrees, around gay rights with the Masterpiece brief and last week around equal education with the Harvard admissions brief. Bigotry has long wrapped itself in religion from slavery through Jim Crow to today - illustrating the point of separating Church from State.

*Please assure me that you will help minorities.*

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our progress with civil rights.

Sincerely,  
Eric Babson