

“Change...” Worth Fighting For!

November 3, 2009

Dear President Obama,

On the one year anniversary of your historic election as President of the United States, we, many of your long-time friends and supporters in Chicago, gather in Grant Park to reaffirm our support for the “Change Worth Fighting For”. At this critical point, we urgently ask that you continue to show courage in support of the range of issues that will make this a fairer and more inclusive America for all.

Opposition to significant change is always fierce, because it threatens entrenched forces while also asking everyday Americans to reaffirm our commitment to the American dream for all. That has been true this year. Protectors of the broken status quo predictably attempt to manipulate fear to block reforms in many arenas. But the change we all believe in, if you and we all stay with it, is the more powerful force of the common good. It is the change that understands that we are all in this together and that we have responsibilities to each other and to our country.

Our nation stands poised to enact far-reaching health care reform that will extend basic health services to millions. We thank you for your leadership on this issue. We urge you to continue fighting to ensure quality, accessible and affordable health care for all with everyone in and no one out and a strong public health insurance option.

Along with health care are other important and difficult issues that must be addressed urgently. They include:

- fixing our broken immigration laws and ending the separation of immigrant families;
- ensuring the rights of workers to organize for just wages;
- providing living wage jobs to the unemployed;
- ensuring the full and equitable inclusion of the LGBT community and women in our society;
- reforming our financial system to end the predatory practices that result in economic chaos, home foreclosures, and personal bankruptcies;
- protecting our children’s future by addressing our warming planet;
- and creating a more peaceful world.

We deeply feel the urgency of these issues. The pressures of increasing unemployment, foreclosures, and deportations are fostering desperation and violence in our communities. Each of these issues will require your supporters to mobilize in solidarity with each other to win the support of America for a fairer and more inclusive nation for all. We make this commitment to each other and to you.

Each of these issues will also require courage from you to lead our country forward and to stand up to the politics of fear, expediency, and short term political interests. On this anniversary of your election we urgently ask that you show this courage in support of everyday Americans and the common good. Thank You.

Sincerely,