

February, 3, 2015

1819 Addison St.
Philadelphia, PA 19146
Office of Governor Nikki R. Haley
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

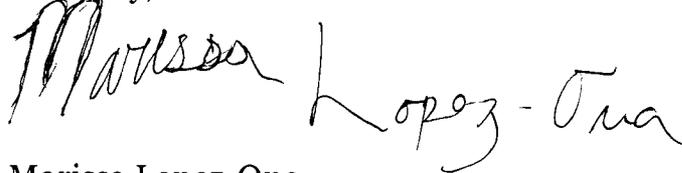
Dear Governor Haley,

My name is Marissa Lopez-Ona and I live in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am in 7th and go to school at the William Penn Charter School, and in my geography class I have been assigned to research the state of South Carolina! I have never been to South Carolina or beyond New York and Virginia. I was really excited to study South Carolina because I have never been there and don't know much about it.

In our geography class our task for this project was to look up a topic of interest about the assigned state. As I was researching South Carolina I found out that recently the 'Friendship Nine' have been cleared from the charge of trespassing in a segregated diner in 1961, during the Civil Rights movements. It has taken 53 years for it to be discharged. What does this mean for the state of South Carolina? Are there any other strides made under your leadership in regards to equality? Why did it take so long for the 'Friendship Nine' to have their names cleared.

I think that South Carolina is an amazing state. It is beautiful with beaches and the palm trees. It would mean the world to me if you could send some original pictures, postcards, posters, and anything from South Carolina to decorate my teachers classroom. South Carolina is an awesome state that I would love to visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marissa Lopez-Ona". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'L'.

Marissa Lopez-Ona