

January 17, 2016

Dear Gov. Haley,

My name is Mackenzie Chapman. I'm a 26 year old vision therapist living in Nashville, TN. I am writing you today because I want to thank you. I was born and raised in Niskayuna, NY - a small suburb about 20 minutes outside of Albany. Growing up I was always the "conservative" one of my friends and proud to be it. I moved to Nashville in 2013, however, and that pride quickly began to dwindle. While I have certainly met many wonderful, loving people since I've been here, I have also seen and heard a level of racism and intolerance that, 3 years ago, I wouldn't have believed still existed. I have become increasingly frustrated and disheartened with people who label themselves conservative, the current atmosphere of the 2016 presidential race just being the icing on the cake. I don't believe that I am alone in my frustration. Many of my friends, and I believe many of the Millennial Generation as a whole, are like me - socially liberal, but fiscally conservative. We want our political leaders to be responsible with spending, stop sending our country farther and farther into debt, and actually balance a budget, but we also care deeply about people. We understand that humans, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status just want to love and be loved. This combination of beliefs makes identifying with any one political party or candidate

very difficult. Whichever side of the coin we choose, we are sacrificing one aspect of our beliefs. When forced to pick, I don't think it's difficult to understand that we are going to opt for the side that doesn't seem like it's filled with hate, but we do it knowing that we are abandoning part of what we believe in. It has been a long time since I've felt accurately represented in American politics, but then I watched your response to the State of the Union on Tuesday. I listened to you speak with a level of grace, humility, and understanding that I've been so longing for. For the first time in years I felt like there was someone in our country who was able to truly lead. Who was firm in her beliefs, but also fair and pragmatic. So I'd like to say thank you. Thank you for representing me, and thank you for allowing me to believe that America could once again have a true leader. I'm sure you get a lot of letters like this, and certainly have far better things to do today, so thank you also for taking the time out of your day to read this and know that, should you ever decide to run for President, you have my vote.

Sincerely,
Mackenzie Chapman