

Cc: Governor Haley

I love, believe in, +
have hope for SC!

March 7, 2015

Dear President Obama,
Martha

Thank you for coming to South Carolina yesterday. I'm sure you felt very welcome.

I'm puzzled why you went to 46 other states before coming here. We are what I would call a "case study" in how race relations have improved in America. Coming here sooner may have helped you develop a better understanding of this issue in our country.

I am a 57 year old white female. I attended elementary school in Columbia, had African American students in my class each year, and we played and learned together with no problem. I attended junior high and high school in Greenville and was in the seventh grade when the African America junior high became the integrated jr. high school and the Caucasian high, became the integrated high school. One of my closest African American friends from high school attended the same small private college I went to.

I have had and continue to have very close friends, as well as, co-workers and supervisors who are African American.

I have engaged in wonderful conversations, in all different venues, in multiple communities, small and large, across the state with African Americans. My small Second Baptist "mill hill" church in the town I live in now with one stop light and no fast food restaurant within miles ^{has} African American members and bi-racial children who are loved and respected.

In South Carolina African Americans are professionals in every career, business owners, community leaders, as well as, leaders in state and local government.

I know there remain racists and disparities here, but that is not a realistic picture of our state and I'm sure many other Southern states.

I am proud of South Carolina and the United States, especially in regard to how far race relations have improved and continue to be addressed. I want race relations to continue to improve and disparities to be eliminated, as I'm sure a majority of citizens want, I don't want the great strides made by so many, African American and Caucasian to be minimized.

I have the same dream ^{Dr.} Martin Luther King, Jr. had. It did not die with him on

that horrible day in our history. In fact,
much of his dream has been realized!

Please unite us, African Americans
and Caucasians, to get to the place where
none of us are "judged by the color of
their skin, but by the content of their
character." What great words, from
a great man.

I am and remain a proud citizen
of South Carolina and our wonderful
United States of America,

Martha Beckham Hinson

803 374-4353