

Improving the Lives of Children Essay Contest Winner

Yolanda Long – Banneker High School, Washington, DC.

There are many things that I, as your newly elected President, would like to do in order to improve the lives of children. These things may be either long term or short term. Regardless of how long it takes, something must be done. Children are always going to be our future leaders. We must do everything in our power to ensure that they will be prepared for that. I believe that investing in education, health care, and safety will improve the lives of America's children.

Education goes a long way in the American society and is a big part of the American dream. Every other nation may not be able to provide education to everyone, but we as Americans can. Yes, each state does have a public school system, but we cannot stop there. We have to invest more time and money into these schools. Many schools do not have adequate materials. This includes up-to-date technology, libraries, textbooks, and even teachers. Although we collect taxes to pay for the public school system and all its materials, that is not enough. The parents have to be a lot more involved especially in elementary schools. Our children need all the support they can get.

In addition to education, we also need to invest in health care. Here in the United States we do not have universal health care. Even though we may not have universal health care for everyone, we should at least have it for children up to the age of twenty one. How can we expect our youth to live to see the future if they are all dying from inadequate health care? It may not be the best health care, but it is better than nothing at all. This health care would be available to all children. This includes those families who can afford private health care. If you do not want it you do not have to take it, but it will be offered nonetheless.

Finally, we need to make safety a number one priority. This includes opening more recreation centers and places for children to go. We need to implement more after-school and extra-curricular

activities. Again, we have to be there to support these children. They need to know that they are as well as feel that they are safe. How can you expect children to come to school if they do not feel safe? We need to improve on gang prevention. Our youth need other opportunities and options. We need options that will keep them off the streets and away from violence. We need to promote more positive activities. This also includes community events. We have to do whatever it takes.

We as Americans need to be more dedicated to our children. They are indeed tomorrow's leaders. How can they lead us if we do not provide a way for them? By giving them better education, better health care, and more safety, they have a better chance at succeeding in life. It will not be an easy job, but we have to do it together. I am willing to work side by side with today's leaders to improve the lives of America's children.