President Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W

Washington, D.C. 20500

May 4, 2016

Dear President Obama:

Our names are Kamari McHenry and DeMarcus Taylor, and we are juniors at Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School in Detroit, Michigan. We are writing this letter as two students who have been educated in the Detroit Public Schools system our entire lives. This year has been the most difficult of all.

Throughout the school year, we have been dealing with teacher sickouts, student walkouts, and rallies. Enough is enough! How can we learn in deplorable conditions? Many of the school buildings are old and out of date with issues of mold, and in some of our buildings have rodent issues. In some schools we have out of date technology and in every school we have antiquated textbooks. We should receive the same treatment and learning conditions as our suburban school counterparts. In addition, how can we learn when the district officials are refusing to pay our hardworking teachers?

Our teachers come to work tirelessly, each and every day to ensure that we are receiving the best education possible. Mr.President, does this make any sense to you? How can they say, “The children are the future” then show us that they do not care about our education or our learning conditions. Dr. King said, “Intelligence plus character is the goal of true education.” We invite you to see the negative conditions in the Detroit Public Schools, and to let teachers and students know that we are not in this fight alone. Please let us know if and when you will be able to come and visit us. We desperately need your help.

Thank you so much in advance for your assistance and prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

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