

First Place, 2012 Dear George Washington Contest  
Joli Dou, Fourth Grade  
Haaff Elementary School

Dear President George Washington,

My name is Susanna Katherine Lawrence, and I am a nineteen year old nurse in Philadelphia. Concerning America's future, I suggest we rebuild hospitals first. As we celebrate our victory, we are facing the paramount priority to rebuild the entire country. After eight years of war, we lost about fifty thousand people. Without the increase of population and improvement of health condition, we really have no foundation to rebuild and regain our prosperity. Besides the consideration of population growth, we are facing the urgency to treat the soldiers who were wounded or sick during the war. For soldiers who risked their lives and their health for this country, we also should recognize their contributions by showing our genuine concerns toward their suffering. During the war, the health of soldiers is likely affected by various types of diseases. Being at the scene of countless battles, I've witnessed numerous casualties as a result of typhoid, malaria, and other battlefield diseases rather than the combat. Many wounded or sick soldiers were not able to receive medical treatment, as the hospital that I formerly worked at, along with most of the hospitals in this nation were completely destroyed. Now is the time for us, as a nation, to take care of our heroes by providing their most needed services. Civilians wounded or sick during the war also desperately need hospitals to get back on their feet, as the burden and pain is beyond what their families can bear. Although the economy and education are also important concerns to our nation, health should be considered the first priority. Our country is deeply affected by this war. We trust that you, as President of the United States, will help start the healing process soon.

Sincerely,

Susanna Katherine Lawrence