

Honorable Mention, 2012 Dear George Washington Contest
Lindsey Pepper, Fifth Grade
St. George's Independent School

Abigail, a housewife from Boston with five children, agrees that all men are created equal and is very concerned about slavery being protected in our country.

75 Chestnut Street
Boston, Massachusetts
May 1, 1789

President George Washington
Federal Hall
New York City, New York

Dear President Washington,

As a proud citizen of our new nation, I congratulate you on becoming our first president of the United States. I agree with you that it is very important to protect the Americans' rights and freedoms. However, after reading your inaugural address, I am concerned that the issue of slavery was not mentioned.

In our Declaration of Independence of 1776, it stated that "all men are created equal." This means that we should treat everyone in our new nation the same way. However, we continue to protect slavery in our Constitution. Enslaved people have no freedom and are forced to work against their will. Also, they are being treated cruelly and cannot voice their unfair treatment. They have absolutely no rights to do anything. This is wrong, and it is definitely the opposite of the idea that all men should be equal.

Our nation should work toward ending slavery. In the preamble of the Declaration of Independence, it is also stated very clearly that all men "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Enslaved people should not be denied these rights, and they should be able to enjoy freedoms just like everyone else in our nation.

I understand that there are many problems facing our new nation, but it is important to protect every American's rights and freedoms. I hope that you will work toward a resolution of the slavery issue during your first term in office. Thank you for this consideration.

Sincerely,

Abigail Maier