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January 21, 2019

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The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

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Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.

Dear President Trump:

Two years ago, you very graciously afforded Drum Major Institute the opportunity to meet with you at Trump Tower on the holiday weekend of what would have been Dr. King's 88th birthday. I remember it vividly, as we started with a prayer and left filled with hope.

We were particularly encouraged when you referred to our proposal, enabling social security cards to serve as photo IDs, as a "great idea." At the time, you called Andy Young, and together we discussed the possibility of implementing the "Trump Card" as a part of your presidential efforts to strengthen the opportunities for civic participation, particularly for disadvantaged members of our society. You immediately recognized the "Trump Card" as a "great idea" and said, "why don't we do this?"

As you may remember from our meeting, this common-sense solution has broad bi-partisan support from, among others, Presidents Carter, Clinton, and Bush. It also has the support of organizations like the Brennan Center and the NAACP as well as countless members of both Houses on both sides of the aisle. Furthermore, law enforcement sees a photo on a Social Security card as a deterrent to Form I-9 fraud. Of equal importance, as we also discussed in our meeting, it is impossible to open a bank account without a photo ID, leaving poor people in the clutches of payday lenders.

I cannot think of a more fitting way to honor what would have been Dr. King's 90th birthday than you signing an Executive Order directing the Social Security Administration to make it possible for all citizens, who so desire, to have their photos added to their Social Security cards, free of charge.

As a president who says: "I always keep my promises," we hope you will keep this one.

Respectfully,



Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.