

BARACK OBAMA

May 18, 2017

Mrs. Jearline Williams
Washington, D.C.

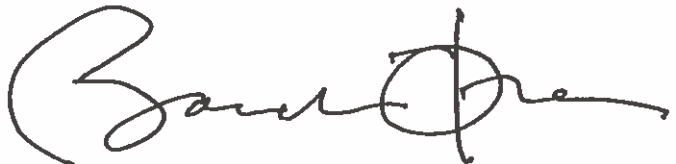
Dear Jerri:

I was so sorry to hear of Eddie's passing and wanted to let you know that Michelle and I are thinking of you during this difficult time.

Over the course of his career—from his work in government to his time shepherding the development of the Joint Center—Eddie devoted his boundless passion, talent, and energy to broadening horizons and bringing communities of color all across our country into the democratic process. His efforts spanning decades have contributed to building a more diverse, inclusive body of government. And through his quiet yet visionary leadership, he steered our national conversation from focusing not just on the assurance of equal rights and representation, but on the presence of equal economic opportunity.

While no words can ease your pain, I hope you find some comfort in knowing that your husband's legacy will endure in you and in your family, and that his spirit will continue to inspire all those who lead better lives today thanks to his lifetime of advocacy and service. As you reflect on fond memories made with Eddie, know that you and your loved ones will remain in my thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack Obama". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a distinct "O" and "B" in the middle.