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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
February 19, 2015

PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE WHIP

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
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AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
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COMMITTEE ON RULES

STEERING AND POLICY

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Throughout your six years in office, you have demonstrated a lasting commitment to defending the human rights of minority populations throughout the world. The diplomatic and economic power of the United States makes us uniquely positioned to advocate for and effect change on behalf of individuals who are persecuted at the hands of other governments. In keeping with this responsibility, I encourage you to use every tool available to you to bring an end to ongoing human rights abuses in Brunei and Malaysia, including the present Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

As you are no doubt aware, the Sultan of Brunei last year established a strict penal code that calls for the torture and execution of LGBT individuals and religious minorities and institutionalizes the subjugation of women. Similarly, in Malaysia, being LGBT is defined as a crime, punishable by torture and imprisonment. Under your administration, the United States has made an unprecedented effort to protect the rights of LGBT individuals abroad. I urge you now to stand up for oppressed groups in Brunei and Malaysia by making the end of state-sanctioned violence and discrimination against LGBT individuals and other minorities in these nations a key focus of your trade agenda.

Because of the present TPP negotiations, the United States has an important opportunity to leverage our economic power for the benefit of thousands of men, women, and children whose wellbeing is at risk because of discriminatory laws that criminalize core aspects of their identities. As negotiations over the TPP proceed, I hope you will seize the occasion by expressing to the governments of Brunei and Malaysia in no uncertain terms that their ongoing violations of basic human rights must end.

Thank you again for your work to date on behalf of the world's LGBT population. I look forward to working with you and your administration to bring an end to discriminatory laws that subject minority groups to violence and danger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress