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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

When our great First Lady Michelle Obama said in 2011, "This is really what the White House is all about. It's the 'People's House.' It's a place that is steeped in history, but it's also a place where everyone should feel welcome. And that's why my husband and I have made it our mission to open up the house to as many people as we can," I was elated. As a history major I have always enjoyed telling others about the rich history of the house you presently call home.

Having been inspired by my family's one trip from East Texas to Washington when I was a child, I was brokenhearted to hear of your decision to end access to the White House.

Since becoming President we have often seen your family vacations to places such as Hawaii and Martha's Vineyard and what gratification you had in treating your children to these enjoyments. That is why I realize that you must understand the sadness many Americans are now feeling after being told by your staff that they would indeed be getting a chance to tour the White House, only later to have you go back on your word and strip them of the chance of a lifetime. It is even more disappointing since you have known about the sequestration cuts since you proposed them over a year and a half ago before all of these families and groups were even making their plans to spend their hard-earned money to come to Washington.

You have often called for solidarity in your speeches; therefore, I am asking you now to lead the way. One way to do this is to give up your golf outings in order to save enough money to transfer funds to allow the tours to continue. It would show that you are willing to give up something you love very much, in order to give others a chance to do something they would love a chance to do. The choice would be for your 116th golf outing as President, or the opportunity for young children to have their first and, for most, their only tour of the White House.

You may not have even been aware but after the Salahi's illegally gained entrance into a White House State Dinner in November of 2009, due to the failure of your Social Secretary as established during testimony at a House Homeland Security Committee hearing, the Secret Service checkpoints to get in to the White House were tripled. It also appeared that the number of Secret Service staff were at least doubled, along with a new requirement that Secret Service

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who were checking in tourists wear government purchased uniforms instead of their own suits and ties.

Since the buck stops with you and you have plenty of money to allow the tours with a modest amount of reorganization or even missing a golf trip or two, and on behalf of school children all over the nation, I humbly suggest you let them have their self-guided walk through of the White House. During these tough economic times, so many Americans have planned, saved and scrimped enough funds to make their one lifetime trip to their Capital city this spring. Please don't be the one person who stands between them and lifelong memories with inspirational moments. The change in the operating status of the White House that destroys the dreams and excitement of school children across the country is change we cannot, should not, and will not believe in.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter for Americans everywhere.

With warmest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louie Gohmert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "L" and "G".

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress