

Dear First Lady Melania Trump,

Being a leader is something that may come easy for some, but harder for others. I have been honored to be selected as a Be Strong Florida representative. There are different ways to which I extend my voice and influence in order to advocate change in the world.

I live in Boca Raton, Florida and I am a sophomore. I have the privilege of being a captain on my basketball team. This is a large role that I am thrilled to be taking on. Last year, we won the 2016 Class 9A State Championship, so we have a high standard to live up to again this season. One way that I try and create change is by being an influential leader on my team. By advocating positive energy and togetherness, I know our team will succeed even more than we could imagine. In life, teamwork is the best way to conquer obstacles. I always believe it is crucial to be able to have faith in one another. If everyone comes together, we can be stronger than anything that comes our way.

Another aspect that has allowed my team to grow together is a club that one of my teammates created to advocate for the end of bullying. The name of the club is B.A.S.E, which stands for "Bobcat Alliance of Student Excellence." Our club quote is, "You are not alone." Through this club, on Mondays we come together and advocate positivity. Last week in all the girl's bathrooms at my school we put up signs quoting, "You are beautiful" and "You can do it." We put up these signs in hope that throughout the day all the girls that read them will simply smile or be inspired by the messages, realizing that they are not alone. Many people may feel like they are the only ones going through something and we offer help to new students or anyone who may struggle with bullying or other obstacles. We refer them to the professionals at our

school who can assist them even further than students. This club represents the importance for people to come together even more.

Moreover, there is something special that I get the pleasure of doing every morning. I get the opportunity to work with the special needs students in my school. Throughout this experience, I have learned so much about not only the students, but myself. I have created a bond with them that seems unbreakable, and have been able to see where my personality truly shines. Nothing makes me happier than seeing the smile on their faces when they see me, and I have the brightest smile on my face when I see them. My dream is to start a bullying campaign that will end any bullying of these special needs students. They are human and are just as brilliant, unique, and special as every other student at Boca High. As I represent the State of Florida, I will always hold the belief that nobody is alone in their tribulations or day to day life. I will always be there for anyone that needs a hand or ear to listen, and I know that if we all come together, greatness will be achieved.

Sincerely,

Grace Alfieri
Florida Be Strong State Representative