



Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz, President

בית המדרש לרבנים ליהדות מתחדשת



December 18, 2008

President-Elect Barack Obama  
Washington, DC

Dear President-Elect Obama,

Thank you for all that you have done and plan to do in service to our country. It is my hope that as President you will be able to change the nature of the dialogue on many issues. One of those issues is what has traditionally been labeled “family values.”

Your willingness to serve our country provides you with a unique opportunity regarding your role as a husband and father. I write to underscore how important it is that you have placed a high priority on your family.

The President of the United States is a role model. I look forward to photographs of President Obama as he attends parent-teacher conferences and children’s soccer games. I imagine the tremendous impact these photographs will have on busy parents and their employers as they too struggle to make difficult choices. Your example can inspire others to make sure that American children will know they are loved and cared for. What greater legacy could a President have?

Your service to America does not stop when you make time for your family. When you extend love and attention to them, you bring your service to America to a new arena. Your beautiful dedication to your family can help change the dialogue surrounding “family values.” Family values can refer to making time for our children and showing devotion and respect to our partners. Used in this fashion, support for “family values” can be a rallying cry to strengthen the great diversity of families that make up today’s America.

And it is your love for your wife and children, and theirs for you, that will be America’s most treasured ally as you confront all the other challenges that lie ahead. For all of us, nurture that love and keep it strong.

With blessings,

Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz