

United States Senate

April 7, 2022

Lauren Yu and Lauren Kim Maxfield
Bergen County Academies
200 Hackensack Ave
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601

Dear Lauren & Lauren,

It is a pleasure to congratulate you on the selection of your C-SPAN StudentCam documentary, *Untreated: The Mental Health Crisis*. I commend you both for your work to highlight the importance of mental health equity. Your leadership continues to serve as an inspiration and a welcome reminder that change often starts with a team of passionate people and a bold idea.

To prioritize mental health is to prioritize life, liberty, and love. As Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy kindly reminds us, "emotional well-being is more than the absence of a mental illness. It's that resource within each of us which allows us to reach ever closer to our full potential, and which also enables us to be resilient in the face of adversity." In order to create a world of equal access to mental health services, it is vital that we use our voices to speak up for what is right.

Your work, which will be seen by people across the country, demonstrates your commitment to investigative journalism and its core principle of shining a light on an often-overlooked issue. As you celebrate this impressive achievement and look toward the future, I encourage you to continue using your talents to advocate for the issues that are important to you. I am so encouraged by our younger generations who know that we can achieve truly remarkable things, and that begins with you!

Again, congratulations! New Jersey is proud to call you one of its own.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator