Levi White

Hood College Essay Contest

Given the extraordinary circumstances of this past year, voting now has an immense impact on me. Since I just turned 18-years-old a month ago, this will be my first time voting. Voting is a great responsibility to hold, considering the monumental impacts that the results of the upcoming election have the potential to hold over the future of the United States. The 2020 election holds immense power in the future of my rights, considering I am transgender, as well as the future of other minorities’ rights. Throughout Donald Trump’s presidency, there have been many instances in which he has tried to roll back civil rights and protections among many different minority groups.

In January 2017, Trump signed an executive order, which was the first version of his Muslim ban, an executive order that discriminated against Muslims and banned refugees. On February 21, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memo that updated immigration enforcement guidance, which massively expanded the number of individuals subject to detention and deportation. The next day, on February 22, the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division and the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights rescinded the Title IX guidance, a federal law that clarifies protections under the law for transgender students. Thus, this election is not based on the premise of political beliefs, but on the premise of different morals as minority groups’ civil rights are endangered.

Considering the inequality of healthcare provided in relation to COVID-19, as well as minorities’ positions in society, a political figure with high enough authority could correct the injustices in healthcare experienced by minorities and the public’s view of a global pandemic. According to a study by David Williams and Toni Rucker, black persons have higher rates of morbidity and mortality than white persons. This is because black persons and minorities have lower levels of access to medical care in the United States due to the under-representation in jobs that include health insurance being included in their benefits, as well as higher rates of unemployment (75). American Indians and Hispanics also have elevated disease and death rates for multiple conditions (75). Donald Trump has had great influence on society’s views of the COVID-19, which in turn has greatly impacted the spread of the virus.

When comparing the United States’ management of the COVID-19 to New Zealand’s management, one can see how mismanaged the United States’ response was. As New Zealand successfully eliminated COVID-19 transmission, the United States is still combating the fact that people in society are not following the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s guidelines, because they believe the policy is taking away their constitutional rights. Donald Trump has consistently lied about the severity of COVID-19, and early in the beginning of the pandemic he encouraged people to inject disinfectant into their bloodstream as treatment for COVID-19.

After testing positive for COVID-19 and returning to the White House after being hospitalized, Trump immediately took off his mask, thus endangering the employees and everyone near him, setting a bad precedent for the public and validating the people that refuse to wear their masks in public. Through Trump’s disregard and apathy toward the severity of COVID-19, his administration has been negligent in regard to amending the healthcare system in order to help prevent the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people.

Works Cited

Williams, D R, and T D Rucker. “Understanding and addressing racial disparities in health

care.” *Health care financing review* vol. 21,4 (2000): 75-90.