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Galena, Alaska 99741
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Mr. Brian Lamb
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
C-SPAN
Suite 650
400 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

April 5, 1995

Dear Mr. Lamb:

Close Up is a superb educational and motivational program for students and educators. In addition to being well planned and organized, it is staffed with knowledgeable, enthusiastic, energetic and committed people who know and are excited about the exchange of ideas, the structure and function of our government, and the Washington, DC area. They are also skilled at working with young people and connecting them in challenging and meaningful ways to their national history and their role as citizens.

Students were given access to a variety of ideas and viewpoints on a broad range of issues and were encouraged and stimulated to grapple with them in meaningful ways. Students were given firm guidelines for personal behavior and accountability and were instructed in appropriate methods for sharing and challenging ideas in a public forum. There were workshops, debates, meetings, panels and one-on-one discussions of issues such as welfare reform, the role of government in the professional baseball dispute and government support of the arts. Students didn't just listen. They participated, reacted and contributed in lively (and appropriate) exchanges and discussions.

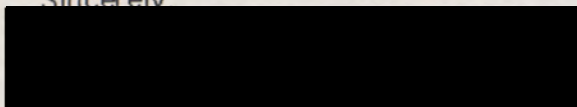
Students spent at least a day and a half on Capitol Hill exploring the legislative and judicial branches of the government, meeting and talking with elected representatives, staff, lobbyists and interested citizens. The students also visited national monuments, the Pentagon, local universities and museums and saw a stage play and ate at a Washington, DC restaurant. For rural Alaskan students especially, this was an exciting and broadening experience. They got a taste of Washington, DC, saw their government in action and took an active part in the issues of the day, meeting the people who make and influence our laws and government. They discovered that government impacts us in many ways and that they have a voice and an active role and responsibility in their government.

Living and learning in a very close relationship with their peers from all over the United States and Puerto Rico gave students an opportunity to hear a variety of viewpoints and opinions. They were able to attach faces, names and personalities to contemporary issues. Friendships were forged and an awareness of a country rich in diversity was created in this very intense and exciting week.

In a time when we are constantly challenged to educate our children in meaningful, "hands-on" ways, I cannot think of a more appropriate and effective way of turning people on to government and the responsibility, privilege and challenge of citizenship than the **Close Up** program.

Your support of **Close Up** is greatly appreciated and I hope it will continue.

Sincerely



Chaperone, Parent and Educator