

Dear Mrs. Northam,

February 25, 2019

I am [REDACTED] an 8th grader at [REDACTED] and I am writing to you due to recent events. I recently served as a Senate Page, and my class along with the House Pages visited the mansion. When in the cottage house you were speaking about cotton, and how the slaves had to pick it. There are only three Black pages in the page class of 2019. When you went to hand out the cotton you handed it straight to another African American page, then you proceeded to hand it to me, I did not take it. The other page took the cotton, but it made her very uncomfortable. I will give you the benefit of the doubt, because you gave it to some other pages. But you followed this up by asking: "Can you imagine being an enslaved person, and having to pick this all day?", which didn't help the damage you had done. The comments and just the way you carried yourself during this time was beyond inappropriate, especially considering recent events with the Governor. From the time we walked into the mansion to the time in the cottage house, I did not receive a welcoming vibe. It was very testing to know I had to go somewhere, and I had no choice as to if I went, I had to be respectful, and be on my best behaviour, even when the people in positions of power I was around were not doing the same. I hope this was a learning experience for everyone involved, and that no one else is subjected to this. I hope to hear back from you soon!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]