

United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State
for Legislative Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520-7325

June 18, 2020

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Serving as the Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs for nearly two years has been a tremendous honor. Serving as the nation's first Black woman to hold this position has made this experience even more meaningful.

Since joining the Administration in January 2017, I have strived to facilitate constructive dialogue between the Legislative and Executive Branches – two institutions I revere. Though it rarely makes the headlines, I am proud of the work I have done.

I am deeply grateful to you, Mr. Secretary, for empowering me to lead this team and strategically advise you over these last two years. You have shown grace and respect in listening to my opinions, and your remarkable leadership has made me a better leader and team member. I appreciate that you understand my strong loyalty to my personal convictions and values, particularly in light of recent events.

Moments of upheaval can change you, shift the trajectory of your life, and mold your character. The President's comments and actions surrounding racial injustice and Black Americans cut sharply against my core values and convictions. I must follow the dictates of my conscience and resign as Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs.

I am honored to have served, and wish you and the entire Department the very best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Elizabeth Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mary Elizabeth Taylor