Name: Rebecca Harper Grade: 12 School: Windham Technical High School 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr had a dream for America to make this place paradise on earth for people of all races. For a person of his time he was very well read and respected as a civil rights activist. The courage and perseverance he had as a leader to the black community was inspiring. King fought the segregation laws at risk to his life and his family's lives. Many people looked up to him as he led them through many years of mistreatment. He understood them for he had suffered the same mistreatment from a very young age.

Looking at the future, I plan to aid in the fairness and equality for females across the country. Unfortunately, even with the amount of success we have had in past years for women's rights. It seems that recently we have taken a couple steps back. About a year ago, women lost one of their biggest supporters and speakers for women's rights, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Who during her time in law school balanced the feats of caring for her children and her husband with cancer. She was such a strong woman. In my lifetime if I could achieve even a quarter of the things she did I would feel accomplished. I like to think I have always spoken up for myself when I get profiled based on my gender. It is important to me to not judge someone based on their outward appearance.

Learning of Martin Luther King Jr. from such a young age gives children hope. Expanding my knowledge of him now, it gives me great ambition to tackle women's rights head on. All that King fought for despite the cost gives me hope for the possible future. He was able to achieve great things as Ruth Bader Ginsburg did after him. No longer will I stay quiet about the rights I know I deserve. So I thank Martin Luther King Jr. for all that he sacrificed in his life, and all that he was able to change. I will do what I can to be the best version of myself and achieve even a fraction of what he did.