

February , 2025

Dear

I'm writing to you to request on March 4, 2025 you silently stand and turn your back as Donald Trump delivers the State of the Union Address, and that you keep your back turned for the duration of the address. You may recall that a previous request was made that you do this during the January 20, 2025 Oath of Office and Inaugural Address. Not one Democrat participated.

Each of you knows better than I that "norms," respect for the rule of law, due process, and equal protection mean nothing to this President. More evidence of his unfitness for any office is not necessary. Evidence of ongoing, coordinated, intentional, and public shows of resistance to his anti-democratic language and behavior on the part of you and your colleagues in federal, state, and local government is essential.

When John Lewis, Dr. King, and thousands of others marched, sat, were assaulted, and jailed in the 1950s and 1960s, they got up the next morning and did it again. And then they did it again. And again. Standing silently and turning your backs on Donald Trump, whose list of dangerous disqualifiers is too long for this letter, is a public, symbolic act that will make a national and a global statement. Intentional, coordinated, symbolic, public acts matter.

This President and administration have already indicated their absolute disregard for what I believe you stand for—your discrete differences on specific issues and policy notwithstanding. They already treat you—and millions of us—with disdain. Standing silently with your backs turned won't make it any worse. Maybe some folks will boo; great, perhaps they'll drown out the address.

If things go well between today and March 4, you will be receiving many more letters, emails, and phone messages from folks around the country repeating this request to turn your back on Trump.

This request assumes you will be in attendance. I hope you will. Please don't let us down.

Gratefully,