

David Rose-Carmack Endorsement

“One candidate in this race knows the heartbeat of this community. Karen Mallard’s character and commitment will serve us all well in Congress. I could not be more proud or honored to endorse Karen Mallard for Congress in Virginia’s 2nd District, and encourage anyone reading this to vote for Karen on Tuesday, June 12, 2018.”

“As I reflect, in this moment, on the congressional race in the 2nd district this year, I see a slate of choices that spans a vast breadth of the American political spectrum. On one hand, we have our incumbent, Scott Taylor, a politician who has not only been in near political lock-step with our president, but has publicly emulated his cruelty, mocking his own constituents on social media as well as in formal meetings. One cannot honestly represent in government a community that one holds in disdain. Taylor has demonstrated his disdain for some of his constituents, his propensity to discount the intrinsic worth of those people with whom he disagrees, a true disservice to us all. I would expect better from any elected official, on the right or the left.

Somehow, from within the community of local Republican politicians, a candidate has emerged who promises to be even more in sync with our president - more in sync than a representative who has voted with the president 98.5% of the time - and even more cruel, asserting on her website that fair housing for the LGBT community is somehow divisive. Our founding fathers saw a self-evident truth, that all of us are created equal, and endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Ensuring that all people are free from discrimination is the embodiment of that ideal. It is the opposite of divisive. To suggest otherwise flies in the face of the stated values of our founding fathers and the creator they exalted.

We must ensure that our leadership in congress does not embody or empower the cruelty we have seen from the President and his administration. Both Republican candidates have made clear their alignment with the President’s ideology and both have demonstrated that they have no interest in or ability to represent the full, broad constituency of our district with the distinction that we all deserve. It is abundantly clear that neither should be given the honor of representing Virginia’s 2nd district in the halls of Congress.

On the other hand, two candidates have broken out of a crowded field on the Democratic side. Both would surely serve our community well as both have served our community for decades. Elaine Luria is retired navy. Having grown up with my father in the Navy, and having seen him retire, I understand the sacrifice it takes to serve in uniform for 20 years. I wholeheartedly appreciate Elaine’s service to our country, and I wish her the best with her political aspirations. She deserves a chance to represent our community and I have no doubt that at some point she will.

But at this point in this race, it would be a grave mistake to view credentials outside of context and continuity. Elaine, to this point, has shown herself to be lukewarm on a whole host of policy positions one would readily expect from a Democratic candidate. Coupled with her admission that she voted twice in 2016 for Scott Taylor, the incumbent she is seeking to unseat, her legitimacy as a capable challenger to Taylor is precarious at best. The fact that Elaine voted for Scott Taylor in the 2016 Republican primary is not a credit to her commitment to voting in every election. While I admire her determination to vote, when faced with a decision between ‘bad’ and ‘worse’, one may follow and choose, or one may lead and find a better way. Elaine may have felt personally compelled to vote in that election, but she was under no obligation to vote for Taylor, or Forbes, or Cardwell. She determined that Taylor was worthy of an affirmative vote. In the general election, she found him

worthy of another vote, one that would help send Scott Taylor to Congress. At a recent candidate forum, Luria justified her vote for Taylor with the argument that there was little information available about the Democratic candidate, Shaun Brown. As a congresswoman, Luria will be faced with decisions where little information is available, or where information is not easily obtained. It will be her responsibility to use the resources at her disposal to find the information that she needs, even when it is not easy. All it would have taken was a Google search to see that Taylor was just as partisan and divisive in the Virginia House of Delegates as he has been in Congress. And it would have been just as simple to find out more about Brown's history and platform. Based on policy, personal history, and the information available at that time, Brown should have been the easy choice for any person who could have gone on to seek the Democratic nomination in 2018. Luria's two votes for Taylor signal to me either neglect of her responsibility as a voter to make an informed decision in one of the most important elections in our time, or an endorsement of the kind of politics that Scott Taylor has characterized throughout his career. While Luria is an accomplished individual and a deserving candidate, she is simply not the right pick in this primary for our district.

Thankfully, we have a better choice. Karen Mallard's story is nothing short of inspiring. The daughter of a coal miner, Karen grew up in a poor family in western Virginia. Her father was a union man who took nothing for granted. The community she grew up in was tirelessly engaged. Those workers stood together to make sure their families were able to live the best life possible. Out of an impoverished childhood, Karen was able to attend college, and went on to become a teacher. The first person she ever taught to read was her own father. Over 30 years ago, Karen came to Hampton Roads and has served our community and our military families ever since as a teacher with Virginia Beach Public Schools. True to her upbringing, Karen has been tirelessly engaged in our community, as a teacher, a parent, a voter, a volunteer, and now a candidate. I had the privilege, as a candidate last year, of watching her work for every campaign in Virginia Beach and beyond. I saw the sacrifice Karen is willing to make for the betterment of our community. I saw how hard Karen is willing to work to bring about much needed change in our community. As this campaign has unfolded, I have gained a greater sense for Karen's strength and resolve, watching her stand up against injustice, and stare down those who would see her give up the fight. She is clearly and unequivocally on the right side of the issues that matter: on healthcare, on education, on basic reforms to make our community and our country a safer and more fair place to live. She is clearly willing and able to fight to make a difference.

One candidate in this race knows the heartbeat of this community. Those of us who call this place home know it well. We live in solidarity with our neighbors, we understand the importance of personal sacrifice for the greater good. It's in our blood. No outside PAC or partisan group could ever hope to understand our needs better than someone who has dedicated so much of her life to lifting this community up, who embodies the very dream that we all share, of leaving a better world for our children than the one we inherited. **Karen Mallard's character and commitment will serve us all well in Congress. I could not be more proud or honored to endorse Karen Mallard for Congress in Virginia's 2nd District, and encourage anyone reading this to vote for Karen on Tuesday, June 12, 2018."**