



(Address)

Washington, DC (zip)

April 23, 2019

Dear _____,

The Republican Party has used fear as a tactic for decades: citing welfare queens, to demanding English only, to threats that Sharia Law would rule, to fears of the Ground Zero Mosque.

But the rhetoric used by Trump, his administration and the current Republican Party have reached a new level that creates an atmosphere of alarm and very real danger.

From the day Trump announced his run for the Presidency when he called Mexicans “rapists and drug dealers”, his bigotry and attempts to stoke fear were evident. Since taking the Presidency, he has:

- called African countries “shit holes”,
- equated white supremacists to “fine people”,
- instituted a “complete and total Muslim ban”,
- accused women of color of having “low IQ”,
- called immigrants “animals”,
- said “blacks were too stupid to vote for him”,
- accused a judge of not being able to be fair because he was of “Mexican heritage”,
- accused Obama of being a “secret Muslim”, and
- stated that “thousands of Muslims cheered in New Jersey when the World Trade Towers came down”, to name a few.

Recently, Trump posted to his twitter feed an inflammatory video of Representative Ilhan Omar that took her comments out of context and combined them with graphic images of 9/11. She has received death threats, and a New York man was arrested for the threats he made to kill her.

This is an unacceptable and dangerous situation. Hate speech and crimes are on the rise. With the number of hate crime deaths up 35% since 2018, 73% of these are associated with right-wing groups. A number of groups, including the Ku Klux Klan and the Alt-Right, support Trump and cite him as their justification and reason to make racist comments and attack on minorities.

During Trump’s administration, there have been attacks by:

- a Kentucky man who shot two black people in a grocery store,
- an anti-Semite who shot 11 people in a Pittsburgh synagogue,
- a military veteran who shot two women in a yoga studio,
- a white supremacist who hit a crowd with his car at a rally killing 1,
- a Florida man who sent 11 bombs to Democratic targets,
- a veteran who was found with a cache of weapons and plans for a massive attack,
- three African American churches burned
- a man naming Trump as his justification for his attack on a New Zealand mosque, to name just a few.

It is essential for all politicians to speak out against this rhetoric that incites violence and will result in more death. None of the victims, including Representative Ilhan Omar, deserve this. No one deserves this. Any politician who does not speak up becomes complicit, an abettor and cannot be considered acting in the interest of their constituents.

We urge all elected officials to speak out against injustice, bigotry and hatred.

Valley Grassroots for Democracy

To:

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Kamala Harris

Congressman Tony Cardenas

Congresswoman Judy Chu

Congresswoman Katie Hill

Congressman Adam Schiff

Congressman Brad Sherman