

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Bennie Thompson  
Chairman  
Select Committee to Investigate the January 6<sup>th</sup> Attack of the United States Capitol  
Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson,

We write to you today to express the urgent need to continue the work of the Select Committee and expeditiously get to the bottom of the motivations and causes of the insurrection at the United States Capitol that took place on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

As recently highlighted by the Washington Post's in-depth investigation, there is still much left to be uncovered and explained from that day. The report examines conversations, emails, phone calls, and other correspondents' months, days, and hours leading up to the horrific event. The amount of red flags and glaring alarms that were either ignored or fell on deaf ears is inexcusable on a multitude of levels. The last time the United States Capitol was under attack by a hostile force was in 1814 and by a foreign power. Never before has our symbol of democracy ever faced a threat so serious from its own constituency. The fact that a mob, fueled by hatred and racism and spoon-feed lies by allies of the former President - and the former President himself - is not only deeply troubling, but only signifies the seriousness of this attack.


As more time passes, we write to you and the Committee to say that this cannot be forgotten, or even normalized, and we must move swiftly to bring justice and accountability to the perpetrators. We are thankful for the work you and the Committee have done thus far and ask that you continue to push for the answers we desperately need. In the meantime, we identify three issues below we would like to highlight as you continue your work:

- Since January 6<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of individuals have been charged with some degree of involvement or action taken during the insurrection. However, many reports show most of those individuals are let go on misdemeanor charges. In light of the severity of this attack, the lack of more serious charges is troubling. We hope that the Select Committee, as well as the Department of Justice, look into this issue and ensure that the charges levied on the insurrectionists match the seriousness of the attack.
- It is our hope that more public hearings take place and that individuals who were key in orchestrating or encouraging the actions that took place be brought forth to testify under oath. A full and accurate account of the events of January 6<sup>th</sup> is needed so that the undeniable truth is made available to the American people.
- This is an event that must never be forgotten or diminished in the eyes of American history. We urge the Select Committee and all other agencies and Departments investigating the insurrection

to do what they can to preserve all documentation, make them available for the public, and plan accordingly to ensure that this type of attack on our democracy is never repeated.

We appreciate your work on this important issue and look forward to uncovering the full scope of what happened without delay.

Sincerely,



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN  
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member of Congress



DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.  
Member of Congress



VAL DEMINGS  
Member of Congress



LUCY MCBATH  
Member of Congress



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