



## INSURRECTION CONDEMNATION RESOLUTION CO-AUTHOR'S STATEMENT

Good Evening Mr. President, Mr. Vice-President, Madame Chair, members of the Senate, and William and Mary Community.

Tonight, we gather here to discuss a topic and vote on a resolution that I never thought would ever be discussed. An instance of domestic terrorism not at the hands of foreign advertises, rather from the President of the United States. On January 6th, I watched the horror that unfolded at the Capitol Building. I witnessed the rioting, the angry mobs, the looting, the destruction, and more importantly, the murder of innocent men and women. And what was the purpose? To satisfy the ego of a man who lost an election fairly. To undermine the very process, he swore an oath to defend. To undermine a nation, he swore to protect. In short, we witnessed the malicious, callous, immaturity, and vile behavior of President Donald Trump.

What occurred in Washington, DC, was a betrayal of our democratic values, our process, and moral authority. What occurred in Washington DC was a betrayal of the men and women who spent their lives in public service, those who died on the field of battle defending our flag, and a slap to the face to the men and women who built this country- many who are alumni. Washington, Jefferson, Marshall, and Blair, to name a few.

The United States of America was founded on the ideals of freedom, justice, and liberty. In our sacred text, our forebears believed that our citizens should have the right to pursue their dreams, hopes, and aspirations in a free society. They also believed that a government should be ruled by the people and for the people, knowing that disagreements were allowed as long as they were respectful, facts-driven, and honorable in their intentions. In short, a republican democracy of thoughtful debate to improve the human condition so that men and women can pursue their happiness with equality under the law.



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President Trump and fringe members of the Republican Party betrayed the nation, the flag, and the Office of the President. They betrayed the constructive process that is American democracy and gave into destruction and violence. In the words of John Adams, the constitution was designed for religious and moral people. Obviously, they fell short of this intent as well.

As an American, I'm deeply troubled and upset. This isn't the nation I was promised, the values I was taught, and the leadership I aspire to. To our international students, I'm sorry you've witnessed our nation as its worst. We haven't lived up to our promise. We haven't lived up to our pursuit of equality. We haven't lived up to our call to be an educated society. In short, we haven't been able to deliver the American dream that so many of our ancestors fought, died, and worked hard to become an American. We have disrespected their honor. We have disrespected their stewardship of democracy.

As a Rockefeller Republican, this isn't the party that I want to be part of. The Republican party I learned about ended slavery, gave women the right to vote, gave African Americans the right to vote, ended the military draft, gave equal opportunity through the Americans with Disabilities Act. It was the party of Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Ford, Rockefeller, McCain, Reagan, George HW Bush, and George W Bush. If this party continues down this road of perdition, it will lose its moral authority to govern and to lead. Republicans have a clear choice to make; either you are with the democracy, or you're with Trump. I hope you make the right choice.

The lesson that can be learned from what transpired on January 6th is that we cannot give in to this division, this immaturity, this loss of advanced American citizenship, this loss of our values. We cannot devolve into disrespectful behavior. We have to be open to diversity, religious, empathetic, and committed to doing justice. We have to celebrate our victories in a respectable fashion and learn to reflect on our losses to become better.



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We have to be willing to own our mistakes and move forward. We must strive to be men and women with and for others. It's what leaders do; it's what our forefathers and mothers did in building our nation.

In closing, our nation must continue to pursue equality under the law. Our nation must pursue the human spirit of hope, a value that can never be cancelled or shaken to the core. We must always strive to be the shining city on the hilltop so that the dreams of the huddled masses can occur in this nation.

Thank you

Peter Hayden

MBAA President

Business Senator ('21)