

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3006

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In the monarchies, the King is the law. In the free countries, the law will be king.
—Tom Paine

Dear Colleagues:

Every Member of this great Caucus knows this:

We are in the fight of our lives.

The stakes have gone way up since the election. The emerging elements of the new administration are familiar: the spectacular pay-to-play corruption, the overt plutocracy and unrepentant misogyny and racism; the cavalier lawlessness and contempt for the Constitution; and the determination to make government an instrument of fear and cruelty.

But this time the MAGA movement has not only a trifecta but a complicit Supreme Court waiting in the wings and a dominant media propaganda system parroting all the lies.

House Democrats must stand in the breach to defend the principles and institutions of constitutional democracy. That is our historic assignment now. **We dare not fail.**

Our unified Caucus must strategize and organize like never before—every single one of us working together every single day until we win the House back in 2026 and then beyond that—to defend our nation against tyranny and to serve and protect the American people. With the GOP's razor-thin margin of 220-215, we must advance the legislation, amendments and arguments that will prove irresistible to the American majority and will enable us to block a further descent into MAGA chaos.

And each one of us must reflect hard and decide--in close consultation with colleagues and Leadership--where we can be most personally effective in the fight to recapture a majority in Congress that can promote national progress.

After a week consulting most of our Colleagues and engaging in serious introspection about where we are, **I am running today to be your Ranking Member on the House Judiciary Committee in the 119th Congress.** This is where we will wage our front-line defense of the freedoms and rights of the people, the integrity of the Department of Justice and the FBI, and the security of our most precious birthright possessions: the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the rule of law, and democracy itself.

I respectfully and humbly ask for your support for my candidacy.

I am ready to enter this battle with every fiber of my being. For new colleagues I'm just meeting, I was a professor of constitutional law and the First Amendment for more than 25

years at American University Washington College of Law and taught also at Yale Law School. (You will find that many Colleagues like to call me “Professor” in floor debate, which, to be sure, is not usually a compliment.) For a decade I served in, and became Majority Whip of, the Maryland State Senate; there, I led the fight in the Free State for marriage equality, abolition of the death penalty, restoration of voting rights for former prisoners and passage of the National Popular Vote interstate compact.

When I was sworn into the House in 2017, I joined the Judiciary Committee under John Conyers and the Oversight Committee under Elijah Cummings as my primary committees, later adding service on Rules, House Administration and several other select committees.

I was there on the House floor during the Joint Session of Congress on January 6th, 2021 to receive the Electoral College votes from the 2020 presidential election. With Speaker Nancy Pelosi leading us, and Jim McGovern standing sentinel over the body, I worked on the floor with Joe Neguse, Zoe Lofgren, and Adam Schiff to defend Joe Biden’s 306-232 victory in the Electoral College against the disgraceful plot—through means parliamentary, fraudulent and ultimately violent—to overturn and void his election.

As our officers battled to repel the MAGA riot and invasion of the Capitol, I caucused with David Cicilline, Ted Lieu and Joe Neguse to draft a vivid and compelling Article of Impeachment against Trump for inciting this insurrection against the Constitution.

One week later, we impeached Trump. Speaker Pelosi then asked me to be the Lead House Manager in the Senate trial, which ended a month later with a 57-43 vote to convict, the most sweeping bipartisan vote for conviction in a presidential impeachment trial in American history—and yet still ten votes short of the required two-thirds majority. (I wrote a book about these wrenching events called *Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy*.)

I served vigorously on the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol under the leadership of our beloved Chairman Bennie Thompson. I declined the offer to become Vice-Chair of the Committee, instead advancing our colleague Liz Cheney for the position so America would see the bipartisan nature of our probe into the attempt to coerce the Vice President and the Congress to overthrow the winner of the 2020 election.

In the 118th Congress, I successfully ran for the position of Ranking Member on the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and then took a leave from Judiciary to focus on my new responsibilities. **When I ran for Oversight Ranking Member, I promised that I would organize the Members into America’s “Truth Squad” to refute the GOP’s lies, debunk their propaganda and arrest the fraudulent impeachment drive against President Biden.**

The Oversight Democrats became that Truth Squad, a cohesive and nimble political fighting force, and we destroyed the GOP’s drive to impeach Joe Biden—their #1 priority in the 118th Congress—before the eyes of the world.

How did we do that? By constant brainstorming, planning and strategizing through the night, by using the remarkable talents of every single Democratic Member in every context we could. We debunked every lie and conspiracy theory they threw at us. And, without any rancor, we ultimately embarrassed the Republicans for their slapstick political smear campaign against the President and their epic waste of public resources. By the end of the 118th Congress, Chairman Comer’s Folly had become a laughingstock on late-night TV and the object of ridicule even on *Fox News*.

But we never let go of the positive agenda, maintaining investigative work and Democratic roundtables on the epidemic of gun violence and how communities and schools are struggling to turn it around, the fight to protect abortion access for American women, and the fight for voting rights and integrity and transparency in government.

So now, my friends, it is once more into the breach for us all. We face an administration that would essentially put the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 on steroids. They want to turn the Justice Department and FBI into weapons of not only mass immigrant roundup and deportation but political revenge and prosecution. They would collapse the system of separated powers into an all-powerful monarchical Executive, and convert America from being a defender of democracy and human rights to being an open collaborator with autocrats and authoritarian oppression. They want to align us with Putin's Russia, Kim Jong Un's North Korea, Xi's China and Orban's Hungary.

In the 119th Congress, the Judiciary Committee will be the headquarters of Congressional opposition to authoritarianism and MAGA's campaign to dismantle our Constitutional system and the rule of law as we know it.

I hope to be at the center of this fight and—as someone who has battled cancer and chemotherapy—I can tell you that I will never, *never* surrender.

I should say, finally, that I take this step with respect and boundless admiration for my friend Jerry Nadler and his remarkable half-century of service in public office in New York and Congress. His career is a model of commitment to our shared Democratic vision of government as an instrument for the common good. If I'm lucky enough to be chosen for this responsibility in the 119th Congress, I will turn to Jerry first and throughout for his always wise counsel and political judgment. New generations of Democratic leaders in the House will look to him—just as we look every day to our great leaders Nancy Pelosi, Steny Hoyer and Jim Clyburn—as we take the fight to Jim Jordan and an emboldened MAGA movement.

To my Colleagues, I am grateful for your friendship and encouragement just as I am grateful for the passionate commitment of our Leadership Team and our Members. I would be honored to receive your support and counsel in my bid to become the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee in the 119th Congress.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress