

## **An Open Letter to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives**

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As a military veteran, retired high school teacher and American citizen, I urge you -- I *beg* you -- to search your soul and ask whether your current position is worth sacrificing your integrity, your soul and your country. You don't need me to tell you that Donald Trump's crude language, immature behavior and lack of dignity are an embarrassment to office of President. Far worse than that, he is hazardous to the health of this country. He is destroying the fabric of our society by encouraging misogyny, bigotry and profound disrespect for the Constitution and basic foundations of our government. He is a clear and present danger to the millions of people around the globe who are powerless to prevent him from starting a nuclear war just to prove that he can.

You, our elected representatives, are not powerless. You have the means to stop the de-evolution of the United States. The citizens who voted for you placed their trust and faith in your integrity, your intelligence and your patriotism. Please don't betray us. No true patriot can stand by and watch the person who is charged with upholding the highest office in our country behave in the lowest possible manner. No patriot can accept the degradation of our nation and the chaos created by the very people whose duty is to lead us higher.

Mr. Trump is a master manipulator. He convinced millions of people that he cared about the country. Perhaps you were among them. If so, you made a mistake. There is no shame in that. But there is shame in allowing a vindictive, childish bigot to dismantle our government and our society. There is shame in watching the cruelty and violence that are a direct result of Mr. Trump's volatile behavior and words -- and the violence that is sure to come in the future.

Right now, I am ashamed of my country and many of our governmental leaders. I am ashamed of those politicians who clearly place a higher value on their own personal positions than on the future of our country and the safety of our citizens. There is no honor in holding a high position in a government that is corrupt, ineffective and disrespected.

But I am proud, as well. I'm proud of the growing number of elected leaders from both parties who have demonstrated their courage, integrity and compassion by speaking out, by telling the truth, and holding the President to a higher standard. Please continue to stand up for honor, integrity and basic decency. Please continue to conduct yourselves with dignity.

You hold our future in your hands. Please do the right thing.

With respect and hope,

LouAnne Johnson