

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan,

I'm writing to appeal to your reason, conscience, and integrity. The individuals currently nominated for the presidential cabinet do not represent the diversity of thought needed to lead a strong and united government. Among President-elect Trump's selections is Steve Bannon, a man with clear ties to white nationalism. I ask that you denounce this choice in favor of a top adviser who better represents the tenets of democracy and the values of the American people.

Bannon is an unfit choice as he possesses no political experience. His professional background is in investment banking and media rather than public service—this alone should be cause for concern. But Bannon also proudly identifies as a nationalist, seeks to destroy the establishment you've spent a lifetime upholding, and stands by the radical ideals represented on his website, Breitbart News. This publication serves as a propaganda machine for the alt-right fringe, championing neo-Nazi views and providing a mouthpiece for rampant misogyny, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and xenophobia.

These are not the principles of pluralism and acceptance that make America great.

The dangers of promoting and normalizing this rhetoric have already been demonstrated in the drastic uptick of hate crimes since Trump's election. In failing to denounce this crime wave and hold these hatemongers accountable, the Trump administration facilitates and encourages actions that pose a direct threat to the American people. Acts of violence against those part of the Muslim, Jewish, Immigrant, African-American, LGBTQ, and Latinx communities will continue to increase if our leaders in the White House hold values that infringe upon the rights of these Americans. Agreeing to work with Bannon—or defending him—plainly demonstrates compliance with hateful fringe ideals on the part of the Republican party. It should go without saying that this is not the message our elected officials should be sending to the American people and the rest of the world.

Mr. Ryan, it is important for you stand on the right side of history, rather than with the alt-right. The situation continues to extend beyond politics—this is a matter of reason and decency. The united Republican party you dream of should not come at the expense of the entirety of the country. To make this compromise would compromise American values and safety. Please, do not continue to turn a blind eye to the radicalist movement this administration continues to empower. Hold the office of chief strategist to a higher standard—there are more qualified candidates for this job.

Sincerely,

Signature

Printed Name

Email Address

Street Address / Zip Code
