

New Jersey Women Leaders for Pelosi

November 20, 2018

We, the undersigned grassroots, organizational, and elected leaders of New Jersey strongly support Nancy Pelosi for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

What House Democrats are going to be able to accomplish in the next two years will require skilled and tested leadership. We also need an effective check against the excesses of the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans. Nancy Pelosi is the best choice to lead that fight.

She is a stalwart progressive voice on immigration, financial reform, progressive taxation, LGBTQ rights, civil rights, and gun reform - issues that the vast majority of Democrats believe in and turned out in droves to vote for in the 2018 midterm election.

But perhaps the most important reason that Nancy Pelosi should be Speaker is her role in the passage and defense of the Affordable Care Act. Without Nancy Pelosi's leadership the Affordable Care Act simply would not exist. As she said during the fight to pass the Affordable Care Act: "We'll go through the gate. If the gate's closed, we'll go over the fence. If the fence is too high, we'll pole vault in. If that doesn't work, we'll parachute in. But we're going to get health care reform passed for the American people."

Many of us fought alongside Nancy Pelosi to pass the Affordable Care Act. Since Donald Trump's election we, and those we represent, have tirelessly worked to defend the Affordable Care Act. Once repeal was defeated we began work to elect candidates to Congress who would protect and improve the Affordable Care Act.

After leading the charge to pass the Affordable Care Act, defend the Affordable Care Act, and then winning back the House in a historic election as a referendum on the Affordable Care Act, it is hard to imagine that Nancy Pelosi would be facing these same challenges within her party if she were a man.

The blue wave that sent eleven New Jersey Democrats to Congress was fueled primarily by women. Denying the Speakership to the woman who led that charge and was its chief architect will be misinterpreted as a move away from our Democratic priorities and ideals.

Our nation faces grave threats to our democracy, our institutions, and our Democratic priorities. We need Nancy Pelosi's leadership now more than ever.

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