

February 4, 2020
Representative Josh Gottheimer
65 Harristown Road, Suite 104
Glen Rock, NJ 07452

RE: DEMAND FOR REMOVAL OF MEMBERS FROM THE PROBLEM SOLVERS CAUCUS
WHO FAILED TO HONOR THEIR OATH OF OFFICE

To the Honorable Josh Gottheimer:

We the undersigned, representative of citizen groups engaged in the protection of Democracy, demand the immediate removal from the Problem Solvers Caucus – of which you and Rep. Tom Reed are the leaders – of the following six Republicans who objected to certification of electors

for the Presidential election on January 6, 2021: Representatives Mike Bost, Bill Johnson, Dan Meuser, Lloyd Smucker, Tom Rice, and Ben Cline.

Inclusion of these representatives in the membership is the antithesis of the commitment to bipartisanship that the Problem Solvers Caucus claims as its mission. Objection to certification undermined the peaceful transition of power and validated the actions of the January 6th insurrectionists by supporting the “Great Lie” that the election was stolen. Incomprehensibly, Reps. Rice and Cline were added to the caucus in the new 117th Congress AFTER the Capitol Riots and after their vote to support the “Great Lie.” Even more egregious, members Reps. Bost, Johnson, and Meuser were signers to the amicus brief supporting the frivolous Texas lawsuit against Georgia and other states.

In a letter to your constituents dated January 19, 2021 you acknowledge the obligation of representatives in Congress to certify the vote. You wrote: “It is more important than ever for the United States to honor the peaceful transition of power that is at the very heart of our democracy, and what makes us the greatest country in the world. I was proud to fulfill my obligation as your Representative and certify the will of the American people, demonstrating that our democracy endures despite the heinous acts of violence that occurred at our nation's Capitol.” Yet, at the same time you hypocritically embrace people who refused to honor that peaceful transition of power, even after the “heinous acts of violence” at the Capitol Riots. These representatives failed to honor their oaths of office. Their actions seriously undermine the oath of office for all current and future Representatives. By accepting these members, the Problem Solvers Caucus is jeopardizing Democracy through the weakening of one of its fundamental building blocks: honoring of the oaths of office taken by elected officials.

As leaders of the Problem Solvers Caucus, you and Representative Reed have accepted members who violently cast away bipartisanship, and in so doing, you have impugned the credibility of the Problem Solvers Caucus. The acceptance of these members

raises concerns that you are garnering members as a voting block against measures put forth by Speaker Pelosi, including censure or expulsion of these members, or against measures that are not center-right.

Moreover, membership in the Problem Solvers Caucus may serve to legitimize these members who have shown clear and unequivocal support for a President who now faces impeachment for calling for insurrection. This is a tacit validation of the "Great Lie" by the Problem Solvers Caucus.

We call upon you to uphold your words:

"In the coming days, months, and years ahead, I will work to bring lawmakers from both parties together and commit to unity, civility, and a loyalty to truth, while fighting disinformation and rejecting bigotry."

We call for you to fulfill your duty with due haste, by removing these members who gave voice and lent credibility and power to such disinformation, and to support the Speaker's efforts to hold these representatives accountable.

Respectfully,

JOLT USA, Catherine Brienza, President
Action Together New Jersey, Winn Khoung, Executive Director,
Women for Progress, Erin Chung, Executive Director,
NJ 11th for Change, Leslie Bockol and Mara Novak, Co-Executive Directors
Indivisible NJ5th District, Susan Steinberg, Steering Committee
Glen Rock After the March, Alice Gomstyn, Co-founder
Waldwick Progressives, Kattia M. Burgos, Member,
Teaneck Women Together, Jennifer Montag, Co-Leader,
Waldwick Democratic Committee, Beth Bortnick, County Committee
Chair Women of Action, Judy Miller, Co-Leader
SOMA Action, Rebecca Scheer, Political Action Committee Chair
Action Together Bergen County, Melissa Cicchetti
Indivisible NJ, Anthony Tedesco
Indivisible LANCASTER, Scott Orange, Co-Leader
Ramsey Democratic Municipal Committee, Jennifer Sauer, Chair
Ramsey Pins, Kathy Brickman, Co- President
Mahwah After the March, Anne Powley, Co-Founder
District 5 Coalition for Change, Bonnie Chalek
Highlands Resistance, William O'Hearn
The Visibility Brigade, Dana Glazer, Leader/Co-founder

Contact: ridgewoodjolt@gmail.com