



Date: May 12, 2017

From: Rhonda Hening, President, Alliance for a Progressive Virginia

To: The Honorable David Brat, United States House of Representatives, Virginia, 7th District.

Subject: APV Constituent Visit

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you today regarding grave matters now facing our nation. In the time since his inauguration in January, President Donald Trump has repeatedly, almost daily manifested a demonstrable lack of even the simplest skills required to govern. His reckless, childish and potentially dangerous behavior has led to a loss of credibility abroad and a further weakening in the public's faith in government here at home. Mr. Trump is a proven liar; his lies both minor and significant have become part and parcel of his presidency and reinforce the perception that this administration is both incompetent and corrupt. In just over 100 days, Mr. Trump has seriously damaged our political system and degraded our democracy. To give even a partial list of the many, many ways in which Trump has failed at the performance of his duties in only the first three months of his presidency would take up more room than I am prepared to commit to in this letter. Mr. Trump's actions are a matter of public record: fraud, corruption, sexual assault, nepotism and gross conflict of interest were all evident before he took office and since he became president matters have only gotten worse.

I am writing today to address several specific matters that you can act upon in your role as a Congressman:

In the wake of recent events including the revelations of Russian government attempts to directly influence the 2016 election in favor of Mr. Trump, the subsequent forced resignation of National Security Advisor and foreign agent Gen. Flynn, the mysterious dismissal of federal prosecutor Preet Bharara and now the firing of FBI Director Comey, APV calls on you to speak out publically and demand the appointment of an independent, special prosecutor with wide ranging powers of subpoena to immediately investigate how deeply Mr. Trump and the Trump Campaign/White House are involved in the Russian Affair, with appropriate charges to follow if warranted. Congress under the control of the Republican party has shown itself incapable of this investigation and it is past time for a special prosecutor.

Alliance for a Progressive Virginia is an all-volunteer, not for profit organization, whose goal is to educate and influence the public, the media and elected officials at the local, state and national levels about important issues of the day. We are guided in this by our basic, common sense progressive values of economic fairness, social justice, and good government.

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APV calls for an immediate investigation of the President's personal finances, the degree to which he and his family are personally profiting from his office and the ways in which Mr. Trump may be influenced by business dealings with foreign governments and nationals in ways that are counter to the interests of the American people.

Mr. Trump lost the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes, his policies are wildly unpopular and his personal behavior had been an embarrassment verging on the unhinged. APV calls on you and on all members of Congress to pause in the legislative process, at least until the many investigations of this administration are complete and to not vote on legislation that would radically alter the fundamental workings of the federal government in an adverse manner until all the facts are before the public.

APV asks that you reconsider your vote on so called Trumpcare which will remove an estimated 24 million Americans from access to affordable healthcare while lining the pockets of the super-rich including Mr. Trump and his family. APV supports a single payer solution which would bring the United States into line with the rest of industrialized world in terms of healthcare.

APV asks that you speak out against the proposed Muslim ban and in favor of retention of Obama era immigration policies that would allow undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children to remain in the country. APV also opposes the pointless "wall" proposed by Mr. Trump and the bill he now plans to tender the American people for this xenophobic boondoggle.

APV calls on you to act to prevent offshore drilling on the Atlantic Shelf, permanently restore cuts to funding for the Chesapeake Bay clean-up project, oppose pipelines through our beautiful state and further the shift towards clean and renewable energy.

APV asks that you speak out and legislate in defense of the many advances achieved over previous decades in the fields of civil rights and justice. APV supports marriage equality, full legal inclusion of trans-individuals, justice for minority communities and people of color, equality of opportunity for all Americans, especially those who have so often been excluded including women, minorities, the disabled and the poor.

APV demands that you stand with the millions of Americans who rely on Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid. These programs were paid for with our contributions and we will not stand by while they are gutted for the sake of tax cuts for the wealthy.

APV calls for Congress to take back the power to wage war and to curtail Mr. Trumps often ignorant and dangerous attempts at foreign policy. APV also calls for a drastic overhaul of the Defense Department and a substantial and responsible reduction in the Pentagon's bloated budget.

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The magnitude of this administration's actions, bumbling and inept as they may be have made it clear in a very short time that the other branches of government must exercise the utmost level of "checks and balances" until either this administration is removed by legal means or elections allow the people to register their disapproval through the vote. We demand that you uphold your oath to the Constitution and to the American people and begin holding Mr. Trump and his clique to account.

Congressman Brat, make no mistake, we are thoroughly familiar with your record on these and other issues and hold out little hope that you will change your positions even in the face of a massive public outcry. In visiting your offices today and writing this letter the membership of the Alliance for a Progressive Virginia seeks at the least to make you aware that you will be held accountable for what do and do not do in the coming months and years, both at the ballot box and in the history books.

Yours Truly,
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