

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Republican Leader McCarthy:

We write as members of the United States House of Representatives to express our extreme concern, indignation, and fear regarding the recent actions of Representative Paul Gosar and to ask that you publicly request a House Ethics Committee investigation into Mr. Gosar's actions.

On November 7, 2021, Mr. Gosar shared a grotesque video on Twitter in which his face and those of several other Republican Members of the House are edited into the opening credits of the Netflix anime series *Attack on Titan*, and in which Mr. Gosar is depicted killing a giant monster with the face of a Democratic Member of Congress.

The one minute and thirty-two-seconds video depicts Mr. Gosar battling a towering, naked monstrosity with the face of a Democratic Member of the House superimposed over the monster's face. Mr. Gosar is then seen delivering a fatal strike to the back of the monster's neck, and blood is seen gushing from the wound. The video also depicts Mr. Gosar leaping at President Biden while brandishing two swords, and the video is interspersed throughout with real-life footage of Border Patrol officers rounding up migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. In one scene, footage of migrants crossing the Rio Grande is overlaid with what appears to be splattered blood. In another, the words "drugs," "crime," "poverty," "money," "murder," "gangs," "violence" and "trafficking" flash across the screen.

Sharing the glorification of violence expressed in this video goes far beyond the protections afforded by the Speech and Debate Clause in the Constitution and is beneath the dignity of a person serving in the Congress of the United States. Mr. Gosar's actions display a breakdown of reasoned discourse not seen in the House since the summer of 1856, when South Carolina Congressman Preston Brooks attacked Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner with a cane on the Senate floor. The beating nearly killed Sumner and contributed significantly to the country's polarization over the issue of slavery and to the use of violence that eventually led to the Civil War.

In a like manner, Mr. Gosar's actions serve solely to glorify the usage of violence against Members of the House. As we witnessed with Mr. Gosar's actions leading up to January 6, threats of violence and the glorification of violence lead to actual violence. Mr. Gosar has continuously been a strong proponent of the Big Lie that President Biden lost the 2020 Presidential election. As reported by several media outlets, Mr. Gosar was

intimately involved with the planning of the January 6 rally and, following the January 6 attack, Mr. Gosar called the insurrectionists “peaceful patriots.” Rather than condemn calls for violence against Congress and actual violence against Congress, Mr. Gosar has instead shared an animated video of himself killing a fellow Member of Congress.

Less than one year has passed since Congress witnessed the January 6 domestic terrorists break into the Capitol building, vandalize and steal property, threaten our safety and lives, and attack and kill Capitol police officers. Less than one year has passed since we witnessed crowds chanting “Hang Mike Pence,” and “Hang Nancy Pelosi” outside this bastion of democracy. If ever there was a time for the House to come together to promote civility, discourse, and cooperation, it is now.

For these reasons, we are asking that as the Leader of the Republican Conference you publicly request an investigation into Mr. Gosar’s actions by the House Ethics Committee to determine whether Mr. Gosar has violated the Rules of the House to a degree sufficient to warrant disciplinary action, including ordering the cessation of conduct that threatens the lives of fellow Members of Congress and the President, removal from his Committee positions, censure, expulsion, or further disciplinary action as determined by the Committee or the House of Representatives.

We must act to protect the dignity and integrity of the House.

Very truly yours,



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



TED LIEU
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



NANETTE BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress



GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

/s/

SYLVIA R. GARCIA
Member of Congress



RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress



GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman

/s/

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez

JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans

DWIGHT EVANS
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle

MIKE DOYLE
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David N. Cicilline

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JOHN LARSON
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Member of Congress



TROY A. CARTER
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MADELEINE DEAN
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BRENDEN F. BOYLE
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JASON CROW
Member of Congress