

To Members of the U.S. Senate,

As community leaders, ordained clergy, teachers, authors, and directors of Buddhist communities around the U.S., we are writing to express our concern during this critical time in our nation's history.

Our religious tradition, like other great religious traditions of our country, teaches that ethical conduct is the very foundation of happiness and well-being for individuals, families, communities, the nation, and the world. The deep challenge regarding ethical conduct is to hold to that foundation at times when embracing lies or conspiracy theories is easy and encouraged but standing for truth comes with a temporary cost. It's at such times that we all must recall that alternative facts are lies; that a partisan justice is fundamentally unjust; and that a morality of convenience is, in fact, no morality at all.

We are writing at this time to ask each of you individually and together as a body to provide moral leadership for our nation during this dark time. If each of you pauses, breathes, and takes some moments to honestly look into your heart and conscience, we hope you will recognize that the current president is not capable of providing moral leadership or acting in a manner consistent with ethical conduct or truth. Since he cannot, you must.

As Americans who love this nation, we do not raise these concerns out of partisan rancor or aversion, but with compassion and concern for the future of our democracy and freedom. We ask that you take action to ensure that the Senate holds a fair and complete trial with respect to the Articles of Impeachment passed by the House of Representatives. We ask that you ensure that that trial focus on discerning what is true by reviewing documents not yet shared by the White House and by calling witnesses including John Bolton, Michael Duffey, and Mick Mulvaney. We ask that you assess the evidence with the long-term welfare of our country in mind and without prejudice or partisanship.

We ask that you perform your duties according to the oath you took to uphold the Constitution and that you render a just verdict. We believe that the evidence already public is consistent with a finding of guilt and removal from office, but a fair trial is needed in which the White House provides all requested documents and allows all officials to testify, whether subpoenaed or requested. If further evidence revealed in the trial is consistent with the evidence already given, we ask that you vote to remove the president from office.

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