

He was not an “activist-turned-snip-er,” a turn of phrase Mr. Bannon crafted to suggest that two roles exist along a continuum, to suggest that it is only a matter of time before the peaceful protesters take up arms.

It is bad enough that Mr. Bannon sought to fan the flames of fear, anxiety, and turn our communities against Americans peacefully exercising their first amendment rights. Mr. Bannon’s article did not stop at impugning activists who protest officer-involved shootings. No. Mr. Bannon proceeded to cast suspicion upon an entire race. He wrote:

Here’s a thought: What if the people getting shot by the cops did things to deserve it? There are, after all, in this world, some people who are naturally aggressive and violent.

Wild conspiracy theories aside, there is a name for that kind of tactic. It is called a dog whistle. To some, such rhetoric may not appear overtly racist, and make no mistake, that is by design. Not every person who hears that kind of language understands that by saying that “some people are naturally aggressive and violent,” Mr. Bannon is suggesting that Black people—after all the ones who were shot by the police—are naturally aggressive and violent.

But to the alt-right, to those who read his Web site, Mr. Bannon’s meaning is all too clear. Now, Mr. Bannon does not always attempt to cloak his views. At times, connecting lines he draws are much clearer. In the very same article, Mr. Bannon suggested that efforts by the Obama administration to pursue gun safety measures in the wake of the Orlando shooting are nothing more than an effort to divert attention away from refugees. Never mind that refugees were not involved in the incident. Let’s all remember that the tragedy at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, a shooting in which 49 people were murdered, and 53 others were wounded, was carried out by an American-born U.S. citizen.

Nonetheless, Mr. Bannon wrote: “In the wake of Orlando, the Obama administration, with Hillary Clinton cheering it on, intoned against guns and ‘hate,’ and is now back to importing more hating Muslims.”

To suggest that members of a peaceful protest movement like Black Lives Matter were in league with a cold-blooded killer, that the sympathies of the President of the United States lie not with the victims of gun violence but instead with those who would seek to do us harm, to pit members of vulnerable communities against one another—LGBT people against refugees, peaceful protesters against the cops who rushed to shield them from gunfire—is abhorrent.

Regrettably, we have no reason to believe Mr. Bannon would not seek to deploy such tactics from the White House. After all, they featured prominently in the Trump campaign’s final television ad. In the spot, the President-elect’s voice warns that “those

who control the levers of power in Washington” and “global special interests” don’t have America’s best interests at heart.

At the same time, images of George Soros, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, and Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein—all prominent Jews—flash on the screen. To those who may not know better, such an ad could seem innocuous, but, to me, its message is obvious. The ad’s anti-Semitic overtones, which draw on an old and hateful conspiracy theory about Jews controlling banks and financial markets, were obvious to me. I called it a German shepherd whistle designed to be heard in some of the darkest remaining corners of our country and our world. Politics that rely on this type of innuendo—Stephen Bannon’s brand of politics—has no place in a modern Presidential campaign, and it certainly has no place in the White House.

Let’s be clear. The use of racially charged rhetoric and innuendo is repulsive. The very purpose of deploying dog-whistle politics in the context of a campaign is to attract the support of people who harbor hateful ideologies without offending the sensibilities of more mainstream voters.

Every Member of this body should condemn rhetoric that sows the seeds of discourse. It is our obligation, not just as Senators but as Americans, to stand up to Mr. Bannon’s hateful, decisive brand of politics and reject it. We cannot change the fact that such strategy has played a role in this campaign, but moving forward, it is imperative that we not allow these corrosive tactics to become normalized. We cannot allow them to become a regular part of our politics.

If President-Elect Trump truly meant what he said during his victory speech, if he truly hopes to be President for all Americans, he will recognize that such tactics stand in the way of that goal and he will renounce them. The women and men the leader chooses to surround himself with show the public what kind of leader he will be. President-Elect Trump has a choice: Will he truly attempt to “bind the wounds of division” or will our next President seek counsel from a man who proudly traffics in hatred, half-truths, and pernicious innuendo? Will President-Elect Trump’s administration open its doors to all people or will it seek to govern from exploiting old prejudices and pitting us against one another? The campaign is over, but the wounds inflicted during a long battle remain raw. It is time to set about the work of healing them.

I urge President-Elect Trump to begin that work by surrounding himself with people equal to the task. Mr. Bannon is not one of them. He should not serve in the next administration. I call on President-Elect Trump to appeal to America’s better angels and to reject the dark politics represented by Stephen Bannon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, our Nation has gone through a difficult, bruising Presidential election. Normally, we would be making the pivot to healing those wounds, but this election has been particularly rough, and the wounds sustained during the campaign continue to haunt our Nation. Many groups of Americans across our country are frightened for the future, of being deported, of being targeted as Muslims, of resurgent racism toward African Americans, of anti-Semitism, of losing their right to marry the person they love.

Unfortunately, they have good reason to be afraid. We have seen a surge, a wave of hateful bigoted, racist, sexist attacks happening in communities across our country since the election. The divisive rhetoric and conduct of President-Elect Donald Trump’s campaign over the past year and a half is responsible for unleashing this blight on our country. He has the responsibility to turn things around, to put an end to this division, and to start the healing.

That is why, earlier today, 10 of my colleagues in the Senate joined me to send a letter to President-Elect Trump, demanding that he stand up and condemn these verbal and physical attacks occurring around this country, that he denounce his own past campaign rhetoric that gave life to so many of these acts of hate and violence, and that he exclude proponents of hatred and discrimination from the ranks of his administration, including immediately firing white supremacist Steve Bannon as his Chief Strategist.

Here is what the text of the letter says:

Mr. President-Elect:

Your campaign conduct and Electoral College victory have unleashed a wave of verbal and physical assaults against our fellow Americans. In just the last six days, the Southern Poverty Law Center has documented hundreds of acts of discrimination and violence toward many of the ethnic and social groups you attacked in your campaign. These attacks are absolutely unacceptable. We condemn them. We stand united with our fellow citizens.

Unfortunately, these acts of hate have been enabled by your campaign strategy of promoting bigotry, racism, and sexism. It is the logical consequence of your campaign attacks on and discrimination aimed at Hispanics, African Americans, veterans, immigrants, women, Muslims, Jews, and individuals with disabilities. Millions of Americans see a President-elect who has chosen to knock them down rather than to lift them up. Your conduct has empowered too many Americans to act on their darkest impulses.

This is the wrong vision for America and the wrong path for your coming Administration. We call on you to change course. We urge you, as our future President, to join us in rejecting hate and embracing respect for every ethnicity, race and gender. We urge you to join us in fighting for a nation free of discrimination, where every child has the opportunity to thrive and contribute according to his or her ability. We urge you to join us in fighting for our Constitutional vision of equality and opportunity and the vision in

our Pledge of Allegiance of liberty and justice for all.

As you assume the mantle of leadership in office, it is your responsibility to put an end to the crimes of hate and prejudice sweeping our nation. These wounds to our national citizenry are of your making. It is your responsibility to rectify the damage. You have the power as President to move beyond the hate-filled rhetoric of your campaign.

We call on you to repudiate your campaign attacks against diverse communities of Americans.

We call on you to address the American people and demand that all Americans end these verbal and physical attacks and replace acts of hatred with acts of kindness.

We call on you to exclude the proponents of discrimination and hatred from the ranks of your Administration, and that includes immediately firing Steve Bannon as your Chief Strategist.

The letter concludes:

It is time for you to act boldly and powerfully to put the nation on a path of healing. For the sake of all Americans, we call on you to rise to the challenge.

In addition to myself, it is signed by Senator MAZIE HIRONO, Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, Senator SHERROD BROWN, Senator ED MARKEY, Senator BERNARD SANDERS, Senator AL FRANKEN, who spoke so eloquently a few moments ago, Senator RON WYDEN, Senator DEBBIE STABENOW, Senator-Elect CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and Senator TOM CARPER.

I thank my colleagues who have appropriately said that at this moment—at this unusual moment in our history, in our time here in the 21st century—that we have a President-elect playing on hate and prejudice and bringing a white supremacist in as Chief Adviser is unacceptable.

Some will say that President-Elect Trump cannot himself be accountable for what is happening across our country, but they are wrong. His words and his conduct are directly connected to the harassment and the physical and verbal assaults that we are seeing.

I am going to share with you all the comments of the campaign and the acts of citizens in category after category to show how these are tied together—how, indeed, these verbal assaults and these physical assaults are motivated by and justified by the campaign of our President-elect—just to emphasize that it is time for our President-elect to take responsibility, to change course, to embrace the connectedness of our American communities, the vision of equality and opportunity in our Constitution, the vision of a nation with justice for all, and the fact that our President should be working to raise up all families—not raising up a few by tearing down the rest.

Let's start by looking at what Mr. Trump said about our Nation's Latino citizens. At the start of his campaign, Mr. Trump said:

When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending the best . . . they're sending people with lots of problems and they're bringing those problems with them. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. . . . And some, I assume, are good people.

Later in the campaign he promised to build a wall—"a great, great wall on our southern border, and I will make Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words."

When discussing Judge Gonzalo Curiel, a U.S. district judge presiding over a lawsuit against Trump University—by the way, an American-born citizen—the President-elect said the judge couldn't be impartial and should be removed from the case because "this judge is of Mexican heritage."

Judge Curiel was born and raised in Indiana.

Mr. Trump's right-hand man, his designated Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, used his position at Breitbart News to continue attacks against Latinos. Under his leadership, Breitbart frequently used anti-immigrant slurs and published "war on Spanish" and nativist-appealing content in his quest to make his platform a platform for White nationalism.

It is important to note that even many Republicans and conservative commentators believe that Mr. Bannon is a man with unconscionable views and frightening ties to white supremacist movements.

John Weaver, a former top adviser to Governor John Kasich tweeted of Mr. Bannon's selection as Chief Strategist: "The racist, fascist extreme is represented footsteps from the Oval Office."

Ana Navarro, a Republican strategist, called Bannon: "White supremacist, anti gay, anti Semite, vindictive." Ana then said: "Be afraid, America."

Glenn Beck, known to all of us as a rightwing radio commentator—a very conservative commentator, a person who has attacked virtually every idea to help working America that comes from the blue side of the aisle—said Bannon is "terrifying" and said that he has helped to give voice to White nationalists.

Former KKK leader David Duke and the American Nazi Party have praised Bannon's elevation to the White House. So there should be no mistaking or sugar coating what precisely this individual, Steve Bannon, stands for.

Under his leadership, Breitbart became a leader in anti-Latino, nativist material—one headline after another attacking Hispanics here in America.

So when we look at what is happening right at this moment to Latinos today, what do we see? We see students in our schools taunting and bullying their classmates. At DeWitt Junior High School in Lansing, MI, White students formed a human wall and refused to let their Latino classmates into the school.

In Ventura, CA, a Latino mother reported seeing fifth graders at her child's school chanting: "Build a wall."

Latinos all across our Nation are being harassed and told they are going to be deported, they don't belong here in America, even if they were born here in America.

In Andover, MA, a group of white men in a car threw a water bottle at a

young Hispanic woman and screamed: "Time to go back to your country"—insert expletive—"my man Trump is on top now and we don't want you here!"

In Southern California, a college student was accosted by a man who said:

I can't wait until Trump asks us to rape your people and send you back over the biggest damn wall we're going to build. Go back to hell.

Then he inserted a racist slur for a Mexican and then threw water in the young woman's face.

Walls all across the Nation are being spray painted with phrases such as: "Build the Wall Higher."

In the face of attacks such as these, it is hard to remember that we are, indeed, a nation of immigrants. Unless you are 100-percent Native American, you are the child, grandchild, great grandchild, or the descendant of immigrants. Your forefathers and foremothers came to our country and felt they had come to a place where they could thrive. We have those beautiful words carved into the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

It inspires all of us. Each one of us—again, unless we are 100-percent Native American—have an ancestor who came to the country and felt that moment of freedom and opportunity no matter where they had come from.

Latinos are not the only group of Americans suffering because of the rhetoric of the Trump campaign. African Americans have become a significant target in post-Trump America, as too many take their cues from our next President's words and actions towards that community—words like the ones President-Elect Trump used to talk about African Americans who work for him. He said:

I've got black accountants at Trump Castle and Trump Plaza. Black guys counting my money! I hate it. The only kind of people I want counting my money are short guys that wear yarmulkes every day.

He then went on to say:

I think the guy is lazy. And it's probably not his fault because laziness is a trait in blacks. It really is, I believe that. It's not anything they can control.

Those are the words of our President-elect.

When he talked about the Black Lives Matter movement on FOX News, he said:

I think they are trouble. I think they're looking for trouble.

He often shows a startling disconnect with the African-American community, generalizing that they all live in inner cities that he regularly describes as poverty-stricken war zones.

This disconnect started very early on in his real estate career when President-Elect Trump was publicly sued twice for discriminating against African Americans who were trying to rent apartments in his buildings.

Of course, we can't talk about Mr. Trump's—President-Elect Trump's—relations with the African-American

community without bringing up his longstanding promotion and advocacy of the birther movement, which tried to delegitimize our country's first African-American President.

Those efforts go back to 2011, when Mr. Trump was considering a run for the White House and said on one talk show: "If he wasn't born in this country, which is a real possibility . . . then he has pulled off one of the great cons in the history of politics."

He went on and on and on—month after month—questioning the legitimacy of our President in office.

To his credit, on that particular point Mr. Trump has recanted himself, but he used it as a race card time after time after time to delegitimize our President—President Obama—because he is African American.

The views of President-Elect Trump's right-hand man, his Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, aren't any better. Under Bannon's leadership, Breitbart created a news section titled "Black Crime."

Just 2 weeks after the Charleston massacre in which nine African-American churchgoers were slaughtered, Breitbart ran this headline. By the way, in that attack, the attacker used the Confederate flag as a symbol—a racist symbol—to justify attacking these nine individuals.

What did Steve Bannon do? He ran this headline: "Hoist It High And Proud: The Confederate Flag Proclaims A Glorious Heritage." In a lengthy July post on Breitbart, Bannon accused the left of a "plot to take down America" by fixating on police shootings of Black citizens. Well, the list goes on and on, but he proceeded to say: "There are, after all, in this world, some people who are naturally aggressive and violent." That is certainly a direct racist statement.

And what is the result we see today of all of this racism from our President-elect and from his Chief Strategist? Well, we have seen a startling rise in people's willingness to use the "N" word in public.

At a school in Maple Grove, MN, the boys bathroom was defaced by graffiti that included racial slurs such as the "N" word and porch monkeys, alongside pro-Trump messages such as "Trump Train" and "Make America Great Again."

Students from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse who were living off campus found the quote "Go Home" and the "N" word written on their front door.

A man in Knoxville, TN, woke up one morning to find his car vandalized with the phrase—and I am paraphrasing—expletive deleted "U", insert "N" word, and then the word "Trump" spray-painted on his car.

We have seen incidents harkening back to a time in history of discrimination and segregation.

At a high school in Jacksonville, FL, an individual put up these signs: "Colored" and "Whites Only"—the time of Jim Crow in America, where African

Americans were treated as second-class citizens—and a "Whites Only" sign was found on the door of a bathroom stall at a high school in Duluth, MN.

These are just a few of the incidents. There are the assaults as well, one incident after another of African Americans being assaulted. There is the softball field dugout in Wellsville, NY, where the phrase "Make America White Again" was spray-painted and the defacement of a wall in Durham, NC, where someone decided to write "Black lives don't matter and neither does your vote." There was a horrific incident in my State of Oregon in which an African-American woman was attacked in the parking lot of a grocery store in Hillsboro, OR. A group of three men threw a brick at her, broke her ribs, called her the "N" word, threatened to rape her, and they said: Now we finally have a President who feels how we feel.

It is hard to imagine how our President-elect, with his own racist commentary, his own past acts of discrimination, his own racist campaign, his own racist Chief Strategist, isn't at all connected to these events sweeping the country. They are directly connected. And that is why we are calling on the President-elect to change course. The election is behind us. Before the President-elect is 4 years of opportunities to improve the lives of Americans. Take the assaults of the past and make them the assaults of the past. Look to the vision of partnership to build a better America in the years ahead. Leave that past behind.

Martin Luther King, Jr., once said:

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. . . . Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and the passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

Let's make that the spirit of the next 4 years, where together we are dedicated to progress for all Americans toward reaching that goal of opportunity and equality and justice.

Another target has been our women across the country. Our President-elect repeatedly treated women as sexual objects. Women have worked so hard to be seen as equals in our society. Women have flown as astronauts. They have reached the heights in science. They have reached peak after peak in leadership across our country. They bring their insight and wisdom to this Chamber here in the U.S. Senate and in the House of Representatives 100 yards across Capitol Hill.

But our President-elect has seen it differently. Referring to the media, he said: "It doesn't really matter what they write as long as you've got a young and beautiful piece of"—insert a demeaning term for women. He declared that "You don't give a"—insert expletive—"if a girl can play a violin like the greatest violinist in the world. You want to know what does she look like."

Our President-elect derided a political opponent by commenting on her

looks, saying, "look at that face! Would anybody vote for that? Can you imagine that, the next face of our President?"

During the campaign, our President-elect called a female lawyer disgusting or at some point in passing he called a female lawyer disgusting because she asked to take a medical break to pump breast milk for her 3-month-old daughter.

I think we are all aware of the comments he made towards FOX News debate moderator Megyn Kelly—words I choose not to repeat at this moment. And then he said pregnant women are an inconvenience for his business. And of course our President-elect was caught on tape bragging about sexually assaulting women, saying:

I'm just automatically attracted to beautiful—I just start kissing them. Just kiss. I don't even wait.

Then he went on to talk about groping the women and being able to get away with it because he is a star.

He has brought into the White House his Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, who shares these views about women, putting up a headline: "There's No Hiring Bias Against Women. . . . They Just Suck At Interviews."

Another one said: "The Solution to Online 'Harassment' is simple: Women Should Log Off."

Here is another: "Would You Rather Your Child Had Feminism or Cancer?" as if women's rights are a disease.

We see that these comments and the conduct of the President-elect and the comments of his Chief Strategist have had an impact. Two men at a concert in Ohio threatened to "Donald Trump" a female security guard because she wouldn't let them into a restricted section of the venue. According to one teacher, a 10-year-old girl was taken home from school after a male classmate grabbed her private parts, and when asked why he did it, the boy said that if a President can do it, he can do it too. In Oklahoma City, a woman was chased on the highway because of her Hillary bumper sticker, while men in another car hurled sexual insults at her.

These are just a small number of the hundreds and hundreds of events happening across this country. Every Member of this body, every Member of the Senate can relate stories from people who have shared with them over the past few weeks, stories from their constituents who have written to them to share the harassment they have suffered.

We have just seen a historic milestone. We have had, for the first time, a woman as the nominee of a major political party—and not only that, she got a lot more votes than did Donald Trump. The women's suffrage movement has come so far since the days when Elizabeth Cady Stanton said: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal" and that "the history of the past is but one long struggle toward equality." We have come a long

ways in the few decades since Martin Luther King said that the moral arc of the universe is long but it bends towards justice. Across our country, citizens have worked to bend that arc in this vision of a nation that embraces opportunity for all—not opportunity only for the rich and powerful to have more opportunity, but opportunity for all, for every child to have the ability to contribute to this country.

My father, now deceased, was a mechanic. He never went to college. But he told me when I was in grade school: Son, if you go through the doors of that schoolhouse and you work hard, you can do just about anything here in America. That is the vision we want to strive toward, where the son of a mechanic, the daughter of a janitor, the child of a Hispanic couple or an African-American couple or a gay couple or a lesbian couple—where every child has the opportunity to thrive. To do that, we have to set aside these racist attacks, these sexist attacks.

Another target has been our Muslim-American community. For the last year and a half, they, like other groups of Americans, have been denigrated and insulted by President-Elect Trump and his campaign. His campaign has worked to fan the flames of Islamophobia. Take Mr. Trump's views on registering Muslim-Americans. When asked whether the United States should have a registry of Muslims, he said, "I would certainly implement that. Absolutely. . . . There should be a lot of systems, beyond databases. We should have a lot of systems." When the reporter followed by asking "Would Muslims be required to register?" he answered, "They have to be. They have to be."

Well, let me share with the President-elect that we are not a nation that discriminates because of one's religion. It is called freedom of religion. Our vision is opportunity for all. There were nations that discriminated based on religion. Those were European nations. That is why a lot of our forefathers came here—to escape that oppression and to have the freedom to thrive and to maintain the religious views they wanted to have, not what somebody else told them they had to have, or to be imprisoned, or register them for discrimination because of their religious background.

So when any American attacks our Muslim-American brothers and sisters, we need to stand with them shoulder to shoulder. And if any other religious group is attacked, we need to stand with them shoulder to shoulder and stand for the vision of opportunity and equality for all. That is what every Member of this Chamber should be coming down here to say—that when those groups are attacked, we will stand with them because that is not the vision of America. That is not the spirit of America. That certainly is 100 percent contrary to the vision of America.

Our President-elect tried to foment fear of Muslims seeking refuge in our

Nation from war zones. He told a crowd in Minneapolis that allowing refugees into our country "will import generations of terrorism, extremism and radicalism into your schools and throughout your communities." This statement is so far diverged from the truth as to make it impossible to recognize where he got this notion. Every expert will tell you that if a terrorist wants to come into our Nation, the hardest path is to come as a refugee: You have to go to refugee camp, you have to be registered, you have to be vetted for years, and if you are male, you are probably not going to make it, but because the goal was to foment Islamophobia, this lie was repeated again and again. It is much easier to come into our country on a tourist visa, a business visa, a student visa, not a refugee settlement visa.

Our President-elect told the same crowd that refugees settling in Minnesota were "joining ISIS and spreading their extremist views all over our country. . . ."

Now there are reports from some connected with the transition team that the incoming administration is considering implementing a system for registering Muslim Americans, just as President-Elect Trump talked about, and using our country's shameful internment of Japanese Americans to justify this idea because it is a precedent. Let me be clear: Imprisoning fellow Americans as we did during World War II was a shameful and dark chapter and a mistake. We need to make sure we remember that it was a mistake and never use it as a precedent for action in the future.

Then, again, here we have our President-elect's Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, who has run headlines like, "Political Correctness Protects the Muslim Rape Culture" or "Immediately After Muslim Mayor Elected, London's Iconic Buses Proclaim, 'Glory to Allah.'" Mr. Bannon has personally suggested that we are in a global war against Islam.

So it is no wonder the rhetoric of our President-elect and the leader of the White supremacist Web site is causing discrimination and confrontation with Muslim Americans around our country.

Some are being physically assaulted, like the woman at San Jose University who lost her balance and choked when a man attempted to rip off her headscarf or the Muslim student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus who reported having a knife pulled on her.

Then there are those who are being verbally abused and otherwise intimidated, including a woman riding the BART train in San Francisco who was accosted when another passenger called her a terrorist who should be deported, and a pickup truck that has been driving around Brooksville, FL, with writing on it that says: "All Muslims are Terrorists," "Deport them all," and "I hate Muslims." In Georgia, a Muslim teacher found a note left for her that

said: "Headscarf isn't allowed anymore" and telling her to "hang yourself with it." That is the level of Islamophobia sweeping our Nation at this very moment, inspired by the rhetoric of our President-elect and his Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, and it is unacceptable. It needs to stop.

As Robert Kennedy once said, "America's answer to the intolerant man is diversity—the very diversity which our heritage of religious freedom has inspired." We need to embrace that heritage, we need to cherish that heritage, and we need to strive to live up to the best instincts of our Nation, not the darkest impulses.

Yet another group that is feeling threatened is our LGBTQ community. I will note that Donald Trump in his campaign did not attack our LGBTQ community overtly, and he said on "60 Minutes" the other night, as the question of same-sex marriage came up, the question of same-sex marriage is "settled."

Actions speak as well as words, and of all the possible men and women he could choose as a running mate, he chose now-Vice President-Elect Mike Pence, the most anti-LGBTQ Governor in America. This individual is someone who has signed a draconian religious "liberty law" in Indiana that allows individuals and businesses to discriminate against the LGBTQ community. Our Vice President-elect supported conversion therapy to change people's sexual behavior. As a radio host, he gave a speech and declared marital equality would lead to "societal collapse."

Mr. Trump's Chief Strategist echoes much of this. One headline on Breitbart News said: "Dear Straight People: I'm Officially Giving You Permission to Say"—and then it goes on to list anti-LGBTQ slurs. Another headline that he put up on his Web site said: "Gay Rights Have Made Us Dumber, It's Time to Get Back in The Closet." Yet another headline said: "Kids Raised By Same-Sex Couples Twice As Likely To Be Depressed, Fat Adults."

How has this kind of rhetoric impacted our Nation since the election? A gay couple in Ogden, UT, woke up to find their car vandalized with anti-gay slurs painted on the side. Rainbow flags, the symbol of the LGBTQ movement around the world, were burned in Rochester, NY. An individual in North Carolina found a note on their car that said:

Can't wait until your "marriage" is overturned by a real president. Gay families = burn in hell #Trump 2016.

Like so many of the other groups of Americans I have talked about, the LGBTQ community has struggled for a long time to be accepted, to be recognized as full members of our society, to not be discriminated against when they seek employment in our country, to have the same rights against discrimination that we adopted for race and gender and ethnicity in 1964. We have

come a ways, but we haven't yet made it to the point that we have provided the same foundation against discrimination that we provided in 1964 to other groups.

So while Donald Trump himself did not attack the LGBTQ community, the person he chose as Vice President and the person he elevated to Chief Strategist for the White House very much have, and that is a powerful, powerful message that has unleashed attacks across this country.

As our next President, Donald Trump has the responsibility to put an end to the prejudice and to put an end to the hate crimes sweeping our Nation and to calm the fears and anxieties of millions of Americans who are frightened about their future in this country—about whether they will have an opportunity to contribute to this country, whether they will be fired from their job, whether their car will be vandalized, whether their children will be taunted and bullied, whether they will be attacked in a parking lot.

Across the Nation, thousands of people have been turning out to walk the streets and to protest. They are trying to send a message. Sometimes that message has gone off-track.

In Portland, OR, thousands turned out to send this message to our President elect: Put the hate speech and hate acts behind you. Don't bring White supremacists or deeply prejudiced individuals into your administration. Let's have a next 4 years that embraces all Americans and their opportunity to succeed. They are trying to send a message by walking with their feet from park to park, across bridges, through the streets.

Unfortunately, some anarchists decided to destroy the effectiveness of this protest by breaking windows and setting some fires. The organizers of these protests condemn the anarchists and try to keep them out, and most of the protests have succeeded.

I ask for our President-elect, if you won't listen to those of us who are publicly asking you to change course, and if you won't listen to my colleagues who are privately calling you and saying to you and your team to change course, then listen to the people in the streets across America who are trying to peacefully convey the message that we are a diverse nation, with a fabulous vision of embracing people of every religion and every ethnicity and every race. Let's continue that tradition. Let's strengthen that tradition. Let's build on that tradition. That is the message all of us are trying to send.

I join my colleagues to repeat the requests we have made on the floor in Senate, the letter we sent to you, the message sent privately by many of my colleagues sitting across the aisle, the message sent by many of our leaders from civil rights groups and other organizations who have contacted the transition team, the message that has echoed with thousands and thousands

of emails sent to Capitol Hill to ask us to help convey this message.

From every direction, Americans are reaching out and saying: End the hate speech. End the hate commentary. Bring people into your administration who believe in opportunity and justice for all. Change directions.

It is a time for leadership. It is time for our President-Elect Donald Trump to rise to the occasion and to help build a nation that provides the foundation for every American to thrive.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING ALASKA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as many of my colleagues know, I have been proud to associate myself with the work of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. I have been doing this for the many years I have been here in the Senate, and I have been privileged over the years to read the names of Alaska's fallen law enforcement officers. They have a candlelight vigil that occurs at that memorial every May. It is an extraordinarily powerful and moving vigil. From my seat, I am able to look out and see thousands of individuals, and directly in front of the stage they have the wives, husbands, parents, and children of those officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice. As I think of the families, individuals, and those who have served and paid the ultimate sacrifice, it is very difficult to find words that express the depth of my gratitude for their service or the depth of my sorrow.

It is a great honor to be asked and a duty to demonstrate my solidarity with the thin blue line. I go each year hoping that I will not be invited back the next year because that would mean Alaska did not lose a law enforcement officer in the previous year. Unfortunately, I will be invited back to the 2017 ceremony because the year 2016, this year, I am sad to say has been a most difficult one for the law enforcement community in Alaska. This past autumn has been particularly difficult.

Since this body recessed at the end of September, 25 law enforcement officers have lost their lives in the line of duty—15 to gunfire. Firearms-related law enforcement fatalities are up 70 percent according to the Officer Down Memorial Page. This year we have to contend with a particular type of firearms-related fatality, the ambush shooting. This year, 2016, will go down in the annals of law enforcement as the year of the ambush shooting. From

Stanislaus County, CA, to Canonsburg, PA; from New York City to Des Moines, IA; from Peach County, GA, to Palm Springs, CA, it seems no corner of the country is immune from this tragic trend. Unfortunately, Alaska is not immune from it either.

Just this last Saturday, on November 12, Anchorage police officer Arn Salao was dispatched on a call involving an individual who failed to pay a taxi fair, and as he pulled up to the scene, an individual opened fire on his patrol car. Officer Salao exited his car and began to return fire, but he was struck four times before the assailant was brought down by Officer Salao and his backup. It turns out—we have just learned this within the past day—that the perpetrator's gun was linked through ballistics to five homicides in Anchorage during this year of 2016.

Officer Salao has undergone two surgeries and he is expected to survive. On behalf of a grateful Senate, I will take this opportunity to recognize Anchorage Police Officer Arn Salao for his bravery and his heroism, and wish him Godspeed in his recovery.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the men and women of the Anchorage Police Department under the able leadership of Chief Chris Tolley. Chief Tolley is very proud of his team—and justifiably so—from the officers on the scene to the dispatchers who calmly managed the situation, to the investigators who pieced together the story.

Up in Fairbanks, to the north of Anchorage, we had a different outcome with a different ambush shooting. Sergeant Allen Brandt of the Fairbanks Police Department was not so fortunate. On the evening of Saturday, October 15, Sergeant Brandt gathered his four children, brought them together on his bed before he was going out to report for duty. That was ordinary for this sergeant—four young kids under the age of—I believe it is 8—all snuggling with their dad as he prepared to read a story, as he did each and every day. Unfortunately, nothing beyond that was ordinary about that particular evening. Sergeant Brandt had a premonition that he would get shot that evening, and he actually shared that with his family.

Sergeant Brandt was dispatched to a call of shots fired in downtown Fairbanks later that evening. He pulled up on the scene. He was shot six times by an assailant who took his gun and his patrol car, leaving Sergeant Brandt on the street to die. Hearing the gunfire, Brenda Riley rushed out of her home. It was late. It was cold. She was wearing a robe and slippers, and she literally held Sergeant Brandt in her arms while help arrived.

The sergeant was first taken to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, and then he was air-lifted to Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage. I had an opportunity to visit with him just hours after the shooting there at the hospital in Anchorage and had an opportunity