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Senate of Pennsylvania

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January 11, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
Room 225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

It has been 5 days since the horrid assault on our nation's Capitol. It has been acknowledged by law enforcement and those involved that the actions on that day were just the beginning of a coordinated insurrection effort. It also has been acknowledged that at least one member of the General Assembly – Senator Doug Mastriano - was in attendance and assisted in organizing and promoting last week's event. Many of us have called for his resignation and further have called for an investigation into his involvement. Thus far such requests have been rebuffed or ignored by Republican Senate leadership. Now, further incendiary events have occurred at the state Capitol in Kentucky and threats against other state Capitols are screaming across the internet, yet not one peep asking for peace from the organizer from Pennsylvania.

I am no longer asking or requesting some action be taken against Senator Mastriano and any other public officials who participated in the events of January 6, I am demanding. Certainly, at risk is our Capitol's physical structure but also the health and safety of citizens who work in that building – elected officials and staff. We must also be ensured that our district offices will be safe. Governor, I am demanding that you direct state law enforcement to develop a plan that provides real protection against perceived or acknowledged threats.

Further, you should direct an investigation of anyone associated, directly or indirectly, with the riot that occurred at our national Capitol and in turn has sparked these threats to state capitols across this country. On that list to be investigated has to be Senator Mastriano, who may have critical information housed on a laptop, computer, phone or other device. I am not going to fall back on the political divide to explain the recent treasonous events; crimes were committed and there are potential crimes in waiting being planned online presently. They must be taken seriously, with extreme prejudice towards protecting innocent victims. We missed that opportunity in Washington D.C. and there was ample forewarning; we are presented with the same set of circumstances now.

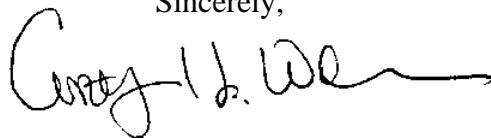
I represent a district that has military veterans from World War II up through the current conflict in Afghanistan, including many that are currently defending our country abroad and at home. I have a significant a population of first responders and frontline workers, who wake up every day and put themselves at risk to protect us from the Covid-19 virus. I have teachers who will be required to put these events in some perspective for their students who are studying the creation of our country and the foundation of democracy. I have police, firefighters (many volunteer) and many other truly patriotic Pennsylvanians who work to make their communities safer and healthier. These constituents have called my office and simply don't understand how you can get arrested for running into a theater and shouting fire, causing chose, but Trump and his chorus of followers can spread the biggest lie and threat to our way of life, inciting an insurrection and nothing happens?! How do they get to light the match and walk away?! Of course in the commission of most crimes, if you were in the area you would at least be questioned, and of course if you looked like me you probably would put up against a wall while being questioned.

Some movement towards impeachment appears to be occurring in Congress, but in Pennsylvania a State Senator who has publicly supported all manner of conspiracy theories, including Q Anon – an antisemitic cult which posits that a majority of elected officials, but especially Democrats, are Satan-worshipping pedophiles who will ultimately be destroyed by Donald Trump and his followers - and heavily promoted and was present at this event continues to serve without challenge to his character or qualifications. People are outraged (peacefully)! I have asked, along with sixteen of my colleagues in the Senate, at a minimum, an investigation of Senator Mastriano's actions prior to and on that fateful day. The Republican majority has accepted his simple words, "I didn't do anything."

On behalf of countless law-abiding Pennsylvanians, I am demanding that we engage our law enforcement for honest, transparent and fair review of the facts involving Senator Mastriano and any other public official involved in this insurrection. I am also demanding that we make federal law enforcement aware of his organizing activities and presence at the nation's Capitol on that day for their investigation purposes.

Enough is enough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony H. Williams", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony H. Williams
State Senator – 8th District

Copy:

Honorable Jake Corman, Senate President Pro Tempore
Honorable Kim Ward, Senate Republican Leader
Honorable Jay Costa, Senate Democratic Leader