

From: Office of the President <cosborn@adams.edu>

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Subject: Violence Is Not The Answer

Dear Adams State Community:

I write from my heart today and ask your indulgence in sharing such a personal statement.

Mobsters and their violence never win.

Words are insufficient to describe the horror I felt watching the events unfold yesterday in our US Capitol. Hurt, shame, and embarrassment are not adequate to express the outrageous pain I felt yesterday and the sense of loss I still feel today. Violence is never the answer and violence should not be tolerated at any time.

I have spent many days in the very building the mob stormed yesterday. I have walked the very halls of our US Capitol and worked with our national legislators addressing higher education issues for years. I sat in the gallery of the Senate and in the House listening to debates for hours about critical issues waiting and hoping for wise decisions to be made. Waiting to see if there would be increases to Pell awards or to see if special earmark funds would be allocated for important projects to support students. I know our nation's Capitol very well and feel a sense of loss for the disrespect displayed yesterday also resulting in loss of life and injuries to several individuals.

Moreover, I feel a sense of danger to our democracy. Freedom of expression is important. Freedom of speech is sacred. Freedom to peacefully assemble is critical to a strong democracy. At the same time, no one is above the law and no one has the right to commit the seditious actions leading to the mob behavior. We often hear democracy is messy yet a beautiful thing. My heart aches for our democracy and is still very heavy today as what happened yesterday was ugly. I am not sure we displayed the anchor of democracy America has been known as and held up as a model for other nations.

I ask you to join me in thoughtful reflection and prayer. I ask you to join me to let everyone know America is a great democracy and we will keep our republic together even though yesterday's actions may not instill a great deal of confidence. We will move forward with a peaceful transition of power as required in our US Constitution. Whether your candidate won or not we need every American to accept the fact we will have a new President and Vice President. More specifically, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will be our new President and Vice President on Jan 20th.

I ask you to join me to recognize and respect our system of governance and work fervently to keep our freedoms to ensure mobsters do not dictate our future. There are appropriate ways to make policy happen and there are established rules and regulations to allow for disagreements to be resolved in a democracy. I also ask you to think about a better way for us to treat each other. I ask you to take the time to figure out how we can regain a sense of civility and respect so we can peacefully engage in dialogue on important issues. I ask you to think about how we can disagree with thoughtful debate while dignity is preserved. Our country needs us to step up and show a better way. Our students expect us to be a beacon for this democracy so important to each of us.

Again, I appreciate your time to read this message and stress to you these thoughts are my personal expressions.

President Lovell