

January 06, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi:

I call on you to condemn the leaders of the “Candle Light Vigil for Democracy” planned for today and to ask members in your caucuses to cancel their planned support for this event. The organizers behind this event have a history of engaging in extremist tactics to interfere with workings of democracy. During a week where you have vociferously condemned those who tried to obstruct congressional proceedings last January 6th, you must also be similarly willing to call out leftist activists who have also engaged in criminal acts to interfere with democracy.

When it comes to political violence and criminal obstruction of government by the left, the silence by Democrats has been deafening. Democrats looked the other way when antifa rioters torched a federal courthouse in Portland. They did the same when left-wing rioters in Seattle seized power from a democratically elected government and tried to secede by creating a breakaway anarchist zone. And they did the same when hundreds unlawfully trespassed into the Senate to disrupt the nomination process of Justice Kavanaugh and then tried to breach the Supreme Court in an attempt to prevent Justice Kavanaugh from taking his oath.

It is time to end this hypocrisy. The “Candle Light Vigil for Democracy” planned for the National Mall today is organized in part by a group called Shut Down DC. That group was founded by antifa activists who promised to “burn down the American plantation.” It is led by Liz Butler and Patrick Young.

These individuals and Shut Down DC have engaged in calculated, unlawful harassment campaigns against many government officials, including Senator Graham, Senator Paul, and White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain. They promoted rioting during former President Trump’s inauguration in 2017, when, according to news reports, rioters vandalized vehicles, smashed windows, set a limo on fire, and injured police officers. A year ago, Patrick Young and Shut Down DC showed up at my house under cover of darkness and knowing that I was away, proceeded to harass my wife and newborn baby. When she asked them to leave, they screamed threats through bullhorns, vandalized property, trespassed, and physically shoved a neighbor who asked them to stop. Patrick

Young called that a “candlelight vigil.” The State of Virginia disagreed. He was charged with—and pled to—criminal trespass.

Reports state that several Democrats—including Representatives Pramila Jayapal, Andy Kim, and Jamie Raskin—are slated to speak at Patrick Young’s “candlelight vigil” today. Elected officials should not partner with Liz Butler and Patrick Young or the groups they lead. If in fact you truly believe that attempts to interfere with democracy should be condemned, then you must break from your past silence and begin condemning those actions when they are committed by the left. It is imperative that you ask members of your caucus to shun groups like Shut Down DC and to cancel their plans to speak at their event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Hawley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long tail at the end.

Josh Hawley  
United States Senator