

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Paul Ryan
H-232
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

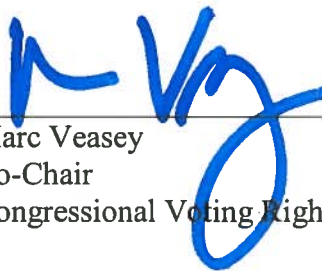
March 15, 2017

Dear Speaker Ryan:

We are writing to express our profound concerns of your disregard for one of our colleague's deeply troubling public remarks and ask that you condemn Representative Steve King's discriminatory comments. On Sunday, March 12, 2017, Congressman Steve King (IA-4) commented on his public twitter page that ***"Wilders understands that culture and demographics are our destiny. We can't restore our civilization with somebody else's babies,"*** in reference to the Netherland's populist far-right candidate for prime minister's outspoken views against immigration and refugees. After these comments were brought to the attention of the media, you excused his comments relaying that you believed Representative King must have misspoken and didn't really mean what he said. Instead, Representative King refused to apologize for his comments and continued, ***"If you go down the road a few generations, or maybe centuries, with the inter-marriage, I'd like to see an America that is just so homogenous that we look a lot the same."*** Additionally, when responding to prominent journalist Jorge Ramos' comment that Caucasians will become a majority-minority demographic in the United States in the coming years, Congressman King replied, ***"the Hispanics and the blacks will be fighting each other before that happens."***

At a time when our country is experiencing a growing number of attacks against minorities and increased tension, it is unacceptable that any elected official would espouse such divisive and racist comments. The strength of America is built upon its diversity and we must rebuke any elected official who fails to uphold this cherished ideal. As the public face of the House of Representatives, we call on you to denounce Congressman Steve King's hateful speech and assure the American people that such comments have no place in the halls of Congress or coming from the mouths of elected representatives.

Sincerely,



Marc Veasey
Co-Chair
Congressional Voting Rights Caucus



Judy Chu
Chairwoman
Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus

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Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Chairwoman
Congressional Hispanic Caucus

J. Z.
Cedric Richmond
Chairman
Congressional Black Caucus