

**Common Cause to “key-vote” motion vote for its 2020 Democracy Scorecard**

January 30, 2020

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Common Cause’s 1.2 million supporters, we strongly urge all Senators to vote for the motion to allow future votes on witnesses and evidence in President Trump’s impeachment trial. The American people deserve a fair trial in the United States Senate – not a show trial to excuse the abuses of office which led to President Trump’s impeachment. All Senators must put the interests of the nation before the interests of their political party and vote to allow relevant witnesses and evidence. **Common Cause will score this vote for our 2020 [Democracy Scorecard](#), which we’ll send to relevant reporters and our 1.2 million members.**

According to a [recent Monmouth poll](#), more than 75% of Americans say that Trump officials, as well as the President himself, should be invited to testify at the Senate trial. A similar [CNN poll](#) found that 69% of Americans, including 48% of Republicans, say that the impeachment trial should include testimony from new witnesses who didn’t testify in the House trial.

Witnesses who have first-hand knowledge of President Trump’s alleged bribery scheme, such as John Bolton and Mick Mulvaney, must be compelled to testify. If they are not allowed to testify, motions to subpoena these critical witnesses must be made during the trial. We are mobilizing our 1.2 million supporters to contact their Senators to encourage them to vote for any such motions.

Many of my fellow Americans have been called to civic duty and served as jurors. In those trials, we heard from witnesses and examined evidence without pre-determining the outcome. We pay Senators’ salaries from our hard-earned tax dollars, so we expect them to do their jobs as jurors and not ignore these responsibilities. A trial without witnesses and evidence isn’t really a trial.

Every week since the House formally impeached President Trump, there have been new and escalating revelations that confirm what we heard from multiple witnesses in the House’s impeachment investigation into President Trump. Each example gave us a crucial look into the President’s abuse of power and obstruction of investigations. With each new revelation pointing toward a President that was directly involved in directing the entire bribery scheme, the American people and the Senate must demand testimony from the first-hand fact witnesses. It is not the House’s fault that the President obstructed its investigation, and it is the Senate’s obligation to the rule of law and the future of American democracy to ensure we get to the bottom of this evolving scandal.

The impeachment of President Donald Trump was unfortunate but absolutely necessary to safeguard our democracy and curb the President’s ongoing and blatant abuse of the powers of his office. The American people deserve a president who puts what’s best for the nation before what’s best for them

*Since 1970, [Common Cause](#) has been working to hold power accountable through lobbying, litigation, and organizing. Our non-partisan, pro-democracy work has helped pass hundreds of reforms at the federal, state, and local levels. We now have 30 state chapters and more than 1.2 million members around the country who are working to strengthen our democracy.*



politically. President Trump refused to do that. Instead, the President tried to bully and coerce Ukraine into smearing one of his political rivals by withholding U.S. military aid to the imperiled U.S. ally.

This is much bigger than just President Trump. Preventing witnesses, evidence, and transparency in President Trump's impeachment trial sets a dangerous precedent and potentially undermines the Constitution for generations. While impeachment might just seem like some abstract exercise, this process could undermine our democracy for years to come. It might be a Republican ignoring the Constitution this time, but it could just as easily be a Democratic president at some point in the future.

Americans deserve nothing less than the full truth. They deserve to see a fair trial, and they are watching closely to see if Senate Republicans fulfill their constitutional duty to serve as an impartial jury or blindly conduct a rigged trial. Republicans and Democrats must put country over party to allow evidence and critical first-hand witnesses as part of the impeachment trial.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn  
President  
Common Cause