Common Cause Calls for Expulsion for Rep. Paul Gosar and Urges "Yes" Vote on H. Res. 789 Censure Resolution

November 17, 2021

Dear Representative:

In any workplace in this country, terrorizing or threatening violence against a colleague would immediately cost the perpetrator their job. The video that Rep. Paul Gosar circulated depicting him killing another Representative and attacking President Biden is reprehensible. From the January 6th attack at the U.S. Capitol, we’ve already seen how dangerous and incendiary social media posts like Rep. Gosar’s can spur real-world violence. You must reject the normalization of political violence and threats and recognize them as the extreme dangers to our democratic institutions and ideals.

Representative Gosar should be expelled from Congress for his conduct, and there should be an investigation into any other circumstances concerning his conduct to hold anyone else involved accountable.

As a first step, we strongly encourage a “yes” vote on H.Res. 789. Representative Gosar deserves to be censured and lose his committee assignments immediately. Common Cause will “score” this vote on H. Res. 789 in our next Democracy Scorecard, which we send to our 1.5 million supporters and to press.

Censuring Representative Gosar and stripping him of his committee assignments is about more than just punishing an extremist and violent Member. It is about condemning hate and demonstrating that there is no place for this behavior in our democracy. In the history of the U.S. House of Representatives, 23 House Members have been censured. Representative Gosar deserves to be the 24th House Member to be censured because of his horrific video depicting him killing another Member and violently attacking the President. We strongly urge a “yes” vote on H. Res. 789.

Sincerely,

Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause

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 1.5 million members around the country who are working to strengthen our democracy.