

# **AN OPEN LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE DAN DONOVAN**

As educators and citizens, we strongly condemn the following actions and executive orders of President Trump and the Trump administration since taking office on January 20, 2017. This letter does not necessarily represent the view of Wagner College, but of each of us as concerned citizens and educators. We condemn these acts not in a spirit of partisanship, but because they violate basic principles of American democracy, of intellectual and scientific standards and of international responsibility.

1. First and foremost we condemn Trump's Executive Order barring refugees, immigrants and all nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States. This act violates the spirit of U.S. and international law crafted at the end of WWII to offer asylum to refugees. By functioning as a ban excluding primarily those of Muslim faith, this order creates religious discrimination and does so intentionally. This act does not reflect our American values. It does not reflect who we are and directly impacts the students and communities we serve. Sadly, it may help anti-American terrorists with recruitment efforts by offering a misleading image of U.S. attitudes towards Muslims.
2. On the first day of office, the Trump White House removed from its website any reference to or information about climate change, despite the fact that nearly all reputable scientists agree that action must be taken NOW to prevent certainty of catastrophic disaster. Our students are taught the fundamentals of science, and to value and respect the work of scientific experts on matters of science, over the opinions of politicians. We strongly condemn President Trump's disrespect for scientists and dismissal of scientific fact.
3. The Trump Administration has also removed from the White House website any reference to LGBTQ rights. We take this as a harbinger of future actions that will attempt to restrict or reverse gains in equality for this community, just as they have promised to restrict and reverse women's access to reproductive rights. We condemn this for the harm and suffering it will cause members of the Wagner community, including ourselves and our students, as well as others in our nation.
4. President Trump has continued to treat the free press and journalists with contempt, including journalists from The New York Times, the BBC, and CNN. We condemn his disregard for the First Amendment and the importance of fact-based journalism to our democracy. We condemn his refusal to engage in healthy and honest debate, which is fundamental to the health of this nation, and is the cornerstone of any institution of higher learning.
5. Despite claims that he would do so, Donald Trump has still not divested all of his international business holdings. He continues to make profits from, and receive payments from a number of his global holdings. This is in violation of the spirit (if not the letter) of the Emoluments clause of the Constitution. We condemn his insistence on putting his own profits above the good of the nation and continuing to act, on matters of his finances and business holdings, as if he is above the law. This is contrary to the spirit of citizenship we aim to foster in our students.

We believe the above actions, among others, taken by the Trump Administration are a threat to our democracy, our economy, our American values, our international alliances, and the ideals of citizenship and respect for knowledge and diversity that we strive to foster in our students.

Sincerely

***In alphabetical order:***

***Dr. Edna Aurelus***, Assistant Professor of Nursing

***Dr. Susan Bernardo***, Professor of English

***Dr. Amy Eshleman***, Professor of Psychology

***Professor Sarah Friedland***, Assistant Professor of Film and Media Studies

***Dr. Celeste Gagnon***, Associate Professor of Anthropology

***Professor Phill Hickox***, Professor of Theater and Speech

***Dr. Anne Hurley***, Professor of English

***Dr. Steven Jenkins***, Associate Professor of Psychology

***Dr. Marilyn Kiss***, Associate Professor of Spanish

***Dr. Anne Love***, Associate Provost of Assessment and Academic Affairs

***Dr. Bernadette Ludwig***, Assistant Professor of Sociology

***Professor Theresa McCarthy***, Assistant Professor of Theater and Speech

***Professor David McDonald***, Professor of Theater and Speech

***Dr. Laura Morowitz***, Professor of Art History

***Dr. Patricia Moynagh***, Associate Professor of Government and Politics

***Professor Bill Murphy***, Professor of Art

***Dr. Laurence Nolan***, Professor of Psychology

***Dr. Brian Palestis***, Professor of Biology

***Professor Michele Pawk***, Associate Professor of Theater and Speech

***Dr. Florin Pop***, Associate Professor of Mathematics

***Dr. Rita Reynolds***, Associate Professor of History

***Dr. Margarita Sanchez***, Professor of Spanish

***Dr. Anne Schotter***, Professor of English

***Dr. Sarah Scott***, Associate Professor of Art History

***Dr. Zohreh Shahvar***, Associate Professor of Mathematics

***Dr. Alison Smith***, Professor of History

***Dr. Steven Snow***, Associate Professor of Government and Politics

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***Dr. Mark Wagner***, Professor of Psychology

***Dr. Lori Weintrob***, Professor of History

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