

11751 North Shore Drive  
Reston, VA 20190-4507  
June 25, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

I have been a federal civil servant for more than 30 years and have devoted my entire professional life to protecting the national security of the United States. Like you, I **took an oath** to defend the Constitution. As we all know, the President takes office at the inauguration by swearing to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

There is no reason to believe that Donald Trump can uphold this oath. Repeatedly in his **public** statements, Trump has challenged:

- The role of the Congress, by claiming he does not need the support of Republican lawmakers, without whom he could not possibly get legislation passed.
- The independence of the judiciary, by threatening Judge Curiel when he followed up his criticism of Curiel's impartiality with the pledge that "we will come back in November... if I am president."
- The freedom of the press, by denying credentials to Pulitzer-prize winning outlets such as the *Washington Post*.
- The freedom of religion, by maligning Muslims and proposing various types of religious tests.

The role of Congress, the independence of the judiciary, and the sanctity of the Bill of Rights are not legitimate issues of political debate in the United States. We must face up to the **fact that** Donald Trump is challenging basic tenets of our Constitutional system and is therefore unfit for office.

As a leader of the GOP and as someone in authority who has pledged to defend and protect the Constitution, you have an obligation to stop Trump.

The way to stop Trump is for the GOP to formally jettison the extremist elements of the electorate who have taken cover under the Republican umbrella. The experiment to incorporate the tea party and other extremist elements into the GOP has failed and should be abandoned. Currently, many in the extremist fringe that supports Trump actually oppose government, which is itself a challenge to our Constitution.

If the extremist fringe were to be separated out of the Republican Party, then the remaining mainstream members of the party would be freed from supporting Trump's candidacy. And without the support of mainstream Republicans, Trump cannot possibly win. Trump is not a Republican, and it is time to clearly say so.

By adopting this approach of formally breaking with the extremist fringe of Trump and his supporters, the GOP could protect its mainstream candidates who are running in the November elections. Donors would know they could make contributions to the Republican Party without fear that the money would go towards Trump's election bid.

Free of the fringe, the Republican Party could move the political discussion back to where it belongs—on right sizing government—and could re-capture much of the political center. The GOP could, for example, support smart government investment in infrastructure, which is desperately needed, is a legitimate and necessary role for government, is popular, benefits all classes, and promotes business and growth.

I sincerely hope that the GOP will use the opportunity afforded by the upcoming convention to enact this strategy and jettison the extremist fringe. It would be a strategy of making the best of a bad situation and would set the groundwork for the Party's revival.

But most importantly, it would protect the Republic by defending the Constitution, which must take precedence over all other goals.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Hughes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "y" in "Hughes".

Sandra Hughes