No one is above the law, not even the President.
Donald Trump indisputably violated the Constitution and is, without a shadow of a doubt, no longer fit to discharge the duties of the President of the United States of America. I urge my colleagues to support these articles of impeachment; and if the Academy has systematically scorned the letter and spirit of the Constitution on a scale vastly beyond any previous occasion of the White House in disregard of the duly elected Congress, including intercessions with Israel in serious violation of the Speech or Debate Clause of the Constitution, and section 6, clause 1, to deny two Members visitor visas.

Mr. Trump has failed to superintend or check the chronic lawlessness of his subordinate officials. He has thereby made the United States Madison characterized as an impeachable offense.

I think it absolutely necessary that the President have the power of removing his subordinates from office; it will make him, in a peculiar manner, responsible for their conduct, and subject him to impeachment himself. If he suffers them to pursue with impunity high crimes and misdemeanors against the United States, or neglects to superintend their conduct, so as to check their excesses.

Mr. Trump has so indisputably voiced extremist and inflammatory views across many domains of the duties of the Oval Office.

3. APPROPRIATIONS CLAUSE, REVENUE CLAUSE. Article I, section 9, clause 7 prohibits federal government expenditures "but in consequence of appropriations made by law." Congress has consistently voted much money than President Trump requested to build an extensive, multi-billion-dollar wall with Mexico. In violation of the Clause and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Deficiency Act, President Trump has committed to spending billions of dollars far in excess of what Congress has appropriated for the wall. The congressional power of the purse is a cornerstone of the Constitution's separation of powers. James Madison in Federalist Paper 58 explained, "This power over the purse may...be regarded as the most complete and effectual weapon with which any constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people to check and redress every grievance, and to carry into effect every just and salutary measure." The Congress has the power to set all revenue measures to originate in the House of Representatives. In violation of the Clause, President Trump has raised tens of billions of dollars by unilaterally imposing tariffs with limitations discretion under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. He has become a Foreign Trade Czar in imposing tariffs or quotas or granting exemptions from his trade restrictions in his unbridled discretion to assist political friends and punish political enemies. Literally trillions of dollars in international trade have been affected. Riches are made and livelihoods destroyed with the capricious strokes of President Trump's pen.

4. EMBOLICATIONS CLAUSE. Article I, section 9, clause 6 prohibits the President (and other officers of the Government of the United States) from accepting any "present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State." The President should be above suspicion. The clause aims to prohibit dual loyalties or its appearances and conflicts of interest. President Trump has notoriously refused to place his assets in a blind trust. Instead, he continues to profit from his hotels and businesses, often attended by foreign governments. He has permitted his family to commercialize the White House.
He has compromised the national interest to enrich family wealth on a scale unprecedented in the history of the presidency.

5. TREATY Clause. Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the United States Constitution provides that the President may not be a Member of Congress. The United States Supreme Court held in Clinton v. New York, 524 U.S. 417 (1998), that a President, even if he has voted on legislation, commonly exercises the equivalent of unconstitutional legislative power through his veto of legislation. The Court held that presidential power is not constitutionally invalid even though the President is a Member of Congress.

6. DECLARE WAR Clause. Article I, section 8, clause 18 empowers Congress alone to take the nation from a state of peace to a state of war. The President may not initiate hostilities. The President does not have the power to declare war. The President's power to order military operations in time of war is essentially a administrative or executive power and can be exercised at any time in history. In violation of the Declaration of Independence, President George Washington, in a letter to Congress, stated that all major military operations should be initiated by Congress and not by the President.

7. TAKE CARE Clause: PRESENTMENT Clause. Article II, section 3 obligates the President to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. In violation of that trust, President Donald J. Trump has repeatedly attempted to frustrate special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of wrongdoing by the Trump administration.

8. DUE PROCESS Clause. The Fifth Amendment provides that no person shall "be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." In the case of Trump, President Trump claims power, like his immediate predecessors, to act as prosecutor, judge, jury, and executioner. He has been accused of making illegal or improper appointments to the judiciary and of appointing unqualified people to positions of great responsibility. The President has also been accused of using his office to benefit himself and his family.

9. APPOINTMENTS Clause. President Donald J. Trump has repeatedly appointed principal officers of the United States, including the National Security Advisor and Cabinet officials, who have not been confirmed by the Senate in violation of the Appointments Clause, Article II, section 2, clause 2. On a scale never practiced by prior presidents, Mr. Trump has filled as many as half of Cabinet posts with "acting Secretaries" who have never been confirmed by the Senate.

10. SOLICITING A FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION FOR THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. President Trump has been found guilty of corruption in his solicitation of foreign financial contributions to his 2020 presidential campaign.

11. VIOLATION OF CITIZEN PRIVACY. The Fourth Amendment protects the right to be let alone from government snooping, the most cherished right among civilized people as Justice Brandeis recognized. In dissent, Justice Brandeis dissented United States v. United States, 277 U.S. 348 (1928) (dissenting opinion). Government spying on Americans comes with a warrant issued by a neutral magistrate based on probable cause to believe crime is afoot. President Trump, however, routinely violates these principles by increasing the monitoring and surveillance of Americans for non-criminal, foreign intelligence purposes. The President's behavior is an affront to the values of democratic society.

12. SUPPRESSION OF FREE SPEECH. The major purpose of a free press protected by the First Amendment is to expose government lies or illegitimates—to shine light on the dark side. Justice Hugo Black elaborated this principle in United States v.值 (1971) in protecting publication of the classified Pentagon Papers from suppression: "The Government's power to control the press was abolished so that the press would remain forever free to censure the Government. The press was protected so that it could report on the workings of government. The responsibility of the press is chiefly to prevent government from becoming tyrannical. It is to ferret out corruption in government. Without this protection, government could not function in freedom and would grow dictatorial."
take no vote, is in essence condoning this behavior that disregards our Constitution. Republicans may see today differently, but as we look forward, we must stand united as a Congress in defending our democracy.

For a democracy to work in a system of check and balances, no one is above the law. The oath of allegiance to the United States Constitution; there are no exceptions for the art of the deal.

Ms. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, there are quite a few comments from the other side about how this is partisan, and this is an attack, and we’re coming after Donald Trump.

I don’t like this President. I don’t like his values, or his decision making, nor his policies or the words he chooses to use. But these articles are not about a man. They are about the ACTIONS of a man. They are about the ways in which someone elected to the highest office in this country abused that office, and violated the basic tenets of the constitutional balance of power.

I don’t want him to serve two terms, but this is about that. This is about holding the President accountable, whoever he may be, to the standards and expectations of that office.

I say that genuinely. I would take this same vote for any President who abused his office in the same manner. Member of this body who fails to understand what this vote really means—making clear what we expect of the OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, not the person sitting in it—is deeply and horribly mistaken.

Anyone who fights for democratic values, who values the balance of power, who wants to ensure the underpinnings of the greatest democracy in the world remain strong for generations to come, will support these articles of impeachment as I intend to do.

Mr. RUZ. Madam Speaker, as a citizen of the United States of America, the greatest experiment in democracy that our world has ever known, as the duly elected U.S. House Representative of my home communities of the Coachella Valley, San Gorgonio Pass, and the San Jacinto Pass in California’s 36th Congressional District, and as the father to two young daughters growing up in this great nation, I rise today in support of impeaching the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump.

By conditioning $391 million in military aid to a foreign ally on an investigation into his political rival, Donald Trump abused the power of the presidency for personal political gain. He then obstructed Congress in its constitutionally mandated oversight role. In doing so, President Trump violated our Constitution, compromised our national security, and undermined the integrity of our democratic process.

This was a principled decision made with great reverence for the Constitution, in the best interest of our nation, and without partisan consideration. I was compelled by the overwhelming evidence and the sacred oath I took to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution—and by nature, our very democracy.

When Benjamin Franklin was leaving Independence Hall at the closing of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, he was asked whether America would be a republic or a monarchy, and his response was, “A republic, if you can keep it.”

By voting in favor of impeachment today, I am voting to keep it.

Benjamin Franklin and the Founding Fathers envisioned the tragic scenario we are witnessing at this moment in history: The President of the United States abusing the power of the office for a foreign country for personal political gain.

They gave us a constitutional remedy. They gave us this remedy because the Constitution is not a self-preservation document. It needs protection and defense.

History must reflect that there are people taking that oath of office seriously and fighting to keep our Republic intact; that there are people who are defending the Constitution and fighting for the survival of our democracy as a process; that there are people who say that any President—regardless of political party—who abuses the power of their high office for personal gain will be held accountable.

It is important for me, for my daughters, Sky and Sage, for my grandchildren, my great grandchildren, and future generations; it is important for the ideals of the Constitution and the core of our Republic that I solemnly cast my vote today in favor of impeaching President Donald Trump.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 755, a resolution impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors. Today is indeed a solemn day for the United States of America.

The two Articles of Impeachment, as written and passed by the House Judiciary Committee, outline the findings of the investigations done by several committees of jurisdiction, charged with the constitutionally-mandated task of finding out the truth.

The truth is that President Trump used the power of his office by obstructing the impeachment inquiry; solicited the interference of the Ukraine Government in the 2020 U.S. presidential election in an attempt to undermine our elections; and posed a threat to national security for political gain.

Madam Speaker, I have listened to and spoken with my constituents in my district and throughout the state of Texas. The corrupt and illegal pattern of evidence is overwhelming. Therefore, I am voting in favor of H. Res. 755, a resolution impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Mr. CAPTAIN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a fundamental ideal of our republic that every American receives justice under the law. As a Member of this body, we are required to uphold that ideal, and as a former judge, I was tasked with the same responsibility. What I have seen throughout this impeachment process is far from justice.

In fact, this process has lacked impartiality, respect for the United States Constitution, and fairness. When I was on the bench, I instructed every juror the same way: I told them that “what someone heard from another source other than what they directly observed is not evidence.” Rumors and hearsay are not evidence under our laws, and it certainly should not be in this chamber.

The evidence presented by the Majority in this case is entirely hearsay and therefore, should be inadmissible. In fact, the only direct evidence presented to this body is the transcript of President Trump’s telephone call with the Ukrainian President.

The Constitution is clear—treason, bribery, high crimes and misdemeanors are impeachable offenses, and the evidence presented does not meet those standards. Impeachment is one of the most serious acts that Congress will undertake. It is not to be taken lightly or to be used as a political weapon against those you disagree with, but unfortunately, that is where we find ourselves today. For that reason, I will not vote in favor of impeachment and I also ask my colleagues to reflect on one thing: in light of what we have observed about the process used to charge the President, are we upholding justice? I truly do not.

Ms. DELAURA. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue of solemn, national importance. The impeachment of a President of the United States is not a step we take lightly, nor with anything but the seriousness it demands. But, we take it, because it is our duty to uphold our oath of office, the Constitution, and the trust that our constituents and the American people place in us. That is why I am voting for the articles of impeachment.

President Donald Trump’s actions are a dangerous departure from his oath of office and his duty to uphold the Constitution. As with many of my colleagues, I was reluctant to call for impeachment because I feared it would further divide our country and risk overturning the 2016 election, and go to the United States Senate where Republicans would acquit President Trump regardless of the evidence. But the President’s unchecked actions gave the Congress no other choice.

Today, the House of Representatives is upholding its duty to protect the Constitution of the United States. Our founders set up a system of checks and balances, separation of powers and rule of law as a safeguard so that no person would be above the law. That includes the President of the United States. The Constitutional recourse for “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors” is clear: impeachment.

It is a heavy price—intended only for matters of grave consequence to our public. President Trump’s actions meet that high bar, and that is why I am voting in favor of the articles of impeachment.

The facts of the case against President Trump are indisputable. On July 25, 2019, President Trump called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and asked him to “look into” 2020 Presidential candidate Vice President Joe Biden and his son so that no person would be above the law. In the weeks leading up to that call, the President withheld Congressionally-appropriated foreign aid to Ukraine, as well as a meeting between the two countries’ presidents in the White House, as leverage. The President’s abuse of power has been corroborated before the Congress by brave public servants over the last few months.

Facing a Congressional investigation into these matters, President Trump “directed the unprecedented, categorical, and indiscriminate defiance of subpoenas issued by the House of Representatives pursuant to its ‘sole Power of Impeachment.’” In doing so, President Trump obstructed Congress’s Constitutionally-authorized investigation.

So, today, I will vote to uphold my responsibility, outlined in the oath I have taken and the Constitution. I will vote for the articles of impeachment.

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I did not come to Congress to impeach the President. But, I swore an oath to protect our country