

December 10, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

RE: American Muslim Community Request for U.S. Representative Lauren Boebert to be Censured, Removed from Committee Assignments

Dear Madam Speaker and Majority Leader Hoyer:

We the undersigned American Muslim community civil society organizations respectfully request that House Democratic leadership move forward with proceedings to formally censure and remove U.S. Representative Lauren Boebert from House Committee assignments following her repeated and incendiary Islamophobic rhetorical attacks targeting one of the first American Muslim women elected to Congress, Representative Ilhan Omar.

Rep. Boebert's belligerent, and so far, consequence-free, targeting of Rep. Omar with bigoted Islamophobic hate speech, falsehoods, and anti-Muslim tropes call into question Congress' integrity as a respectable lawmaking body while creating a dangerous work environment for American Muslim staff and elected officials to conduct their civic duties. Recently on OANN, Rep. Boebert explicitly called Rep. Omar a "terrorist."

We have waited too long for Republican leadership – starting with House Republican Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy – to openly denounce Congresswomen Boebert and Marjorie Taylor Greene's anti-Muslim hate speech and publicity stunts. It is disappointing to see that Rep. McCarthy has chosen not to make it clear once and for all that the Republican Party does not tolerate Islamophobic rhetoric or employ it to inflame bigotry and incite violence.

It is also irresponsible for Rep. McCarthy to spread the falsehood that Rep. Boebert has privately or publicly apologized. She has not.

Despite ample opportunities, Rep. Boebert has not personally or privately apologized to Rep. Omar. The unapologetic tweet Rep. Boebert sent to "anyone in the Muslim community I offended" was half-hearted and insincere, and later contradicted by her doubling down in inflammatory attacks following her phone call with Rep. Omar.

We are seriously concerned that Rep. Omar received a violent threat to her office in response to Rep. Boebert's disparagingly anti-Muslim phone call, one of the hundreds of threats she has received over the years following anti-Muslim rhetorical attacks in Congress.

McCarthy's unwillingness to publicly rebuke or punish Boebert and Greene for their repeated anti-Muslim hate speech shows that the Republican Caucus and its leadership are unwilling to tackle bigotry within their ranks or protect the religious rights of all Americans, including American Muslims.

The normalization of Islamophobic hatred and bigotry is unacceptable to the American Muslim community. These views should also be unanimously rejected by the United States Congress.

We join the several dozen Democratic lawmakers, more than 400 congressional staffers, and Muslim staff who have already called on your offices to begin House proceedings to censure Rep. Boebert and remove her from committee assignments. Failing to do so would signal that Islamophobia is an acceptable form of bigotry in the halls of Congress.

We expect you to take action. Show the American public that you are listening to the concerns of American Muslims and ensuring the safety of our elected officials.

Sincerely,

Arizona Muslim Alliance
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Engage Action
Indian American Muslim Council
Jetpac Resource Center
Libyan American Alliance
Muslim American Society (MAS)
MPower Action
Muslim Justice League
Poligon Education Fund
U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)

- American Muslim Alliance (AMA)
- American Muslim for Palestine (AMP)
- Baitulmaal for Relief and Development
- Burmese Rohingya Association of North America (BRANA)
- Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)
- CAIR
- Dar Alhijrah Islamic Center
- Downtown Islamic Center – Chicago (DIC)
- Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD)
- International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT)

- Islamic Association of North America (IANA)
- Islamic Center of Chicago Western Suburbs (ICW)
- Islamic Center of Detroit (ICD)
- Islamic Community Center of Illinois (ICCI)
- Islamic Center of Naperville (ICN)
- Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)
- Islamic Leadership Council of New York
- Islamic Shura Council of Southern California (ISCSC)
- Mercy Without Limits (MWL)
- Mosque Foundation (MF)
- The Mosque Cares (Ministry of Imam W. D. Mohammed)
- MAS
- Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)
- Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA)
- Muslim Forum of the Pacific Northwest (MFPNW)
- New York Majlis Ashura
- North America Imams Federation (NAIF)
- Together We Serve (TWS)
- United Muslim Relief (UMR)
- United Hands Relief (UHR)