



June 14, 2017

We, the Governance Board of Suit Up Nebraska, are shocked and saddened to hear of the shooting that took place this morning during a Congressional baseball practice. We pray for those involved for a speedy and full recovery, for their families and for all affected by this senseless act.

Under no uncertain terms, Suit Up Nebraska condemns this act of violence. Our organization is founded on the values and beliefs of progressive action through education and civil discourse. This act of domestic terrorism, targeting a group of individuals solely due to their political affiliations and ideologies, goes against everything we believe.

Speaker Paul Ryan was correct in his reaction to this incident that, “An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us.” Our democracy thrives *because* it is a conglomeration of individuals; of ideas, of values, and beliefs. We, the members of Suit Up Nebraska, have come together to champion the diversity that makes up our nation’s populace. We have made it our mission to support the marginalized, to protect the vulnerable, and to encourage the education and dialogue of diversity. Our actions on a daily basis are evidence of the ever-present hope that education and understanding will stop being a partisan issue and we work to encourage unity and collaboration. This shooting has done nothing but set back those efforts and cuts our beliefs and work to the core. Violence is not the answer. The motivations and behaviors of this shooter are not done in our name.

We must be the change we want to see in this world, and SUN implores all members to act rationally, to think critically, and to embrace compassionately. We recognize the frustrations and feelings of hopelessness that are engulfing the citizens of this once great nation, but resorting to violence and acts of aggression can not be the answer. We pray for guidance, wisdom, and peace during these turbulent times. We pray for strength and courage of convictions in our work going forward.

And we pray for the leaders of this nation. May they have the wisdom, compassion and courage to lead thoughtfully and collectively. May they strive for unity in the wake of this incident. May they see their way to educate themselves and others to the dangers that arise for all of us, from the young children at Sandy Hook to the Congressmen shot today, in the absence of reasonable gun control measures. May reflection on the circumstances of this and the countless other gun crimes that plague our nation guide them in crafting and voting for legislation that offers real protection to the citizens of this nation and not just meets the interests of lobby groups. May this tragedy that happened to one of their own enlighten them to the very real threats of untreated mental health problems and may it encourage them to pass reasonable and compassionate legislation for mental healthcare coverage.

And we pray for Donald Trump. May this incident awaken him to the dangerous repercussion of his violent and inciting rhetoric. May he become enlightened to the divisiveness of his words and actions and seek to correct the damage by condemning acts of violence in his name and call for peace and reason for all people moving forward. May he have the wisdom, compassion and understanding moving forward to do what is right and good, in all things, for the better of this nation and its people.

This organization will continue forth with its work; to bring accountability to our elected officials; to work to elect candidates who better represent our values and will listen to the needs of their constituents; to bring Donald Trump to justice under the rule of law for his many violations of the Constitution and the continued discovery of evidence to any collusion with Russia; to continue to fight for the marginalized, people of color, the environment, education, veterans, reasonable gun laws, healthcare, and so many more causes and issues that mean so much to the people and the future of this nation and the world. We will continue to be true to ourselves and our mission in our work, but we will do so in a nonviolent fashion.

As always, Suit Up Nebraska condemns all acts of violence, hate, and vandalism, and we disavow any individual who takes it upon themselves to act in such a manner.

On behalf of the Suit Up Nebraska Governance Board,  
Kathleen Burke  
Executive Director