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Re: Standing Up & Stepping Forward

To My Fellow Republicans:

As we approach the ballot box on or before next Tuesday, I ask you to contemplate what so many of our party didn't do over the last eighteen months, since Donald Trump first entered the race for President.

Perhaps we were inattentive or naïve; perhaps we relied on others or rationalized our own thinking; perhaps we were cynical or angry. But, no matter what, we still have an opportunity to stand up and step forward, to have our voices heard, our votes counted, and our values served.

I begin with a review of the past eighteen months of Trump's statements and our inaction, and I end below with the recognition that some did stand up and step forward, which it is now time for all of us to do.

First Trump accused today's Mexican immigrants of doing drugs, being criminals and engaging in rape, but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't recent immigrants. [June 16, 2015](#)

Then Trump insulted John McCain, but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't war heroes. [July 17, 2015](#)

Then Trump belittled one woman's biology and another woman's appearance, but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't women. [August 7, 2015](#) & [September 9, 2015](#)

Then Trump mocked a reporter with a congenital condition, but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't disability sufferers. [November 24, 2015](#)

Then Trump demonized Muslims, calling for their “total and complete shutdown”, but we did not stand up or step forward — perhaps because we weren't Muslims. [December 7, 2015](#)

Then Trump threatened those protesters at his rallies that he'd defend those who might beat them up, but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't rally attendees. [February 1, 2016](#)

Then Trump displayed an ignorance of the Bible, but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't devout Christians. [February 18, 2016](#)

Then Trump called the Pope disgraceful, but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't practicing Catholics. [February 18, 2016](#)

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Then Trump dismissed those who questioned the support he received from a Klu Klux Klan Grand Wizard, but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't KKK targets. [February 28, 2016](#)

Then Trump attacked Senator Ted Cruz' wife and claimed his father was involved in President Kennedy's assassination, but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't conservative Republicans. [March 22, 2016](#) & [May 3, 2016](#)

Then Trump disparaged an Indiana-born federal judge as biased due to his Mexican ancestry but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't Mexican descendants. [May 27, 2016](#)

Then Trump denigrated the grieving mother and father of a soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't Gold Star parents. [July 30, 2016](#)

Then Trump shamed a former Miss Universe after she put on weight but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't beauty pageant contestants. [September 28, 2016](#)

Then Trump objectified young women saying he could kiss, grope and grab as he desired but we did not stand up or step forward – perhaps because we weren't potential sexual assault targets. [October 8, 2016](#)

From the first, there was a man who did stand up and step forward, not simply to withhold his endorsement and not simply to express his disapproval of what Trump said and did. But instead to do far more, to leave the comfort of private life, to risk reputation and relationships, to sacrifice time and effort – all to show that there is a different way, a better way to serve our nation and our fellow citizens.

From the first, Bill Weld warned us of the dangers of Donald Trump, even though he wasn't a recent immigrant, a war hero, a woman, a disability sufferer, a Muslim, a rally attendee, a devout Christian, a practicing Catholic, a KKK target, a conservative Republican, a Mexican descendant, a Gold Star parent, a beauty pageant contestant or a potential sexual assault target.

From the first, Bill Weld stood up and stepped forward, not because he was one of those whom Donald Trump accused, insulted, belittled, mocked, demonized, threatened, ignored, disgraced, dismissed, attacked, disparaged, denigrated, shamed, or objectified but because Bill Weld – prosecutor, Governor, husband, father, and citizen – is certainly a strong and great American.

And now, at last, it is time for us, as we approach the ballot box, to join Bill Weld and stand up and step forward because we too are certainly stronger together as great Americans.

With faith for our future,



R.J. Lyman