



To: President Trump's Cabinet
From: America's Cabinet
Subject: The Trump administration is failing the #MeToo movement

Friday, February 16, 2018

Members of President Trump's Cabinet,

The nation is currently undergoing a long-overdue reckoning with the widespread issue of sexual assault, harassment and abuse at all levels of society. The #MeToo movement, powered by women and girls brave enough to bring their stories to light and hold the powerful accountable, has demonstrated how pervasive and traumatic the issue of sexual violence is in society, and now it's up to us to change it.

We, the men of [America's Cabinet](#) – a group of young elected officials from across the country who came together to offer an alternative vision for the nation – are writing to you today to urge you to take a stand for all those in our country who are survivors of sexual assault, harassment and abuse. Your failure to do so will long be remembered for what it is – a crisis of moral leadership.

Leadership is about more than just making policy; it's also about being a role model, conducting yourself in accordance with a moral compass and embodying the values that Americans hold dear. In part, Americans have lost faith in our government because they can no longer count on elected officials to live up to the highest ethical standards in their personal and professional conduct.

We call on you to show leadership that truly honors and lives up to the American values of dignity, respect and humanity towards all people, regardless of race, class or gender. Do not let yourselves fall on the wrong side of history.

President Trump himself has been accused of sexual misconduct by at least [20 women](#) and has been [recorded](#) bragging about sexually assaulting women. He endorsed a candidate for Senate who was [accused](#) of sexually assaulting at least eight women and girls, one as young as 14 years old.

Now, we've learned that the Trump administration's failure to protect women and girls goes beyond the president's personal conduct.

Staff secretary Rob Porter was hired into the White House and granted a security clearance despite the administration's [knowledge](#) that he had physically abused two ex-wives, including one whom he left with a black eye. After this was revealed, the administration reluctantly fired Porter, with Trump [lamenting](#) that "people's lives are being shattered and destroyed by a mere allegation."

You – the members of President Trump's Cabinet – need to send a clear message about your stance toward spousal abuse. Amid the historic #MeToo movement, you must draw a clear line against the perpetrators and stand with the survivors of harassment, assault and abuse.



For too long, we have expected survivors to stand alone in bearing the burden of exposing sexual misconduct and holding perpetrators accountable. No more. It's time for all of us – especially men – to demonstrate our solidarity with survivors and to send a clear message that we believe them, support them and commit ourselves to justice for those who, like Trump and Porter, sexually and physically mistreat women.

America's Cabinet is taking that stand and recommending policies to back it up. We support protections and strengthened enforcement measures for survivors of abuse and harassment. Our [bold ideas](#) agenda includes an all hands-on-deck approach to ensure that women have access to safe and fair places to work and live, while perpetrators are held fully accountable for their actions.

We propose mandatory training for members of Congress to ensure that tax dollars go to preventing sexual assault and harassment, not covering it up; an investigative unit within the Departments of Justice and Labor to examine industry-wide trends and recommend best practices for protections for women; equal pay for equal work; and – most importantly – more qualified women in leadership positions across the government.

We – the males serving on America's Cabinet – are proud that our cabinet is made up of half men, half women, reflecting the population at large and including the valuable perspectives of the full diversity of our great country. We write to you not only as elected officials in cities and states across our nation but also as husbands, fathers, fathers-to-be, sons and brothers. We stand proudly alongside our female counterparts in America's Cabinet to show that we can do better as a country.

We are going one step further. In our capacities as local elected officials – from Maine to California – we will be initiating these policy proposals in our own legislative bodies and regional governments. We call on you to do the same in your agencies throughout this administration.

As members of President Trump's Cabinet, we call on you to intervene and speak up on behalf of women and girls, even when others won't. We call on you to join us in ensuring that the home and the workplace are safer and fairer places for all Americans. We call on you to hold the president accountable when he or others fail to live up to these ideals, not just because the voters expect you to, but because it's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Daniel Riemer, Wisconsin State Representative
Secretary of Defense, America's Cabinet

Matthew Lesser, Connecticut State Representative
Secretary of Commerce, America's Cabinet

Jon Hoadley, Michigan State Representative
Secretary of Treasury, America's Cabinet

Chris Larson, Wisconsin State Senator
Small Business Administrator, America's Cabinet



David Bowen, Wisconsin State Representative
Secretary of Labor, America's Cabinet



Aaron Regunberg, Rhode Island State Representative
U.S. Trade Representative, America's Cabinet



Adam Morfeld, Nebraska State Senator
Secretary of State, America's Cabinet



Dominick Moreno, Colorado State Senator
Secretary of HHS, America's Cabinet



Brandon Scott, Baltimore, MD City Councilman
Secretary of HUD, America's Cabinet



Spencer Thibodeau, Portland, ME City Councilor
U.S. Representative to the U.N., America's Cabinet