

**John D. Stempel
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Dear Senator McConnell,

Over 20 years ago when I first came to Kentucky to live and work, I voted for you and supported you because you had good sense and were voting for what seemed good and attainable. Over the last six or eight years you have grown steadily away from supporting solid causes and finally ended up supporting presidential candidate Donald Trump, who has made a mockery of the Grand Old Party.

Instead of leading your fellow senators in a push for good cabinet candidates, we have the poorest pool in history. You personally should be ASHAMED of betraying the great heritage of the Lincoln Republican Party by not opposing Jeff Sessions for Attorney General. Leading the fight for Betsy Devos and other notably unfit cabinet candidates will, I'm afraid, leave you and your fellow Republican senators in poor shape and bad reputation in the years to come.

You are now going along with Trump and his "allies" – the quasi-fascist Steve Bannon and those who have convinced the President to virtually gut the State Department, thus leaving us vulnerable. Bannon's presence and should be dispensed with for the good of country and party. I urge you to insist he be fired, and the State Department be refunded.

The President's proposed \$54 billion dollar increase for the Defense Department is unwanted by them and far too much. Several generals have already suggested that half that amount should be turned over to State, and there are a number of people who could show you how to use the other \$27 billion to reform the Affordable Care Act to cover virtually everyone in the country.

You could even insist that the Senate would not consider any new Trump legislation unless and until his tax returns are released. You might even lose him to the ensuing scandal, but that WOULD give you a chance to support a successful Mike Pence presidency, which could not help but be a considerable improvement over the present situation.

You are likely to pay a heavy price for blocking Merrick Garland's nomination for a Supreme Court judgeship. Judge Gorsuch does not have either the interest or capability to produce good human rights decisions.

If you and your Republican colleagues do not act swiftly and decisively to get Trump and his minions either under control or out of office, your own political legacy will be at risk as well of that of a great American Political Party. Get to work!

Sincerely,

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