

**Open Letter to Undecided Voters—2020**  
**September 20, 2020**

Dear Fellow Citizen

As doctors and fellow citizens, we are very concerned about the health of America and about the impact of the upcoming Presidential election. We assume many of you have the same concerns but may have not yet decided how you will vote. **We are not writing to try to change your political affiliation but we are asking that you vote in a way that helps put our country in a more secure direction. We hope to do this by addressing some of the principles and values we believe we share in common: as friends, family, co-workers, neighbors and fellow Americans.**

Acknowledging what we have in common is important regardless of the outcome of the election—we will remain co-citizens either way—but we are also very concerned about the direction our country has been going in. **Consider whether the last four years---and especially the last six months since the onset of the corona virus pandemic---has made you feel more or less secure about the preservation of following shared principles.** We don't know for sure how well Joe Biden will be able to protect what is important to us but we all have a pretty good idea how President Trump has done in this regard.

1. We cherish our right of all registered citizens to vote for our elected officials, but we also value safety which is at risk during this pandemic. **We don't want voters to be harassed at the polls and we do need a functional postal service to allow mail-in ballots. We also expect that all parties will respect the outcome of the election.**
2. We want this pandemic to be over so we can resume our normal lives without the fear of getting or passing on a dangerous infection. **We also want accurate information about risks: we don't want government officials to either "down play" or exaggerate the risks.** We want a coordinated federal response to include testing and provision of protective equipment and resources regardless of a community's political leanings. We want safe and effective treatments and vaccines and know these absolutely cannot be rushed through the approval process for political reasons. **We also know this is not the time for the federal government to be arguing before the Supreme Court—as the Trump Administration is doing—to eliminate the Affordable Care Act which provides health care insurance for more than 25 million people.**
3. We want to be prepared for the climate related disasters which we know are increasing in frequency and intensity. Some of us may doubt the science of climate change but we don't doubt our experience: we've witnessed the pain, fear and devastation of our fellow citizens who have lost family members, homes, communities, farms and livestock from these disasters. **We want a President who is willing to learn from experts, including scientists of *all* disciplines.**

4. **We want stability in the federal Administration** without the constant firings, resignations, security leaks, criminal and ethical investigations that we have witnessed on a regular basis over the last four years. **This requires mature leadership from a President who is secure in him or herself and does not need constant praise and rigid loyalty to a person rather than to our nation and its people.**
5. We want leaders who are honest, respectful of other opinions and willing to listen and learn from criticism. **We want a President who models for our children respectful behavior rather than promotes divisiveness.**

We hope and pray that you carefully consider the risks of allowing our country to continue on the path we have been on the last four years. In 2016 many Americans wanted to give a non-politician a chance in the White House and Donald Trump got enough electoral college votes to win. **It's been a difficult and painful four years for many Americans. Some key people closest to the President have warned us it will be even more painful and more dangerous to our country if he is elected for another term.** You may not be ready to vote for Joe Biden or any other Democrat. But **we ask you in all sincerity: please do not give Donald Trump four more years as leader of our precious country. We believe you know that we shouldn't take that risk. We trust you will make the right decision.**

Sincerely,

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