



November 30, 2021

Committee on Ethics
United States House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Deutch and Ranking Member Walorski:

As organizations representing diverse groups of American Muslims and Jews across the country, we are writing you with an urgent request to open an investigation into the dangerous environment created by the virulent, anti-Muslim remarks of Congresswoman Lauren Boebert, most recently against Congresswoman Ilhan Omar. Rep. Boebert's violent and exclusionary remarks and behavior, especially coming in the aftermath of the events on January 6, 2021 and the physical violence displayed in the halls of the Capitol, not only fail to "reflect creditably" upon the House (Rule 1) but also threaten the well-being of Rep. Omar, her colleagues, her staff, and minority communities across this nation.

American Muslims all over the country have long faced discrimination and even violence for their faith. Unfortunately, this bigotry has manifested itself in Congress, where every American Muslim elected to Congress—Rashida Tlaib, André Carson, Ilhan Omar and current Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison—has received death threats inspired by anti-Muslim hate.

Rep. Boebert's hateful, anti-Muslim statements pose real-life dangers. When elected officials attack religious minorities, they can lay the groundwork for real violence against those communities.¹ Her repeated invocation of the false, offensive stereotype of Muslims as anti-American and terrorist sympathizers gives her many followers a green light to direct hate and threats towards Reps. Tlaib, Carson and Omar—as well as all American Muslims.

¹ [Taking Aim at Multiracial Democracy](#). *Political Research Associates*, October 22, 2019

It is all the more concerning that Congresswoman Boebert made these hateful remarks not once but multiple times², that she did so after publicly advertising that she intends to wield a firearm in the halls of Congress³, and that she flouted the congressional security procedures and may have brought a gun to the House floor⁴. Congresswoman Boebert's own words and deeds pose a danger to her colleagues and the integrity of the House.

It is furthermore a danger to us all and to our ideals to allow this blatant disregard for the safety, security and dignity of American Muslims to persist unaddressed. Congresswoman Boebert's overt anti-Muslim animus raises grave concerns for her ability to use her position of power in a fair, just manner, and to represent the needs and best interests of *all* of her constituents. Her continued, unrepentant displays of bigoted and harmful rhetoric cannot be overlooked especially when she serves on Congressional committees that directly impact the groups of marginalized people she consistently attacks. Bigoted rhetoric does not belong in the halls of Congress and it must not drive the decision-making of this country's leaders.

Holding a member of Congress accountable for their deplorable behaviors and bigoted remarks towards other members—and indeed against an American religious minority—is a part of what allows a system of checks and balances to remain effective. The first recorded instance of the House attempting to take disciplinary action against a member for dishonorable behavior occurred in 1798 after Matthew Lyon spat upon Roger Griswold during a vote. While an apology was sent, a hearing for expulsion took place in front of the Committee of the Whole. 223 years later, we are met with a member who has doubled down on her bigoted rhetoric against another public servant and encouraged an environment of violence in the House, and she too must be held accountable.

You have a critical role to play in ending this atmosphere of hate and intimidation, and preventing harm from befalling one of your colleagues. We must set an example for our children that bullying and harassing individuals who do not look like you or pray like you will not be tolerated. We are fortunate that American Muslim children have role models in Congress who let them know that they too can be leaders in our communities, that they too could one day serve their country in the highest levels of government. If we do not hold Congresswoman Boebert accountable for her latest comments, those same children could get the disturbing message that Congress does not care about the dignity and safety of American Muslims and they do not belong among our elected officials. Moreover, bullies and bigots will believe that hate is justified and justifiable, and that there is no consequence even at the highest levels of the public sphere.

² [Rep. Lauren Boebert suggested Rep. Ilhan Omar was terrorist in anti-Muslim remarks at event](#), CNN, November 27, 2021; [Another video shows Lauren Boebert suggesting Ilhan Omar was terrorist](#), CNN, Nov. 30, 2021

³ [In ad, lawmaker vows to carry her Glock around D.C. and on Hill](#), *The Washington Post*, January 4, 2021

⁴ [Lauren Boebert causes holdup at U.S. House security, refuses to turn over her bag](#), *Denver Post*, January 12, 2021

For the sake of decency, safety, and the functionality of our lawmaking body and our democracy, Congresswoman Boebert must be held accountable for her anti-Muslim attacks, starting with a full congressional investigation.

We look forward to your response.

Signed,

Handwritten signatures of Farah Brelvi and Asifa Quraishi-Landes in black ink.

Farah Brelvi and Asifa Quraishi-Landes
Interim Co-Executive Directors
Muslim Advocates

Handwritten signature of Stosh Cotler in black ink.

Stosh Cotler
CEO
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action