

The Massachusetts House Republican Caucus
Boston, MA

June 4, 2021

Mr. James Lyons
Chairman
Massachusetts Republican Party
400 West Cummins Park
Woburn, MA 01801

Dear Chairman Lyons,

Since its establishment in 1854, the Republican Party has stood against the unequal and unethical treatment of all mankind. For 167 years our party has strived to live up to the principle set forth by our founders that all men are created equal.

The recent comments by Ms. Martell concerning Mr. Sossa-Paquette are disturbing on many levels and are in no way representative of the values of the Republican Party. In a speech given in Illinois shortly after the establishment of our party, Lincoln himself asserted that prejudice deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world, enables enemies to taunt us as hypocrites, to doubt our sincerity, and forces ourselves into an open war with the very fundamental principles of civil liberty.

As elected Republicans, it is our duty to continue to stand up for and defend the principles we believe in, the principles set forth by the very architects of these United States; those of personal freedom and individual responsibility.

In a time when our country stands divided on so many issues pertaining to equality and civil rights, the comments made by Ms. Martell are both inappropriate and disturbing. Now, more than ever, the values and fundamental beliefs that sustained our party and our great nation through its darkest hours of the civil war must be stronger than ever, for "those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves; and, under a just God, cannot long retain it".

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, your silence on the matter of these remarks is unfathomable and deeply concerning. Those principles and the efforts of those who have gone before us are tarnished when we are silent at the misconduct of those extreme elements within our party. If you are unprepared or unwilling to call for the resignation of Ms. Martell, then it gives the appearance that you, and by extension, the Massachusetts Republican Party, are tolerant of these beliefs and actions. As a collective, we legislators are not.

It is our firm belief that these statements must not go unanswered. Mr. Chairman, if you will not assert your position as leader of this esteemed party and demand Ms. Martell's resignation, then we call on you to resign as the Chair of the Party and allow for your replacement so that

we may demonstrate to the people of the Commonwealth that within the Republican Party, Ms. Martell's opinions are not ours and will not be tolerated.

Sincerely,



Peter Durant
State Representative
6th Worcester

Brad Jones
State Representative
20th Middlesex

Bradford Hill
State Representative
4th Essex

Todd Smola
State Representative
1st Hampden

Paul Frost
State Representative
7th Worcester

Kimberly Ferguson
State Representative
1st Worcester

F. Jay Barrows
State Representative
1st Bristol

Susan Gifford
State Representative
2nd Plymouth

Donald Berthiaume
State Representative
5th Worcester

Nick Boldyga
State Representative
3rd Hampden

Angelo D'Emilia
State Representative
8th Plymouth

David Decoste
State Representative
5th Plymouth

Shawn Dooley
State Representative
9th Norfolk

Shelia Harrington
State Representative
1st Middlesex

Steven Howitt
State Representative
4th Bristol

Hannah Kane
State Representative
11th Worcester

James Kelcourse
State Representative
1st Essex

Joseph McKenna
State Representative
18th Worcester

Lenny Mirra
State Representative
2nd Essex

Mathew Muratore
State Representative
1st Plymouth

Kelly Pease
State Representative
4th Hampden

Alyson Sullivan
State Representative
7th Plymouth

Timothy Whelan
State Representative
1st Barnstable

Steven Xiarhos
State Representative
5th Barnstable

David Muradian
State Representative
9th Worcester

Norman Orrall
State Representative
12th Bristol

Michael Soter
State Representative
8th Worcester

David Vieira
State Representative
3rd Barnstable

Donald Wong
State Representative
9th Essex