



October 1, 2021

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0303

Enclosed you will find 50 hand-made textile squares made by participants in a public art intervention called the Violet Protest. These textile squares were exhibited at Phoenix Art Museum in the spring of 2021 in a sculptural installation forming the letters U and S—the familiar acronym for the United States, as well as an overwhelming representation of us, citizen makers from across our country. Together, we have created nearly 27,000 hand-made squares for each Senator and Representative to receive their own collection of 50 squares as a tangible reminder that we are out here, watching and supporting you from each of our 50 United States. As the red and blue of these individual squares came together, they naturally formed a single color—the metaphor on which our Violet Protest is based.

We, as makers—weavers, knitters, quilters, stitchers—carry the tradition of American hands that have crafted ideas into productive objects for centuries. We trust in the power of making to hold our homes, our lives, and even our country together. Through our hands, we have made for you a physical symbol of our collective voices, a tangible expression of our diversity - and our common hope for unity.

You have a hard job. You have stepped up to be a leader, and having secured your position, you now must find a way to juggle the complex politics of the day while making progress on the issues you and your constituents hold dear. We acknowledge you and the difficult job with which you have been entrusted.

We come from all ideological and political persuasions. But beyond any ideology for specific policies or issues, what we really need from you, as our elected leaders, is to believe that you are acting with the following values, no matter what action for progress you are taking.

- **Respect for the other** ▪ **Citizenship** ▪ **Compromise** ▪ **Country before party**
- **Courage** ▪ **Country before corporate influence** ▪ **Candor** ▪ **Compassion** ▪ **Creativity**

We know these values are important to you too, but we also know it is easy to lose sight, and at times, your grip on these principles in the heat of Washington politics. So that is why we've joined together, as makers who believe in the power we can wield by working together to manifest a tangible expression of our care for this country from every corner of America — middle class, rich and poor; black, white and brown; red and blue together.

On our website, [violetprotest.com](http://violetprotest.com), you can learn more about the makers who created these squares. Feel free to post a selfie of yourself with your squares on Instagram using the hashtag #thevioletprotest. Or send it to the artist's email at [annmorton@mac.com](mailto:annmorton@mac.com) so it can be shared with all the makers.

And check with your colleagues—every Senator and Representative received their own diverse selection of 50 squares!

With respect,

*26,750 participating parts of the Violet Protest*