

**VIOLET PROTEST**  
**TIPS AND INFORMATION**  
7/26/2021

Below are suggestions and guidance for creating your letter to lawmakers:

- 1.) Use the letter template as a guide for organizing your own letter – BUT USE YOUR OWN WORDS
- 2.) Project description text is provided for your convenience when/if you describe the Violet Protest in your letter. You can paraphrase, but this will assist you in accurately referencing the project. Do remember that a general narrative about the project will be included from the project itself, but you may find this helpful when referencing the project in your own message.
- 3.) You can use your own letterhead, but if you don't have one, you can use the letter template .doc file
- 4.) You can hand write your letter as well, but use black ink so it can be reproduced easily
- 5.) You can address to a specific lawmaker, but if you do, please ALSO PROVIDE a copy of your letter with no addressee, just your name/city/state plus your message & signature. We will reproduce your "generic" letters for other lawmakers too.
- 6.) ONE PAGE ONLY, PLEASE!
- 7.) PLEASE – NO ARGUMENTS OR PLEAS FOR SPECIFIC ISSUES OR NEGATIVE MESSAGES. Stick to the subjects suggested in the template letter. Tell why you participated in the Violet Protest, tell personal anecdotes, and express how you hope these textiles will be accepted and effect the hearts and minds of Congress
- 8.) At a minimum, always include your name, city and state in your letter
- 9.) Keep your message simple, personal and authentic.
- 10.) Always sign your letter.

Below are details about the logistics in getting your letters included in the VP Packages to Congress:

- 1.) DEADLINES:
  - If you are sending your letters/image in via email – September 15<sup>th</sup>
  - If you are sending hard copies via US Mail – Postmarked by September 8<sup>th</sup>
- 2.) Make sure your message, and any logos, monograms, etc. are easily reproducible
- 3.) IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, SEND A SELFIE! – if you do, please send as a digital file versus a print
- 4.) Whether you send a selfie or just the letter, you MUST return the enclosed release form that will allow us to reproduce and include your letter (and/or photo) in the package to Congress. You can send via email or via snail mail.
- 5.) Email address:
  - [ann@violetprotest.com](mailto:ann@violetprotest.com)Street address:
  - 1420 East Berridge Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85014

WE HOPE YOU PARTICIPATE IN THIS ASPECT OF THE PROJECT. YOUR WORDS WILL BE MEANINGFUL TO LAWMAKERS AND REMIND THEM THAT YOU ARE REAL PEOPLE, REAL VOTERS.

Any additional questions??? Email Ann at: [ann@violetprotest.com](mailto:ann@violetprotest.com)

# Your Name

City and State of Residence (where you vote) – if you want to include your mailing address, that is optional

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Date

Congressman or Congresswoman Kelsey Smith – OR – Senator Kelsey Smith  
117<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States of America

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman Kelsey Smith – OR – Senator Kelsey Smith:

First Paragraph: State that you are a Violet Protest maker, and a brief statement about what compelled you to join the Violet Protest. (Core Values, desire to support our lawmakers to work together and minimize political divisiveness, personal anecdotes, stories from 2020)

Second Paragraph: Explain what you hope will happen when all the lawmakers in Congress receive their own bundle of VP squares. (Soften their positions for division, move them listen and compromise just a little more, maybe they frame their favorite squares for their offices, take a selfie and tag @thevioletprotest on Instagram.)

Third Paragraph: Acknowledge the difficulty of their job, but remind them that we are out here watching, and want them to remember the core values that the Violet Protest supports, no matter the decision at hand - and work towards real progress for the people - for US.

Fourth Paragraph: Thank them for their attention to the Violet Protest.

Sincerely,

Your Name

## **VIOLET PROTEST**

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION TEXT**

7/26/2021

1.)

The Violet Protest is a nation-wide public engagement project that employs hand-made textiles as tools for protest against political divisiveness, and instead, generates a creative call for national unity.

2.)

Focused on values we hold dear, rather than specific political or social issues, the color Violet symbolizes the literal combination of red and blue, familiar symbols of our nation's differing ideologies.

3.)

Over 2200 makers from across all 50 states, DC and Canada have contributed nearly 17,000, 8 x 8-inch squares using a variety of textile processes. Each square, created with equal parts red and blue, sends an individual message supporting the core values of the Violet Protest.

4.)

Core values of the Violet Protest:

- Respect for the other
- Citizenship
- Compromise
- Courage
- Candor
- Country over party and corporate influence
- Compassion
- Creativity

5.)

The project goal is to send bundles of between 25- 50 of these individual squares to all members of the 117<sup>th</sup> US Congress in late 2021/early 2022 as a unique demonstration of protest, and to voice our hopes and support for cooperation between lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

6.)

The Violet Protest was first on exhibit at Phoenix Art Museum – March 10 – September 5, 2021. The exhibit opened with approximately 9500 squares on display, and ended with nearly 17,000 squares!

7.)

Project Website: <https://www.violetprotest.com/>

Instagram: @thevioletprotest <https://www.instagram.com/thevioletprotest/>

Facebook: search the violet protest <https://www.facebook.com/thevioletprotest>

Ravelry: <https://www.ravelry.com/groups/the-violet-protest>



## Photo/Written Letter Content Release Form

I grant permission to artist, Ann Morton on behalf of the Violet Protest (VP), to use photographs taken by me and written text/letters I've provided for use in VP promotional materials, including web sites or other electronic forms or printed media, and to potentially reproduce and use your image and/or letter in the VP package for Congressional lawmakers, without notifying me further.

I hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the photographs, publications, reproductions, or electronic matter that may be used in conjunction with them now or in the future, whether that use is known to me or unknown, and I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising from or related to the use of the photographs.

I hereby agree to release and hold harmless artist Ann Morton on behalf the Violet Protest, via electronic or printed media, from and against any claims, damages or liability arising from or related to the use of the photographs or written materials, including but not limited to any re-use, distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion or use in composite form, either intentionally or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in production of the finished product. It is the discretion of artist Ann Morton on behalf of the Violet Protest to decide whether to use the image.

I am 18 years of age and I am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below, and I fully understand the contents, meaning and impact of this release. I understand that I am free to address any specific questions regarding this release by submitting those questions in writing prior to signing, and I agree that my failure to do so will be interpreted as a free and knowledgeable acceptance of the terms of this release.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Restrictions: (include any restrictions to the use of your photo - name, location, usage online versus on exhibition, etc.)

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Photo Caption and/or credits:

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