



November 2021

Dear Respected Lawmaker:

Enclosed you will find a collection of textile squares made by US-citizen makers from across our country. These squares are just a few of the nearly 13,000 squares that were created by participants in a public art intervention called the **Violet Protest**, the color Violet referencing the literal combination of red and blue, familiar symbols of our nation's differing ideologies. Each 8" x 8" square incorporates equal parts red and blue to symbolize our hope for the mending of the growing political divide in our country. More than 2,000 makers representing all 50 states, DC, and Canada, contributed squares, which were first exhibited at the Phoenix Art Museum and are now being sent to each and every Senator and Representative in the 117th Congress.

**Violet Protesters** come from all ideological and political persuasions. Many makers expressed that this project served as a unique connection to a larger community and an opportunity to remain a productive and active voice during the unprecedented turmoil of the past 21+ months. 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 and corporate influence*
- *Courage* • *Candor* • *Compassion* • *Creativity*

We, as makers carry the tradition of American hands that have crafted ideas into productive, and aesthetic objects for centuries. The inherent qualities of textiles provide meaningful metaphors messaging the interdependence between red and blue threads to maintain the integrity of the fabrics and imagery you will see in your squares. We trust in the power of making to hold our homes, our lives, and even our country together. Through our hands, we have made this physical symbol of our collective voices, a tangible expression of our diversity - and our common hope for unity.

We know these values are important to you too. 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 this overwhelming expression of our care for this country from every corner of America - middle class, wealthy and low income; black, white, brown; skilled craftsmen to beginners; red and blue together.

PLEASE, review the enclosed brochure for the **Violet Protest** story, including suggestions of what we hope you will consider doing with the squares in your personal collection. TAKE THE TIME to touch and appreciate the amazing handwork embodied in these squares. Overall, this project represents over 75,000 hours of committed hand work. And along with this letter, you'll find a few letters from the actual makers from this project with their own words.

Many have told us that it might be a waste of time for us to have worked on this effort. Will you prove them wrong? We hope to hear from you - your thoughts, your reactions, and even photos of you with your favorite square. All the social media links and contact information for me and the **Violet Protest** are included on the accompanying brochure.

With respect, on behalf of over 2,000 American makers,

Ann Morton - Artist, Educator, and organizer of the Violet Protest

**Violet Protest  
Steering Committee**

**Susan Stander - Chair**  
**Mitzi Krockover**  
**Laura Roskind**  
**Nancy Schriber**  
**Beth Ames Swartz**

**Ann Morton -  
Artist and Organizer**

*Political or  
social ideologies of  
steering committee  
members were neither  
considered nor discussed  
in the implementation  
of this project.*

*We have no political  
agenda other than  
bipartisanship.*

*This is not a blue issue,  
or a red issue,  
this is a violet one.*