

February 15, 2021

M21-005

To: SPEEA Council

From: SPEEA Council's Legislative & Public Affairs Committee

Subject: **PRESUBMITTED NEW BUSINESS:** Condemn Attempted Overthrow of American Democratic Government

Background

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, Donald Trump supporters protesting what they believed was a “stolen election” gathered outside the U.S. Capitol Building ahead of the certification of Electoral College votes for President-Elect Joe Biden and vice-president-Elect Kamala Harris. Their plan was stop the certification, find and hang Vice-President Michael Pence, and take hostages of the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, and other Senators and Representatives. Before 1:00 p.m., the group of insurgents breached Capitol Police lines, broke windows and doors and gained access to the U. S. Capitol Building. Once inside members of the group continued breaking through security doors, attacking the Capitol Police, removing government laptops, vandalizing Congressional offices, and gaining access to the House and Senate Chambers. During this attack, a joint meeting of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House was in the process of counting the certified Electoral College votes. This process was suspended as the Capitol Police moved Senators and Representatives into secure locations. The insurgents gained entry into both Senate and House chambers leaving messages that “Justice” would eventually be served. About five hours later, both chambers were able to restart the Certification process. The process continued into the early morning of the 7th where Joe Biden was officially elected U.S. President and Kamala Harris elected vice-President.

The events of the day began with the group of insurgents gathering on the ellipse of the White House around 12:00 p.m. where President Donald J. Trump spoke about demonstrating against the certification of Joe Biden as the next U. S. President. Though the President said he would join the group marching to the Capitol Building, he in fact did not, but rather returned to the White House to watch televised accounts of their activities. The group marched to the Capitol building after the speech and around 12:53 p.m. pushed their way past barricades. Around 1:00 p.m. the certification of the Electoral College results began. At 2:00 p.m. Congressional staffers and reporters were warned to stay away from open doorways and windows as the group had breached other security checkpoints and converged on the building. Between 2:00 and 2:30 p.m. members of the group broke down doors and broke through windows to gain access to the Capitol Building – the Rotunda and Statutory Hall chanting, “Stop the Steal.” and were inside by 2:30 p.m. By 2:45 Capitol police were securing the House and told Representatives to put on their gas masks as tear gas was being deployed in the Rotunda. Another part of the group was attempting to breach a secure hallway outside of the House Chamber when a police officer discharged his weapon killing a woman as she was attempting to enter the secure area. Around 3:00 a Capitol Police officer was seen screaming as he was being crushed by another portion of the group. At 4:05 Joe Biden called on President Donald Trump to denounce the protest. At 4:17 President Donald Trump told the insurgents to go home and that he loved them. A curfew was called for 6:00 p.m. The group started to disperse. Around 8:00 p.m. the Senate restarted the certification of the Electoral College with the House starting around 9:00 p.m. Both chambers worked until 3:39 a.m. on January 7th when Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were certified as the next President and vice-President of the United States of America (Ref 1).

The group's main grievance was their belief the 2020 U.S. Election was stolen from President Donald Trump through widespread voter fraud mostly in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Allegations of voter fraud included voting in the name of dead people, ballot mishandling, process fouls, equal protection clause violations, voting machine irregularities, and significant statistical anomalies (Ref 2). Only the votes for Presidential candidates were questioned on elected ballots, votes Prior to council action (voting) to determine a legislative or public affairs position, the SPEEA Council's Legislative & Public Affairs Committee shall investigate and produce both pro and con statements and a majority committee recommendation.

Passage or adoption of any legislative or public issue proposal shall be by published ballot and require: A majority vote of all Council Members present.

for Senators and Representatives or local offices were not examined. No evidence of widespread voter fraud was presented and none of the cases were found to be of merit. Consequently, all State Boards of Elections certified their votes free of widespread voter fraud, despite President Donald Trump's pleas to find enough votes to confirm he had won in "swing state" elections. Of all the lawsuits alleging voter fraud, the courts only found one was credible: a challenge over a Pennsylvania state-ordered deadline extension for the submission of personal identification for mailed votes.

Despite pleas for support, his witnessing the violence at the Capitol Building, and Government representatives communicating to him the danger posed to occupants by the insurgents, the President of the United States failed to provide assistance until after the District of Columbia curfew started.

Additional consequences of the attack on the Capitol include the spread of the CORONAVIRUS to U.S. Representatives and Senators and their staffs as some individuals refused to wear masks. The insurgents were organized, had communication equipment, and included members of the armed and police forces. There have also been claims some Representatives had provided tours of the Capitol building to some of the insurgents the day before.

1. Taken from ABC News Accounting
2. Stop the Steal – stopthesteals.com

MOTION

It is moved that: The SPEEA Council condemns the January 6, 2021, attempted coup d'état and domestic terrorism by insurgents attempting to halt the lawful, democratic election of United States President-Elect Joe Biden and vice-President-Elect Kamala Harris. History shows democracy is crucial to the well-being of workers; an attack on democracy is an assault on workers. Based on this principal, the SPEEA Council shall communicate through its website and publications its support for criminal and civil prosecution and sentencing of all those attempting to destroy democracy in America.

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