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Why the Constitution and Rule of Law Are Vital to our Democratic Republic

The United States Constitution is the living, breathing document that acts as the cornerstone for American freedom, balance of power, and democracy. Eager to create a strong foundation of which our country should be built on, fifty-five United States' strongest delegates met at the constitutional convention in 1787 and drafted one of the most exemplary orders of supreme law known to mankind.

The Constitution is important to me, to you, and to every single person living in the United States. It is the framework wherein the rights of every American lie; something that was vital for a young country that fought tooth and nail to escape the authoritarian hold of imperialist Britain. As an eighteen year-old female citizen, the Constitution ensures that my rights shall not be infringed upon on the basis of sex through the twenty-eighth amendment and protects my right to serve as a representative in our democracy, safeguarding my right to vote through the nineteenth amendment. It is thanks to suffrage crusaders like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B Anthony that I have the privilege to vote. Likewise, it is *because* of the Constitution's adaptability that the nineteenth amendment exists.

As a country containing approximately 340 million people, it is vital to our order and success that we follow the same unambiguous set of rules. The Rule of Law is an ideal that we

strive to achieve through the framing of our law and constitution, stating that everyone, including our government leaders, must follow and answer to the same laws. In order to create a society that obeys The Rule of Law, our constitution ensures that any certain branch, individual, or party never becomes too powerful through checks and balances. The judicial, executive, and legislative branches are distinct and independent of one another, actively preventing one from gaining too much power over the other two; which is crucial to the balance of power in our government and the prevention of tyranny. The United States Government is considered by philosophers around the world to be a perfect example of a democracy; a dazzling title that is due solely to our separation/balance of power and the Rule of Law.

By persistently attacking the judicial branch, violating the law, and believing himself to be exempt from the curtailment of executive order, Donald Trump is challenging the Rule of Law and the American Constitution as a whole. Trump has not only defied the Rule of Law by being found guilty of thirty-four felony counts, but he also continues to defy it in his current presidency, a trait of his that is opposed by Connecticut congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. In recent months, the Trump Administration has made decisions to pardon insurrectionists, fire federal employees without cause, and dissolve federal agencies, actions that counteract a fundamental trait of the Rule of Law- that it is followed by both the citizens and their government leaders. Some would argue that the current administration is challenging the Rule of Law, pushing what can and cannot be done by the executive branch. In another interview, DeLauro stated that, “restoring law and order starts with respecting the Rule of Law itself and the sacredness of our Constitution,” a statement that would undoubtedly be supported by our constitution’s fathers and any American patriot.

Overall, the Constitution and Rule of Law are important to me because they protect my very right to contribute to our democracy. They ensure that every person- no matter their gender, political standpoint, race, or social status, is granted the same rights and held to the same standard as one another. They are pillars of our democracy that bolster my confidence in the nation that I will continue to grow up in. Because our democracy honors me by protecting my rights through the constitution, I will continue to repay it by honoring and upholding the Rule of Law.

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