

Statement on Jan. 6 Insurrection at the U.S. Capitol

A new year brings with it new hopes, new dreams, and a new vision for the future. The first week of 2021, however, brought the unfolding of events few of us could have imagined. The violence and destruction of property at the U.S. Capitol showed a flagrant and appalling disregard for our government's institutions and the peaceful transition of power—a hallmark of this great nation.

Even more disparaging was law enforcement's grossly uneven response to a mob of terrorists who stormed the Capitol versus Black Lives Matter supporters who peacefully protested this past summer. This brazen display of privilege was both a heartbreaking and sickening sight.

These events are a sobering reminder that we must continue our work toward liberty, justice and equality for all. These events underscore our mission to dismantle systems of oppression pervasive throughout this country. These events strengthen our resolve to close gaps for underrepresented students in advanced level classes and to prepare them for success in college and beyond.

On this day when we celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—one of the greatest civil rights leaders of our time—I am reminded of his words, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

As we look to the days ahead, let us continue reaching toward the goal of building a better country through democratic processes, mutual respect and, above all, the transformative power of education equity.

Stay safe.

Best wishes for the year ahead,
Byron V. Garrett
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