



AMERICAN PRINCIPLES PROJECT

October 3, 2018

The Washington Post
ATTN: Editorial Board
1301 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20071

To the *Washington Post* Editorial Board:

The *Washington Post* has a credibility problem that has only been exacerbated under President Trump. As the media struggles to regain the trust of the vast majority of Americans, we offer a suggestion for the *Post* specifically.

As one of the most influential media institutions in the country, the *Post's* opinion pages are looked to by many Americans for an accurate representation of the wide range of views regarding our nation's politics. However, intellectual diversity has been severely lacking at the *Post*, a phenomenon best exemplified by the dishonest identification of opinion columnist Jennifer Rubin as a "conservative" or a member of the "Right".

In truth, it is nearly impossible to discern any conservatism in Rubin's contemporary writing. Since the election of President Donald Trump, she has sided against conservatives on a dizzying array of issues, including:

- Climate change (see, "Paris pullout threat isn't about the environment or the economy" 5/31/17)
- Gun control (see, "We object to Republicans' hypocrisy on guns, not 'thoughts and prayers'" 11/7/17)
- Middle East foreign policy (see, "Trump's Jerusalem decision is a foreign policy move without purpose" 12/11/17)
- Tax cuts (see, "Repetitively cutting taxes for the rich isn't the answer" 5/31/18)
- Immigration (see, "Trump is losing the country on immigration" 6/29/18)
- Abortion (see, "Questions every politician will have to answer the day after Roe v. Wade is overturned" 6/29/18)

Most recently, Rubin came out strongly against the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, writing that "Kavanaugh simply isn't the personality type to entrust with our most daunting constitutional issues," all because he's been too extensive in denying all the allegations against him (September 25).

Anyone following Rubin's writing closely at this point would rightfully find the claim that she is "conservative" laughable. And yet, she is still regularly touted in the media as a conservative voice -- and by your own paper as "reporting from a center-right perspective."

This issue exemplifies why so many Americans -- particularly conservatives -- hold a high distrust of the media. How can an average reader take the *Post's* opinion section seriously when, of its numerous regular columnists, none can be found which defend the policies of our nation's elected president?

We, of course, respect the right of *The Washington Post* to employ whatever writers it pleases -- even Jennifer Rubin. However, we ask for the sake of intellectual honesty that the *Post* cease to identify her as in any way "conservative." Given the *Post's* standing as an important platform for political opinion in our nation's capital, we also respectfully request that you consider hiring a voice who can eloquently and effectively defend the positions held by our President, his party, and the millions of voters who elected him. We would be happy to provide recommendations.

Given the importance of a free and fair press to our nation and its citizenry, we hope we will soon be able to look to *The Washington Post* again as a leader in providing a thoughtful and diverse commentary on American politics.

Respectfully,

Francis P. Cannon
President
American Principles Project

Terry Schilling
Executive Director
American Principles Project

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List

The Honorable Jim DeMint
Chairman
Conservative Partnership Institute

Lt. Gen. William G. Boykin (Ret.)
Executive Vice President
Family Research Council

Matt Schlapp
Chairman
American Conservative Union

L. Brent Bozell, III
Founder and President
Media Research Center

Cleta Mitchell
Partner
Foley & Lardner LLP

Alfred S. Regnery
Chairman
Conservative Action Project

Michelle Malkin
Investigative Journalist

Ginni Thomas
President
Liberty Consulting

Jenny Beth Martin
Chairman
Tea Party Patriots Citizen Fund

The Honorable Gary L. Bauer
President
American Values

The Honorable Ken Cuccinelli
President
Senate Conservatives Fund

Tom McClusky
President
March for Life Action

Ron Robinson
President
Young America's Foundation

The Honorable Bob McEwen
Former Member
House of Representatives

Diana Banister
President and Managing Partner
Shirley & Banister Public Affairs

Ellen Barrosse
Committeewoman
Republican National Committee

George K. Rasley Jr.
Managing Editor
ConservativeHQ.com

Eileen J. O'Connor
Former Assistant Attorney General
President George W. Bush

Austin Ruse
President
Center for Family & Human Rights (C-Fam)

James Simpson
Freelance Investigative Journalist

Alfonso Aguilar
President
Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles

Allen Roth
President
Secure America Now

Eunie Smith
President
Eagle Forum

Adam Brandon
President
FreedomWorks

Ian Walters
Communications Director
American Conservative Union

Wesley Denton
Former Communications Director
Senator Jim DeMint

Christopher C. Hull, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President
Center for Security Policy

Carolyn McClarty
Committeewoman
Republican National Committee

Diana West
Journalist and Author

David Bozell
President
ForAmerica

Richard Manning
President
Americans for Limited Government

George Landrith
President
Frontiers of Freedom

John Zmirak
Senior Editor
TheStream.org

Craig Shirley
Presidential Historian
Shirley & Banister Public Affairs