

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lawyers Refute Senator McConnell's Claims Political Bias Is
Legitimate in Impeachment Trials**

An organization of prominent U.S. lawyers has urged the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives to take into account in its impeachment investigation the wide variety of ways in which the President has abused his powers and threatens America's democratic institutions.

In the attached statement, which was issued today, the organization, known as the Lawyers Defending American Democracy, said that the Ukraine matter is part of a pattern reflecting contempt for the rule of law and the constitutional norms that are essential to the preservation of American democracy.

While not everyone will agree, say the lawyers, on which of the President's activities constitute grounds for impeachment, they refer to his contempt of Congress, obstruction of justice, witness intimidation, attacks on the judiciary, labelling the press an "enemy of the people" and use of the presidency for personal enrichment as among the activities that should be considered in the impeachment deliberations because of the threat they pose to America's system of government.

Lawyers Defending American Democracy is an organization of some 800 current or retired practitioners, prosecutors, judges, legal scholars and politicians.

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