

office. If a Senate trial is not constitutional, then the remedy of disqualification is unavailable to the Congress as a punishment for the unconstitutionally impeached president.

It cannot be that the Framers intended to empower Congress to disqualify any former officer it would like, whenever it would like, and with no investigation. And of course, they did not. The two constitutional remedies for impeachment are available only when an official has been impeached by the constitutional impeachment process set forth in the Constitution. The disqualification remedy is available for a constitutionally impeached official as an additional option to the Congress. It is not itself support for an unconstitutional impeachment.

Leader Schumer, proceeding with the spectacle of the impeachment of a former President is as unwise as it is unconstitutional.

Where does this all end? When Republicans in the 115th Congress had control of both chambers, should they have impeached and disqualified President Obama from future office for his handling of Benghazi? Should Democrats now just “go ahead” and disqualify Trump administration officials from future office while they hold both chambers, just because they believe they can?

The Senate’s attempt to disqualify a President from future office who is no longer in office, would be an unconstitutional act of political vengeance, not a righteous constitutional act to protect the Nation by removal of an incumbent president. Such a gratuitous, meaningless effort by the Senate of the United States is neither worthy of our great institution, nor a service to the Nation and the American People. It will incite further division.

The Trump Presidency is over in three days. The Vice President of the United States withstood immense and unprecedented partisan pressure and fulfilled his oath to the Constitution of the United States. We, and you, must now do the same.

The Senate should vote to dismiss the article of impeachment once it is received in the Senate. We will be delaying indefinitely, if not forever, the healing of this great Nation if we do otherwise. Our obligation to the People we represent is clear. History will judge us harshly, as it should, if we do not rise to the occasion of this historic moment in our history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lindsey Graham", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator