



EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

The Honorable Reverend Raphael G. Warnock
U.S. Senator, Georgia
Democratic National Convention
Monday, August 19, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Hello, America! On January 5, 2021, the people of Georgia did an amazing thing. They sent both a Black kid who grew up in public housing and the Jewish son of an immigrant to the United States Senate in one fell swoop.

Among them was my own mother, who took the 82-year-old hands that used to pick somebody else's cotton and tobacco and picked her youngest son to be a United States senator. Thank you, Mom; thank you, Georgia; thank you, America, for raising your voice and using your vote. A vote is a kind of prayer for the world we desire for ourselves and our children, and our prayers are stronger when we pray together.

Together, we flipped the Senate, held the House, and we sent Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to the White House. Together, we vaccinated our citizens, fortified our cities and towns, stood by our small businesses. Together, we set out to heal the land. A nation besieged by a deadly pandemic and beset by the hateful and divisive rhetoric of a man too small for the office entrusted him or the tasks set before him.

The day after my January 5th election, he instigated an insurrection, a violent assault on our nation's Capitol and the peaceful transfer of power. The Big Lie. But behind that lie was an even bigger lie. That this broad, increasingly diverse electorate does not get to determine the future of the country. The lie and logic of January 6th is a sickness, a kind of cancer that then metastasized into voter suppression laws all across our country. Those antidemocratic forces are at work right now. Who will heal the land?

Elections are about the character of a country, and we must choose between the promise of January 5th and the peril of January 6th. A nation that embraces all of us or just some of us?

Donald Trump's America is the America of January 6th. People who have no vision traffic in division. He does not know how to lead us; he wants to divide us. Make no mistake. Donald Trump is a plague on the American conscience, a threat to the precious covenant we have with one another.

Yes, I saw him holding up the Bible and endorsing a Bible as if it needed his endorsement. He should read it. It says, "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." "Love your neighbor as yourself."

I choose January 5th. A nation that provides a path for ordinary people and gives every child a chance. That's Joe Biden's America. President Biden, America is so much better because of you—a true patriot who has always put the people first. Thank you, Joe!

And, that's Kamala Harris's America. She was leading with Joe Biden when we expanded the Child Tax Credit, cutting child poverty nearly in half. We ought to renew it. She cast the tie-breaking vote for my bill capping the cost of insulin for seniors to \$35 per month. We ought to extend it to everybody.

Together, we passed an infrastructure bill, bolstered American manufacturing and clean energy—an investment in the house we inhabit together—and we're just getting started.

Kamala Harris and Tim Walz—the new way forward. We're not going back! Forward on women's reproductive rights. Forward on worker rights. Forward on voting rights. Forward on affordable housing and access to health care. Forward!

I am inspired tonight by the memory of my late father, a preacher and a junk man who lifted broken cars during the week and broken, discarded people on Sunday morning. He discovered a power made perfect in weakness.

I am convinced tonight that, together, we can heal sick bodies. Heal the wounds that divide us. Heal the planet. Heal the land. The pandemic taught us how. A contagious, airborne disease means that I have a personal stake in the health of my neighbor. If she's sick, I might get sick also. Her health care is good for my health. We are as close in our humanity as a cough. I need my neighbor's children to be ok so my children will be ok.

So let's stand together, vote together, pray together, stay together, organize together, heal the land.

###