

From: irotberg irotberg@aol.com

Subject: Please speak out.

Date: Jul 12, 2020 at 10:26:55 PM

To: AF10r@nih.gov

Cc: genebanker@aol.com

Dear Dr. Fauci,

We understand what a painful time this is for you as the pandemic spirals out of control and you try to balance your wish to present the facts to the American public while at the same time maintaining a working relationship with the president. But we feel we must urge you—indeed, beg you—to speak out more strongly and more bluntly. You might be the only person who has the leverage to stop what Paul Krugman has described as a “madman who insists on steering straight for the iceberg [with a] crew too cowardly to contradict him.”

You have spent your life working to strengthen the lives and health of Americans and people throughout the world. You believed you could best accomplish these goals by remaining non-partisan, and your approach seems to have worked—until the Trump administration. Unfortunately, the United States has now acquired the worst record in the industrialized world in mitigating the spread of the pandemic, a record that is also worse than many developing countries with far fewer resources. Speaking softly to power has failed tragically.

As you know too well, we closed the country too late and

reopened too early. We knew exactly what would happen. We have also permitted the development of a false dichotomy, which pits the nation's health against the health of the economy when, in fact, it is precisely the reckless openings, encouraged by the president, that have made it impossible to restart the economy. We are viewed by the rest of the world as dangerous not only to ourselves, but to other countries, and many do not permit Americans, and those who have traveled here, to enter their country.

This is the outcome you hoped would never happen. It was not inevitable. You deserve a better legacy and Americans deserve government policies that do not cause needless suffering and death. We urge you, therefore, to use your current visibility and credibility to speak out publicly, day after day—even if you have to contradict the president to do so. Only in this way will the American people be fully aware of the exponential growth of excess cases and deaths and the catastrophe the nation is heading for.

You try as you always have to speak truthfully to the president and the American public, but you do so with a voice that is muted. We are beyond the point where you, as the nation's most visible and respected epidemiologist, can afford to be put into a position where you seem to be

walking on eggshells, hedging your words, walking back recommendations that anger the president, and avoiding recommendations, like lockdowns—particularly as the country has over 50,000 new cases every day. As you well know, you are not the first person who wishes to do good but has been placed in the heart-rending position of working for a deluded leader.

We believe it is essential to make specific and painful recommendations, given current conditions. We speak here of recommendations on lockdowns, conventions, rallies, demonstrations, schools, shopping malls, beaches, Disney World—and so many more that arise each day. You are in a position to save lives. But to do this you must be free of constraint. Your voice is too important to be silenced.

Neither of us is in the health field. Iris is an academic in the field of public policy research. Gene is the former treasurer of the World Bank. But we write as private citizens, fearful for our family and for our country.

With our kindest regards,

Iris and Gene Rotberg

irotberg@aol.com

genebanket@aol.com

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With our kindest regards,

Ira and Gene Roberg

From: irotberg irotberg@aol.com
Subject: Fwd: Please speak out.
Date: Jul 14, 2020 at 6:55:44 PM
To: patricia.conrad@nih.gov
Cc: AF10r@nih.gov

Dear Ms. Conrad,

I am forwarding an e-mail we sent to Dr. Fauci on July 12th. We realize you all are inundated with e-mails and how difficult it must be to try to sort through them. After you read the attached e-mail we hope you will consider flagging it for Dr. Fauci to read. We realize he has been criticized by the president, but in view of the accelerating crisis the country now faces, we hope Dr. Fauci will now speak out even more strongly, and with specific recommendations. Our note to Dr. Fauci is in a sense a cry of help for the country.

With our appreciation and kindest regards,

Iris and Gene Rotberg

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message: