

## **Why We Rallied in the Rain**

Saturday, April 5, was “Hands Off” day, a national day of protests. Hundreds of thousands gathered across America – including hundreds rallying in the pouring rain here in Oneonta – to tell the Trump administration, “Hands Off!” Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, programs we rely on that have been paid for through our work and taxes. “Hands off” protections for public health and our environment. “Hands off” education programs, veterans’ services, scientific research, civil rights, and so much more this administration is destroying in the name of efficiency that isn’t efficient.

This weekend, Mr. Trump has been in Florida eating fancy meals, playing golf, raising millions from rich friends as his tariffs decimate jobs, businesses, and retirement savings. This weekend, we rallied for services needed by our fellow citizens, like those suffering from devastating weather in the South and Midwest. We rallied to honor veterans like the servicemen killed in Lithuania who were ignored by Mr. Trump when their bodies arrived Friday at Dover Air Force Base. Because where was Mr. Trump? Raising millions for himself and playing golf.

The billionaires of this administration may say they’re not listening to us; but they know we’re here. They know we have a right to be, though they do their best to perpetuate fear by using the power of government that is supposed to serve people to suppress people.

We rallied for all of us – including people who voted for Mr. Trump – because we rallied for what’s right in a democracy: a government of, by, and for the people; all the people, not just the wealthy few. People united by dedication to democracy and thriving communities for everyone cannot be divided by billionaire thugs and incompetents. We are, as our Pledge of Allegiance affirms, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Virginia Kennedy

Group Leader

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