



MARK BRNOVICH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ARIZONA

September 10, 2021

David S. Ferriero
Archivist of the United States
david.ferriero@nara.gov

Dear Mr. Ferriero,

It was brought to my attention that the National Archives online catalog has placed a "Harmful Language Alert" on pages containing copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. This is a shameful action from the National Archives, and the misguided "alerts" should be taken down immediately.

There is nothing "harmful" about our founding documents. These inspired writings governed the formation of our new country in the late 18th Century and provided the roadmap for it to grow into the greatest nation in history. Even today, these eloquent words are the cornerstone of our rule of law and remain the envy of the civilized world.

Unfortunately, your decision to place warning labels on these historic documents will only serve to divide Americans rather than remind us of the striking spirit and wisdom upon which the United States was forged. Our Founding Fathers were willing to sacrifice their livelihoods, and even their lives, to lead the colonies in rebellion against a tyrannical ruler. Following the American Revolution, most of these individuals remained involved in the formation of the federal and local governments to ensure that this fledgling nation did not falter.

All of us understand that our Founders were still fallible humans and their thoughts and policies were not perfect. As the preamble to our Constitution aptly states, our republic was created to pursue a more-perfect Union, and our Founders knew that others would build upon what they had started. That has definitely occurred over the last 245 years. America has learned from her mistakes, grown from them, and continues to become a better place for all her people to call home.

The truth is that this country has given more opportunities to men, women, and children of all races than any other. America has been a beacon of freedom and a shining city on a hill for countless generations. My own family escaped communism to come to America's shores. My daughters and I would not be where we are today if not for the guiding lights of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

It is incumbent upon you as the caretaker of the most-precious documents in the United States of America, to see beyond the vicissitudes of pop culture and guard the integrity of our history with your every action. I therefore demand that you reverse course on these deplorable alerts and present our Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights with the timeless reverence appropriate to such national treasures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Brnovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Brnovich