**Statement by DACN Vice Chair Patrick Cranley**

Concerning the petition to remove him from the DACN Board

**11 April 2021**

On the evening of March 20th, I posted an angry note to the DACN Black Caucus WeChat group. That post cast doubt on the academic qualifications of one of the caucus members. The next morning, I posted an apology for the earlier post, saying that it was inappropriate for me to comment in that forum. I wanted to respond personally in greater detail, but refrained because legal action was threatened and our legal counsel advised against doing so.

I submit that there was nothing explicit or implied in my post that was motivated by race or gender. I regret that several members interpreted my comments as such. I certainly have spent a lot of time over the last two weeks thinking about how people in the group may have perceived my posts, and I hope that those who took offense also reflect on what may or may not have been implied by those words.

As for the petition for my removal that was circulated in the caucus chat group in the days following my post, I believe that the document is more a reflection of the author’s hurt and anger at unrelated actions taken by the DACN board than a cogent allegation of wrongdoing by me. I would urge the board to take no action on it.

That said, a number of others signed the petition – or at least versions of it, since several have been circulated – and their concerns should be addressed. It’s clear that we members of DACN have been looking at each other through biases that need to be explored. Instead of hurling insults at each other on social media, I submit that we should look each other in the eye and deal with the issues that concern us. To this end, Democrats Abroad offers Allyship Communication training sessions, and all DA members are welcome to attend. The next session will be [specifics go here].

In the meantime, I offer again my apology for posting inappropriately and causing distress for some members, and ask for understanding from those who have been upset by my actions. I stand ready to discuss these issues, in a calm and respectful manner, with any members who have concerns or questions.

Thanks for your attention.