

Statement – Ms. Pamela Hemphill

January 6th Hearing

My name is Pam Hemphill. I am a mother and a grandmother, a cancer survivor, and a retired Addiction Counselor. I am also a convicted criminal for what I did on January 6th, 2021.

Thank you for having me back in the Capitol today. I am deeply grateful for this chance to try to make amends and talk about what happened five years ago.

Once I got away from the MAGA cult and started educating myself after January 6th, I knew what I did was wrong. I pled guilty to my crime because I *did the crime*. I received due process, and the DOJ was not weaponized against me. When Donald Trump pardoned us, I rejected that pardon. Accepting that pardon would be lying about what happened on January 6th. I am guilty, and I will own that guilt.

Five years ago, I traveled from Idaho to D.C. to see Donald Trump speak. I had fallen for the President's lies, just like many of his supporters. Local people had welcomed me into their circle, and when I was around them, I heard them say things like "the Democrats are trying to turn this into a

Communist country,” or “the Radical Left wants to do away with the Constitution.” That gaslighting caused a lot of fear, and I was scared.

With that fear in my heart, I came here on January 6th. I went from Donald Trump’s speech to the Capitol because I thought Mr. Trump would go to the Capitol with us. I heard people saying that Trump was going to “walk down to the Capitol.” So I went.

Well, as you know, Donald Trump never showed, but rioters did, and the attack began.

The police officers were the heroes. They protected the Capitol, everyone inside the Capitol, and even people like me. I was trampled on by other rioters, and if it weren’t for the Capitol Police helping me that day, I might have died.

To the Capitol Police officer sitting here, if I may address you for a minute: I am truly sorry, from the bottom of my heart, for being part of the mob that put you and so many officers in danger. I want the Capitol Police to know how truly grateful I am to them, and how deeply sorry I am. I can’t believe people are still disrespecting you and trying to lie about January 6th. I will do everything I can to stop

the lies about the brave officers like you who protected us during the attack. Thank you.

Speaking out about January 6th has caused great risk to my personal safety. I have been doxed online, harassed and physically assaulted, but I am here because I don't care. I can't let that stop me. I can't sit by while Mr. Trump and others keep lying. I also want others who feel like me to know that we must stop the lies being pushed by many Republican leaders, and by Trump himself.

Thank you again for having me here, and I am glad for the opportunity to speak and answer your questions.