

## **Congressman David Reichert's statement on the events in Charlottesville, VA**



“As I’ve said previously, the organizers behind Saturday’s protest in Charlottesville, VA are committed to causes inspired by hate, bigotry, and selfishness. Let me be clear, there is no defense for the KKK or white supremacists and the racist views they stand for and they must be condemned universally and decisively. The greatest weapon to organizations founded in hate and the desire to divide, is Americans’ pursuit of unity, acceptance, and love for one another. From our earliest days to this past weekend, these values have been challenged and tested, but they have remained constant as an American ideal.

“As we mourn the senseless loss of life in Charlottesville and consider how to move forward as a nation, we must confront racists with what they fear most by continuing to work toward this ideal. With tensions high in communities across the country, progress can only come with the recognition we are all on the same team, a willingness to walk in each other’s shoes, and a common goal of regaining trust and civility within our neighborhoods and throughout the country. We must all learn to live together as brothers and sisters, as Dr. Martin Luther King said, or we will all perish together as fools.”