Threatening and otherwise inappropriate letters to members of the United States Congress

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Threatening and Otherwise Inappropriate Letters to Members of the United States Congress

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Abstract

The authors examine the characteristics of threatening and otherwise inappropriate communications sent to members of the U.S. Congress by a sample of 86 subjects, 20 of whom threatened assassination. We quote excerpts from these letters and provide quantitative data on such variables as the volume, duration, form, and appearance of such communications; the enclosures; the subjects' perceived relationships to the recipients; the thematic content of the communications; and the messages and threats communicated. Comparisons between 43 subjects who pursued encounters with members of Congress and 43 who did not revealed 17 factors associated with such pursuit. In this population, threateners were significantly less likely to pursue an encounter than inappropriate letter writers who did not threaten, regardless of the type of threat or the harm threatened. Inappropriate letters to members of Congress are compared with those directed to Hollywood celebrities. Mentally disordered persons writing to public figures often mention and sometimes threaten public figures other than those to whom the letters are addressed, which raises important issues regarding
Members of Congress get hundreds of letters and emails every day, so you will want your letter to stand out. Whether you choose to use the U.S. Postal Service or email, here are some tips that will help you write a letter to Congress that has an impact. Letter or Email? Members of Congress have a lot of items on their agendas, so it’s best to be as specific as possible regarding your issue. When writing about a particular bill or piece of legislation, include the official number so they know exactly what you’re referring to (it also helps your credibility). State any professional credentials or personal experience you may have, especially those pertaining to the subject of your letter. Keep your letter short—one page is best. Use specific examples or evidence to support your position.

Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention: Journals of the Continental Congress | Letters of Delegates | Elliot’s Debates | Farrand’s Records. Browse Letters of Delegates to Congress Search this Title through the Collections Search Page. This work builds on an earlier eight-volume edition of Letters of Members of the Continental Congress edited by Edmund C. Burnett. The Ford Foundation and the United States Congress, through the American Revolution Bicentennial Office of the Library of Congress, provided funding and additional support for the completion of this project. The current twenty-five volumes of text include approximately twenty thousand entries gathered from institutions throughout the world, accompanied by a single cumulative index. The majority of the victims were subjected to multiple forms of harassment including being followed, repeatedly approached and bombarded with letters and telephone calls for periods varying from a month to 20 years. Threats were received by 58 subjects, and 34 were physically or sexually assaulted. All but six victims made major changes in their social and work lives, with 53% changing or ceasing employment and 39% moving home.
