

Statement from Senate President Therese Murray
(Given on November 19, 2008 in informal session regarding the resignation
of Dianne Wilkerson)

When I stood before this distinguished body 20 months ago, I said I was honored and humbled to be chosen by my peers to lead the Massachusetts Senate.

I remain honored ... and I remain humbled.

That same faith you showed in me, I can assure you, I still have in this great institution.

This has been a trying time for the Senate, but this chamber and its members have stood too long, and served too well, to be shaken by the actions of any individual.

And though one person may cast a temporary shadow, we are too strong, too determined and too righteous as a collective body to allow any doubt to linger.

Today, Dianne Wilkerson has made the right decision. With her resignation, the good work of the Senate will continue as we commit ourselves to ensuring the public trust.

As conscientious stewards of the Senate and the people of the Commonwealth, those of us on the floor of this chamber today are committed to the integrity of our state, our laws and this distinguished body.

To the people of the Commonwealth: ... The Senate stands with you, and we will restore your faith in us, for we have chosen to serve, and you have chosen us to represent your interests.

This simple, tried-and-true relationship between citizen and representative is what we hold dear and is the reason we get up every morning; it's the reason we come to this grand building – this symbol of our Commonwealth;

It's the reason we fight for better health care; why we fight for children, veterans and the elderly; why we fight for families and small businesses; for safer neighborhoods, better schools, and a cleaner environment.

I don't know if we will ever hear an apology from those who should offer one ... I hope we do someday ...

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But, on behalf of the Senate, I want to express my deepest belief that the moral fiber of this body is strong and unbending, and we will continue to serve our constituents and the people of the Commonwealth with great pride and conviction.

The shadow is lifting, and in time, hopefully not too long from now, the good work of the Senate and our commitment to the people will once again be the focus of all inquiry and conversation.

To that end, let us begin again today.

Thank you.

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