

The New York Times

[OPINION](#)

LETTERS

Countering ‘Psychic Numbing’ in the Trump Era

June 2, 2025

To the Editor:

“[‘I Even Believe He Is Destroying the American Presidency.’](#)” by Thomas B. Edsall (Opinion guest essay, nytimes.com, May 20), should be required reading for every member of Congress.

I vote in every election. I affirm what was suggested in the article: that we didn’t vote to destroy the government of the country we love.

My friends and neighbors didn’t vote to stop American universities from leading the world in science innovation. We didn’t vote to stop medical research. We didn’t vote to decrease SNAP benefits and make neighbors hungrier.

Nobody voted so that weather and disaster relief experts would be underfunded. We didn’t vote to tear Medicaid apart, to cut funding for nursing home care or to stop safely delivering babies in rural hospitals. We didn’t vote to have trade wars with the whole world. We did not vote to purge competent people from the government.

We were proud of our leadership in global affairs. We didn’t vote for tuberculosis to spread unchecked and AIDS to kill more people. We did not vote to let food and medicine rot so babies would die. We didn’t vote to embrace dictators and insult allies. We didn’t want our nation to stand apart from other prosperous countries in shame and diminished freedoms.

Nobody voted to give a mandate to the cruelty and incompetence we are seeing in this “big, beautiful bill.”

Congress seems to acquiesce to the lie that we voters wanted this destruction. Put them on notice: We did *not* vote for *this*.

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/02/opinion/trump-era.html>