Dear Einstein Community:

I want to take a moment to reflect on the tragic situation that began unfolding yesterday in our nation’s Capitol, and to a lesser extent in state capitols around the country.

These violent efforts were meant to divide our nation. It was mob behavior, plain and simple—which has no place in America. Fortunately, because the foundations of our country are strong and incredibly resilient, these horrific actions failed. The United States Congress ultimately voted in the early morning hours to confirm President Biden’s legitimate victory—and the rule of law.

These events, by a relatively small number of domestic terrorists, need to be distinguished from the peaceful exercise of people’s first amendment rights. What we witnessed was a direct assault on our democracy and an attempt to disenfranchise the people of our country. We saw fellow Americans destroy federal property and intimidate and harass our elected representatives. Inexplicably, security operations failed, there was a delay in deploying the National Guard, and few arrests. It was in stark contrast to the sometimes brutal treatment we have observed when BLM and other protesters have peacefully demonstrated in recent months.

Sadly, these acts were incited by the fraudulent claims of the president and his enablers, both in government and on social media, which resulted in the death of a woman in the Capitol building and three other deaths reported later in the day. We mourn these losses and grieve for their families. We also condemn the violent acts of the mob and are grateful to those who protected our country and the innocent who were present.

While we were all disgusted by yesterday’s events, we can be reassured that our
democracy has prevailed. We recognize that the rights and privileges it offers are not guaranteed but require hard work and our active participation. Although we won’t always agree, we are obligated, as one of the foundations of our democracy, to engage in principled and respectful debate and free and fair elections—and to never take them for granted.

Despite yesterday’s traumatic events, I remain hopeful about the future. Later this month, we will recall and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the example he set through peaceful protest and preaching brotherhood while advocating for the disenfranchised and those living in poverty.

The work we do at Einstein and Montefiore is designed to heal those who are unwell and ultimately improve the human condition. Our mission represents an absolute rejection of mob rule and domestic terrorism, and everything they represent. Knowing that every day we are committed to strengthening the health and well-being of our community should provide us all with some comfort as we look to a more promising future.

Sincerely,

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