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Anti-Trump Protest Extends 30 Miles Across Chicagoland

More than 20,000 form a human chain of solidarity against Trump's illegal and authoritarian actions

DuPage County, IL — More than 20,000 protestors with the Democratic Party of DuPage County, Indivisible Illinois, the Illinois Federation of Teachers and dozens of independent political progressive organizations from across the Chicagoland region wore black and held signs in opposition to Trump's illegal and authoritarian actions and the GOP's failure to defend the Constitution. Protestors stood roughly every 8 feet apart on the sidewalks from Aurora to the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago — a 30-mile stretch across all of DuPage County and most of Cook County.

The organizers' goal was to highlight the importance of speaking out against Trump's violations of due process and defiance of court orders.

Patrick Watson, a leader of Indivisible Illinois said, "Donald Trump has made it clear: he has no respect for the rule of law, the Constitution, or the people he once swore to serve. As he plots authoritarian power grabs, we are rising—peacefully and powerfully—to show that democracy will not be dismantled without a fight."

For first-generation Estonian American, Ingrid Niinemae of Hinsdale, who attended the protest, the event was reminiscent of a similar action in Eastern Europe:

"In 1989 my cousin Raja and her husband held hands in a human chain that stretched across Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania: 25% of the Baltic population was demanding an end to 50 years of brutal Soviet occupation and Baltic independence was achieved in 1991. Today I joined Hands Across Chicagoland to denounce autocracy and corruption, in solidarity with thousands of other Americans who value freedom and believe in human rights for all."

Numerous elected officials joined protestors to offer their support and words of encouragement:

Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton (26th & Troy)

Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (26th & Troy)

Representative Robin Kelly (Lisle)

Representative Bill Foster (Lisle)

Democratic Party of Illinois Chair Lisa Hernandez (26th & Troy)

Sen. Karina Villa (Lisle)

Sen. Laura Ellman (Lisle)

Rep. Barbara Hernandez (Lisle)

Rep. Norma Hernandez (26th & Troy)

Rep. Terra Costa-Howard (Lisle)

DuPage Board Chair, Deb Conroy (Lisle)

Alderperson Michael Rodriguez (26th & Troy)

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