Will Trump ever learn that his hateful, inciting words matter?

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Over the last year I have written letters and articles denouncing the president for his hateful, bullying and racist discourse.
This week, we learned that suspicious packages were sent to George Soros, former President Obama, the Clintons, former CIA Director John Brennan, former Atty. Gen. Eric Holder and Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles). All are critics of President Trump and have been attacked by him in speeches and tweets.

To be clear: I do not believe that Trump directly caused these violent attacks. I also believe the White House was sincere when it immediately condemned what transpired. Nevertheless, we must admit that, when you have a leader demonizing people and groups, this increases substantially the likelihood that such rhetoric will breed more hatred and possibly even violence.

Words matter. Applauding an elected official for body slamming a member of the media, calling the press “the enemy of the people,” and allowing “lock her up” chants at rallies all have consequences.

It is time for Trump to be held accountable. Citizens should not vote for anyone who fails to rebuke — or has a record of failing to rebuke — the president.

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