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Letter: Collins should disavow, not support Donald Trump

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Western New York Congressman Chris Collins was the first House member to endorse Donald Trump. He continues to be an enthusiastic national media spokesman, even as Trump's campaign has become, in George Pataki's words, "a poisonous mix of bigotry and ignorance."

The former New York governor is right. The latest revelation that Trump joked that women are fair game for sexual predation is but the latest in series of poisonous statements. Mexican "illegals" are "rapists and criminals;" round them up, send them back, wall them out.

Muslims: ban them all from entering the United States. Women: the ones he doesn't like he calls "pigs," "dogs" and "slobs."

Racial minorities: lead a "birther" movement against our first African-American president and call for implementation of unconstitutional "stop and frisk" policing in our inner cities.

Journalists: when challenged, visually mock a disabled reporter and blame a TV journalist's tough question on hormones. War heroes: if you criticize him you're not a hero if captured, tortured and imprisoned or if your son is a Muslim-American soldier who paid the ultimate sacrifice ("as a businessman, I've made a lot of sacrifices," Trump says).

What redeeming quality can Collins possibly find in Trump? Business acumen? Trump will "re-establish the opportunity for our children and grandchildren to attain the American Dream," Collins has said. Really? Four major bankruptcies (one of which cost taxpayers \$916 million in lost tax revenue) and stiffing investors, contractors and workers throws doubt on that assumption.

Fifty prominent Republicans have withdrawn their support of Trump; 27 have called on Trump to abandon the race. It's high time that Collins demonstrates some leadership and joins them.

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Grand Island
