

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 18, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

We write to ask that the House of Representatives hold itself to the same high standard that it is asking of the nation: to put public health and safety first. While Congress is an institution with a proud history, we cannot stand on tradition if it puts lives—and our ability to be the voice of our constituents—at risk.

We ask that you bring to the floor a simple rule change that would permit remote voting for Members of Congress during this national public health emergency.

**Remote voting is a key part of maintaining continuity of operations.** Adopting rules today for the House to allow remote voting, *as necessary*, will allow every Member to continue to vote and represent the concerns of their constituents as we address this crisis.

Especially in this moment, our nation wants to see us continue our tireless work. Remote voting procedures will protect the ability to have a quorum, even in the event of worsening developments. These could include additional Members needing to quarantine. Remote voting will also ensure that those who live in rural and distant areas are not unable to participate in our democracy if additional travel restrictions are directed by President Trump and state officials.

We in Congress are asking businesses, schools, and local governments to execute strong plans to ensure continuity of operations. **Congress should be no exception.**

Congress also should be no exception to the public health safeguards. We are undermining our unified, bipartisan message to the American people when we come together on the crowded House floor to vote. The image of over 430 members and approximately 100 staffers clustered together on the House floor during votes is inconsistent with guidance from public health officials. Voting in the traditional method is not social distancing; we are often pressed tightly together as dozens of members use the same machines.

We recognize this is a change. But the moment demands that we have the courage to change. The House of Representatives should expect of itself the same flexibility and high standards of hygiene that we are asking of others. Respectfully, we ask that you bring a bipartisan rule change to the floor.

Very truly yours,



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Rep. Eric Swalwell



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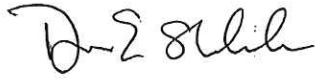
Rep. Katie Porter



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Rep. Van Taylor

\*Note that due to concerns related to the transmission of COVID-19, physical signatures were not collected, and some offices listed below have adopted office policies that prevent the use of e-signatures.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Donna Shalala

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Rep. Barbara Lee

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Rep. Tony Cárdenas



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Rep. Greg Stanton



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Rep. Joaquin Castro

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Rep. Ed Perlmutter



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Rep. Chris Pappas



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Rep. Juan C. Vargas

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Rep. Brendan F. Boyle



\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Abby Finkenauer



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Rep. Ruben Gallego

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Filemon Vela

Lucy McBath

Rep. Lucy McBath

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell

Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell

Ro Khanna

Rep. Ro Khanna

Halley M. Stevens

Rep. Halley Stevens

Susie Lee

Rep. Susie Lee

Rep. Kim Schrier

Rashida Tlaib

Rep. Rashida Tlaib

Cynthia Axne

Rep. Cynthia Axne

Tom Malinowski

Rep. Tom Malinowski

Lori Trahan

Rep. Lori Trahan

Scott Peters

Rep. Scott Peters

Anthony Brindisi

Rep. Anthony Brindisi

Karen Bass

Rep. Dean Phillips

Rep. Karen Bass

Rep. Mike Quigley

Rick Crawford

Rep. Rick Crawford

Ted W. Lieu

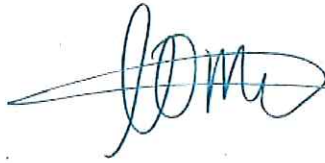
Rep. Ted Lieu

Linda J. Sánchez

Rep. Linda Sánchez



Rep. Kathleen Rice



Rep. Ilhan Omar



Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton



Rep. Suzanne Bonamici



Rep. Steve Cohen



Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman



Rep. Jerrold Nadler

Rep. Marcia L. Fudge



Rep. Bradley S. Schneider



Rep. John Yarmuth



Rep. Suzan K. DelBene



Rep. Ann McLane Kuster



Rep. Mark Pocan



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Rep. Pramila Jayapal



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Rep. Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.



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Rep. Grace F. Napolitano



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Rep. Anthony G. Brown