

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 4, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Madam Speaker:

The opening day of the 117th Congress was the latest example of medical guidance being thrown out the window in favor of what is politically convenient. The detailed guidance on the logistics for January 3rd issued at your direction by the House Sergeant at Arms and Attending Physician were completely abandoned. Despite the science not changing, the guidelines we operated under for your election as Speaker did.

The result was the crowding of hundreds of members on the House floor for extended periods of time and confusion during yesterday's session. Additionally, the construction of a plexiglass structure within the House chamber occurred in the early hours of January 3rd. The purpose of the structure was to allow members, who elected to break COVID 19 quarantine to vote. This was done without the knowledge of House Republicans. If truly constructed for everyone's safety, it would have been coordinated and communicated to everyone ahead of time. The reality is, it was built because it was politically beneficial for you to have members vote on your behalf for Speaker.

This is not a new occurrence. For the last nine months, at your direction House support entities including the Attending Physician, Sergeant at Arms, Chief Administrative Officer and Architect of the Capitol have implemented guidance and policy, only to contradict it when necessary for your political convenience. From occupancy limits being changed, to inconsistent hearing practices, to press conferences ignoring social distancing, to the way we conduct votes, these support entities have provided you cover with exceptions when it is something you request.

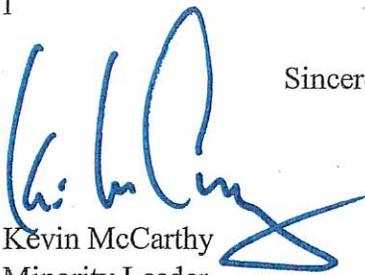
Let us be clear: we support efforts to physically re-open the House in a safe manner. We believe a plan to do so from your office is long overdue. We have offered our suggestions on what that plan should look like. Unfortunately, these suggestions have been largely ignored. We standby as willing partners to develop a safe path for the House to reopen for all. However, what must end is the inconsistencies in the guidance you direct and the politicization of the House's support apparatus. It's imperative that all members know the policies and procedures that the House is operating under.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to a prompt response.

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Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader

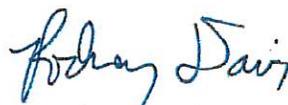
Sincerely,



Steve Scalise
Minority Whip



Liz Cheney
Chairwoman
Republican Conference



Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration