

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

We write today to urge you to fully reopen the House of Representatives. The positive impact of increasing vaccination rates and decreasing cases of COVID-19 are clear to see. Businesses are open, sporting venues and cultural institutions have welcomed back fans and visitors, and restrictions have been lifted. On June 11, Washington D.C. fully reopened and lifted the restrictions put in place to stop the spread of COVID-19. Unfortunately, the United States Capitol and the People's House have failed to do the same. The Capitol remains closed to the American people and the House continues to maintain policies that run contrary to science of COVID-19. It is time for you to reopen the House and get back to serving the American people.

Weekly case numbers in the United States have reached their lowest point since March of 2020 at the very start of the pandemic, and every day hundreds of thousands of Americans are being vaccinated. This also holds true for the Washington D.C. metropolitan area and the Capitol Hill community specifically. Over the last two weeks cases are down 36% in Washington D.C. and over 40% in both Virginia and Maryland. On Capitol Hill, no congressional staffer is known to have tested positive in weeks and no Member of Congress is known to have tested positive in months. This can no doubt be attributed to the institution's steady access to vaccinations. The Office of the Attending Physician has administered over 10,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to the congressional community with at least 95% of Senators, 84% of House Members, and 84% of the House community at large vaccinated. These percentages are undoubtedly lower than the true vaccination rate given some individuals who have chosen to get vaccinated in their community. Even this lower percentage far surpasses the rate of vaccination frequently defined by leading experts as the threshold for achieving herd immunity.¹

Despite the data and the facts, the Capitol and House of Representatives are still closed and people's constitutional right to petition their government remains severely constrained. Most committee rooms remain closed. Proxy voting remains in place and lengthened voting blocs impedes Congress' ability to get work done in an efficient manner. Tourists and school groups from across the country are unable to visit their elected Representatives in-person or walk through the halls of democracy. When asked directly, the Attending Physician could not provide clear metrics or a target percentage of vaccinations

¹ "...experts generally agree that somewhere between 70% and 85% of the population must be protected to suppress the spread, a range that Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has recently cited." <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/05/health/herd-immunity-usa-vaccines-alone/index.html>

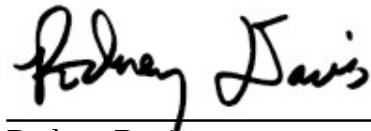
to fully reopen the House and said that he would defer to you to make such decisions. This comes as no surprise given the discrepancies between guidance issued to the Senate compared to guidance issued to the House throughout the pandemic, which has clearly shown that public health and science are not the driving factors in these decisions. Furthermore, there has been a clear lack of leadership exhibited by the Majority that has led to a piecemeal approach to partial reopening by legislative branch entities, some of whom have no formal plan to reopen at all. No legislative branch entity, other than the U.S. Capitol Police, is fully in-person and no legislative branch entity is fully open to the public.

The failure to follow public health guidance and the best up-to-date scientific knowledge to reopen the House is a failure of leadership. The American people are the ones that are most negatively affected as a result. The Capitol and the House of Representatives cannot justify continuing to be closed to the public given the facts. It is time to open the House and get back to work.

Sincerely,



Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on House Administration



Steve Scalise
Republican Whip



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



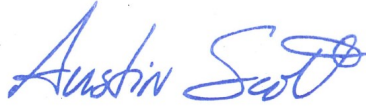
Mike Bost
Member of Congress



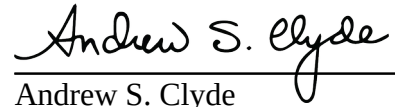
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



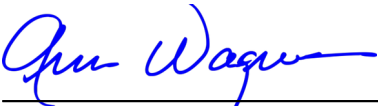
Ted Budd
Member of Congress



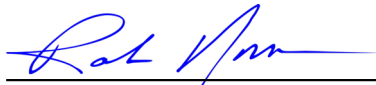
Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



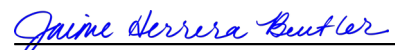
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress




Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Daniel Meuser
Member of Congress

Mariannette Miller Meeks

Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress

Garret Graves

Garret Graves
Member of Congress

Ben Cline

Ben Cline
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

Lloyd Smucker

Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Darrell Issa

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon

Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert

Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

C. Scott Franklin

C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar

John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress

John W. Rose

John Rose
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

Bill Posey

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Morgan Griffith


Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Trey Hollingsworth
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



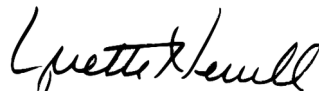
Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



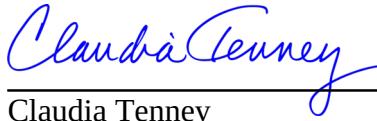
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress




Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress



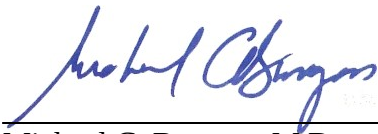
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



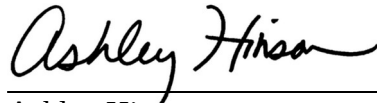
Mark E. Green, MD
Member of Congress



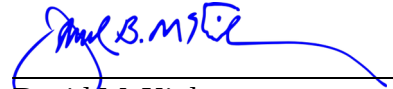
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



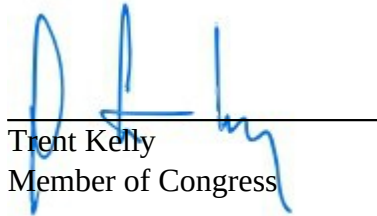
Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



David McKinley
Member of Congress



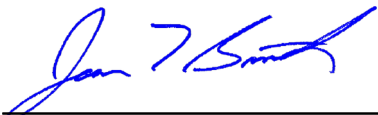
Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



CHRIS JACOBS
Member of Congress



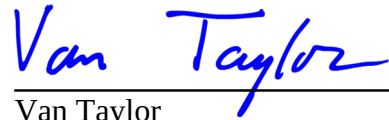
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Van Taylor
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on the Judiciary



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck"
Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



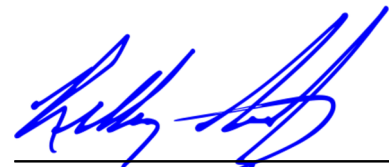
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons IV
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



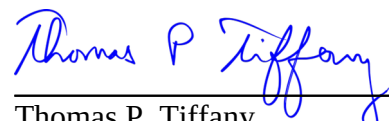
Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



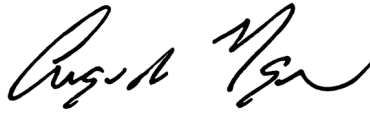
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress



Greg Pence
Member of Congress



Jim Baird
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



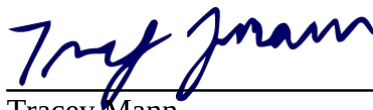
Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Lisa C. McClain
Member of Congress



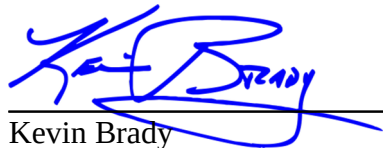
Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



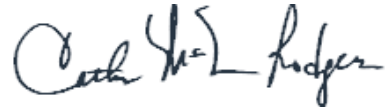
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



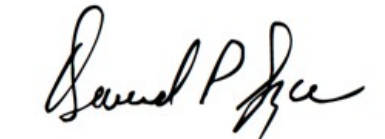
Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress




David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



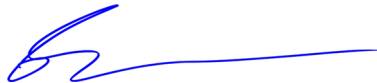
Hal Rogers
Member of Congress



Mike D. Rogers
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Drew Ferguson
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Michael K. Simpson
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Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



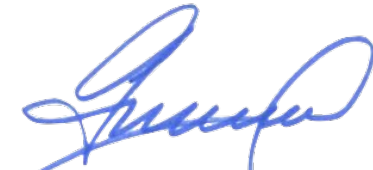
Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



James Comer
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



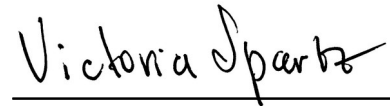
Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Kay Granger
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress