



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6538

March 10, 2021

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

The past year has been incredibly challenging for all Americans. This pandemic has claimed far too many lives and livelihoods already, while millions more suffer as businesses and schools remain closed around the country.

Nearly a year ago to the day, you made the decision to close the Capitol to visitors and begin implementing new protocols to govern access and movement of the members and staff of the Capitol complex. But since that time, we have learned more about the virus and have made monumental strides in our scientific and technological endeavors.

Today, we have multiple vaccines with significant efficacy rates. COVID-19 cases and deaths are falling nationally. And experts predict a return to normalcy may be closer than we think. Just this week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new guidelines easing mask and social distancing for the nearly 32 million Americans who are fully vaccinated. And to date, roughly 75 percent of House members have been fully vaccinated, or will be by the end of this week.

With this information and more at your disposal and as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, I pose to you the same question I posed a year ago: what is your plan to reopen the People's House? Specifically:

- What is the timeline for ending the practice of proxy voting -- which you stated was "strictly for this period of time that we are affected by this coronavirus" -- and the elongated duration of votes it requires?
- When can we expect in-person committee work to return full time and at the appropriate frequency in which the pressing matters at hand demand?
- When will visitors to Washington again be permitted to tour their Capitol, view democracy in action from the gallery, and meet with their representatives in House office buildings?

- How will your previously issued decorum guidelines regarding face coverings on the floor change in light of updated CDC requirements and the ongoing practices of the U.S. Senate?

Additionally, given the opaqueness regarding the current security posture of the Capitol complex, coupled with the fact that there are no credible threats against the Capitol, when can the country expect to see and visit their Capitol without a military presence and razor wire fencing, which serves as a physical barrier to serving our constituents?

Simply put: it's time that we return to regular order. House Republicans are eager for the chance to reopen the People's House, restore America's voice in Congress, and work day in and day out to address the many concerns our constituents face.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



KEVIN McCARTHY
House Republican Leader