

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

January 2, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Pelosi:

We write today to request that you cease all proxy voting measures in the House of Representatives for the upcoming 117th Congress. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the lives and work of many – including members of Congress. We all have had to adjust our travel and practices out of precaution for the virus, but now it is time to lead by example and fully return to work to serve the American people. Now that members and essential congressional staff have access to the vaccine, the unconstitutional decision to allow members to vote by proxy should not continue in the upcoming Congress.

On May 15, 2020, the House of Representatives passed a resolution to allow proxy voting. All members of the Republican party and even three Democrats voted against this measure; however, since its passage, more than 100 members have voted by proxy nearly 150 times. Through a lawsuit lead by Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy, Republican members have argued this unconstitutional voting method violates the quorum requirement, the “yeas and nays” requirement, the nondelegation doctrine, and the “structure” of the founding document. While Americans have been waiting for Congress to provide them much-needed support, our ineffective system of remote hearings, meetings and proxy voting has failed to deliver timely and quality relief. Simply put, under this method, Congress has been setting a poor example as leaders to the millions of Americans we work to serve.

We are pleased to see the continued results of Operation Warp Speed and the reality that multiple vaccines have been given Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and are being distributed to millions of Americans, including members of Congress. In fact, per continuity of government purposes, the Office of the Attending Physician has urged all members and certain essential Capitol personnel to receive the vaccine. We understand that some members are electing to wait for the vaccine to be more readily available to others before receiving it themselves, but with many members receiving the vaccinations, and more than 50 others already having antibodies, Congress is well on its way to herd immunity. We must lead by example, follow the science and safely return to work in Washington.

Thank you for your attention on this important matter and we look forward to having Congress return to its most effective practice with in-person voting and committee hearings.

Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

/s/
Jody Hice
Member of Congress

/s/
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

/s/
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

/s/
Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

/s/
David Rouzer
Member of Congress

/s/
French Hill
Member of Congress

/s/
Peter King
Member of Congress

/s/
Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

/s/
Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

/s/
Gary Palmer
Member of Congress

/s/
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

/s/
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

/s/
Brian Mast
Member of Congress

/s/
Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress

/s/
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

/s/
John Rutherford
Member of Congress

/s/
Michael Guest
Member of Congress

/s/
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress

/s/
Ben Cline
Member of Congress

/s/
Garret Graves
Member of Congress

/s/
Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress

/s/
Trey Hollingsworth
Member of Congress

/s/
Earl L “Buddy” Carter
Member of Congress