



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

May 13, 2020

Honorable Jim McGovern, Chairman  
Committee on Rules  
H-312 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member  
Committee on Rules  
H-152 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McGovern and Ranking Member Cole:

We write today in strong support of the H. Res. 965, which temporarily implements remote voting in the full U.S. House of Representatives and remote committee proceedings during this public health emergency due to the coronavirus.

Members of Congress must continue to faithfully and safely execute the duties of our office while acting in accordance with the social distancing guidelines outlined by medical experts. The suggested temporary rules would allow for Members to proxy vote on behalf of those Members who cannot safely travel to Washington, D.C. This proposed proxy voting system strictly governs the rules where a remote Member would send a letter to the Clerk designating a proxy. Members may serve as a designated proxy for up to ten Members and must receive exact written instruction on each vote. While there is no precedent on the House Floor for proxy voting, there is precedent in House Committees, where it was in place until the 104th Congress.

The implementation of H. Res. 965 would allow committees to hold virtual hearings, markups, and depositions enabling Members to perform vital oversight, conduct fact finding and bring legislation to the Floor. Especially during this national emergency, Congress must continue to do the work of American people, especially overseeing the trillions of dollars allocated by the federal government so far to combat the pandemic. Members also have the responsibility to model compliance with the guidelines recommended by the leading science and health experts without dereliction of our duties. Proxy voting allows for Members to be engaged in work at the Capitol while ensuring their safety and those in their communities.

As the Congress continues to find innovative ways to remain in service of the American people, I am supportive of the provision in H. Res. 965 that will direct the Committee on House Administration to study the use of technology to allow Members to vote remotely in the House. After certification has been completed determining secure and operable technology for remote

voting, the Rules Committee would issue guidance and regulations for implementation that can be authorized by the Speaker to allow Members to cast their votes remotely during the time period covered by the resolution.

We appreciate your hard work on this and the solicitation of advice and ideas from Members for many weeks, including members of both parties. It is our hope that these rules are only necessary for a short period of time and the House of Representatives can return to their normal functions in a safe manner to help families and workers impacted by this terrible health crisis.

Sincerely,



Daniel T. Kildee  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Additional Cosigners

Rep. Ed Perlmutter

Rep. Andy Levin

Rep. Alan Lowenthal

Rep. Brenda Lawrence