

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We write to express our concerns about the status of ongoing negotiations for a relief package to confront the dual public health and economic crises Americans are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been suggested by some that Members of Congress are anxious to return to their districts to campaign in advance of the November 3rd election, even if that means leaving Capitol Hill without passing another COVID-19 relief bill. We want to be very clear that we do not in any way agree with this position.

We strongly believe that until the House has successfully sent new, bipartisan COVID-19 relief legislation to the Senate, our place of duty remains here in the People's House. We were elected to represent the best interests of our constituents and the country. Our constituents' expectations in the midst of this crisis are that we not only rise to the occasion and stay at the table until we have delivered the relief they so desperately need, but also that we set aside electoral politics and place the needs of the country before any one region, faction, or political party.

Our constituents do not want us home campaigning while businesses continue to shutter, families struggle to pay the bills, food bank lines lengthen, schools struggle to reopen, pressures grow on hospital systems, and state and local budget shortfalls mean communities consider layoffs for first responders and teachers. These hardships are growing with every passing week.

Staying at the table means keeping members of the House of Representatives in session — and on Capitol Hill — until a bipartisan deal is reached and passed in the House. We recognize that we cannot dictate the actions of the Senate, but we can, in the People's House, continue to work to deliver actual relief to the American people. This should be our number one priority in the coming days. It is our request that you keep the House in session as we work towards a necessary deal, and we stand ready to work with you to ensure that Americans can receive the urgent relief they need as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress



Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Max Rose
Member of Congress

Jamie Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Van Taylor
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

Susie Lee
Member of Congress

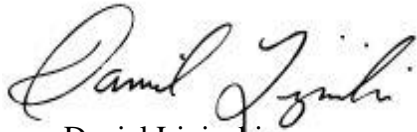
Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

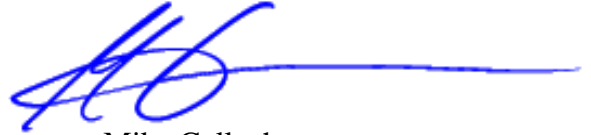
Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



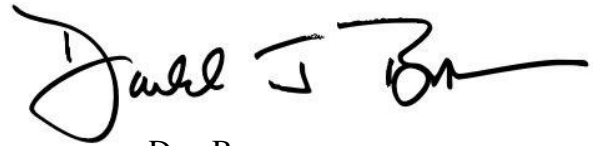
Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress