March 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

As Congress continues to confront the new and unforeseen challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the undersigned strongly urge our leadership to prioritize the security and continuity of our nation’s election system. It’s vital that we take action now to protect the November election and ensure that it takes place safely.

At no point in our nation’s history has a national crisis made it impossible to hold a credible national election. The COVID-19 pandemic raises that possibility — it presents unique challenges to regularly scheduled, in person, voting that even war and natural disasters do not.

We are already seeing indefinite postponements of primary elections around the country in an effort to limit crowd size, promote social distancing, and protect elderly voters and election workers, among other concerns. Given projected timelines for vaccine development, it’s becoming increasingly clear that this virus will be with us through the November elections. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to begin preparations now — and, given the uncertainties Congress is facing, to take action at the next legislative opportunity.

Upcoming coronavirus legislation should include provisions mandating no excuse early voting and vote by mail options in every state, and make funds available for the rapid implementation of both. These tools have the benefit of encouraging both turn out and social distancing, ensuring Americans can remain safe while carrying out their civic duty.

In times of crisis it’s crucial for Americans to see that the basic foundations of our democracy and constitutional system are being protected and maintained. As their representatives we have no higher duty than to ensure their voices continue to be heard.

Sincerely,

Tom Malinowski
Katie Porter
Member of Congress
Member of Congress
List of Cosigners

Katie Porter
Dave Loebsack
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Lizzie Fletcher
Haley M. Stevens
Albio Sires
Matt Cartwright
Marc Veasey
Ben Ray Luján
Ro Khanna
Gregory W. Meeks
Jahana Hayes
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Tony Cárdenas
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Veronica Escobar
Jared Huffman
Alcee L. Hastings
Mike Doyle
Derek Kilmer
Adriano Espaillat
Joaquin Castro
Jackie Speier
Deb Haaland
A. Donald McEachin
Mark Takano
Darren Soto
Bonnie Watson Coleman

Sheila Jackson Lee
Frederica S. Wilson
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell,
Theodore E. Deutch
James P. McGovern
Jan Schakowsky
Gerald E. Connolly
Debbie Dingell
Sylvia R. Garcia
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Norma J. Torres
Colin Z. Allred
Dina Titus
Joe Neguse
Juan Vargas
Abigail D. Spanberger
Susie Lee
David N. Cicilline
Cindy Axne
Kendra S. Horn
Sean Casten
Jerrold Nadler
Elissa Slotkin
Diana DeGette
Rashida Tlaib
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Julia Brownley
Steve Cohen