

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2024

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess
Chairman
House Committee on Rules
H-312, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James P. McGovern
Ranking Member
House Committee on Rules
H-152, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Burgess and Ranking Member McGovern,

We write to you today as Members of the Fix Congress Caucus and others who are interested in Congressional reform to respectfully request you consider the proposed Rules changes for the 119th Congress outlined in our letter. The caucus was established at the beginning of this Congress to serve as a bipartisan forum for Members of Congress to discuss issues affecting Congress' effectiveness and to propose ideas for improving it, building on the past work of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

First, we ask that you institute a biennial bipartisan retreat for Members of Congress at the start of each Congress. Members have few opportunities to interact across party lines, away from Washington, D.C. This lack of interaction across party lines discourages Members from getting to know their colleagues and from working collaboratively and building bipartisan coalitions.¹

Second, we propose you amend House Rules to require that each committee hold a bipartisan agenda-setting retreat at the beginning of each session of Congress. While Members will not agree on everything, such a retreat will provide an opportunity to identify and plan for policy action on issues of mutual agreement for Members serving on Congressional committees.²

Third, we recommend House Rules allow two Members of opposing parties to jointly sponsor legislation, similar to H.Res. 668, the BUDS Resolution. We believe this will encourage bipartisan cooperation, while more accurately and fairly reflecting situations where Members have contributed equally to legislation.³

Finally, we suggest the 119th Congress House Rules package establish a new Joint Committee on Legislative Processes, to be tasked with identifying ways to expedite the consideration of legislation that passed in its originating chamber with wide bipartisan support, as outlined in H.Con.Res. 8.⁴ This will allow better coordination between the House and Senate so that broadly bipartisan, vetted pieces of legislation do not unnecessarily fail to receive due consideration in the other chamber.

¹ Open Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress recommendation 31.

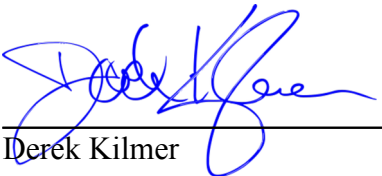
² Open Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress recommendation 10.

³ Open Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress recommendation 195.


⁴ Open Select Committee Recommendation 131.

Our caucus appreciates that your committee and House Rules have significant impact on House operations and our legislative work. We feel the five recommendations listed above have considerable bipartisan support from our caucus Members and would positively contribute to the 119th Congress House Rules package and on our effectiveness as a body. We appreciate the opportunity to share our Rules recommendations with you and look forward to working with you as you develop the 119th Congress House Rules package.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Derek Kilmer, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of William R. Timmons, IV, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

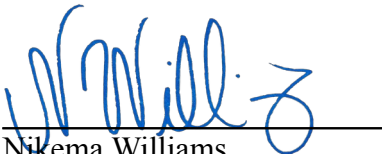
William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress

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Ben Cline
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Chrissy Houlahan, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Nikema Williams, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

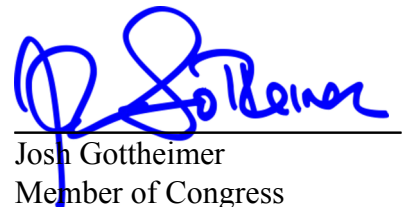
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

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Don Bacon
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Emanuel Cleaver, II, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Josh Gottheimer, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

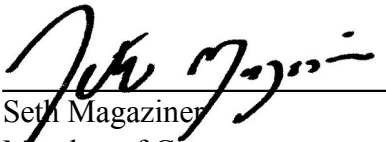
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

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Young Kim
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Maxwell Alejandro Frost, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.


Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



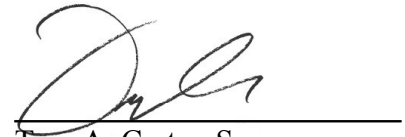
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress




Mike Levin
Member of Congress




Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



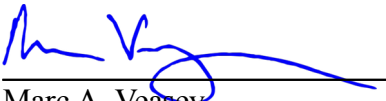
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress




Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress