



May 18, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer,

Over the past year, and thanks to your leadership, Congress has taken decisive action to provide significant support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic emergency. This Congress, we continued our response with the American Rescue Plan, taking a significant step to help our communities, families, workers and American businesses. Understandably, these emergency relief and recovery packages were developed and advanced quickly with very limited opportunity for substantive input from Members. There was no time to delay as we responded to this crisis, and the New Democrat Coalition (NDC) has strongly supported these various efforts and moving quickly.

As the House develops the next legislative packages to build back better, we have the opportunity to resume a more thoughtful, deliberative, and collaborative approach to legislating. President Biden has outlined frameworks in the American Jobs and Families Plans for Congress to further develop and advance through the legislative process. To meet this opportunity, we urge a return to regular order both in name and spirit that empowers individual Members and Committees to fully utilize their policy expertise and authorities to craft the strongest legislation with the broadest coalition of support possible.

The House is the most representative body in the federal government, and we know that respectful dissent is a good thing, and that diversity is our strength. It allows for the unique perspectives of Members from a diverse set of districts all across the country to be heard, considered, and addressed in legislation. The House should prioritize the advancement of individual Member priorities and legislation, with a particular focus on the majority-makers, and be responsive to their concerns. Individual Members of Congress are elected by voters with the expectation that they will have an opportunity to shape public policy, give their constituents a voice in our Nation's capital, and deliver tangible results.

As we develop and advance legislation that responds to the President's American Jobs and Families Plans, the House should set clear and fair schedules and deadlines for committee work and House business with more opportunities for Members to engage in substantive drafting, debate, amendment, and consideration of legislation. Committees should be empowered to lead on the development of legislation that responds to the President's plans. Individual Members should also be given material opportunities to craft the legislation, review legislative text and significant Manager's

amendments, and engage in debate, amendment, and consideration of legislation in their committees and as the packages come to the floor. Appropriate time should also be given before floor consideration for the release and review of legislative text, the rule and significant amendments considered as adopted by the rule, and, if budgetary and revenue effects are anticipated, Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scores and Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) revenue estimates. Furthermore, reasonable time should be given for the development, submission, and consideration of amendments on the floor, and for the review of any amendments considered as adopted in Rules that make significant or substantive changes to text.

The proceedings of the U.S. House of Representatives are driven as much by norms, attitudes, and comity as by its Rules or procedures. True progress is going to require a commitment from all of us—leadership and rank-and-file members—to come to a consensus about what kind of institution we want to serve in and how we want it to work. We look forward to working with you and our colleagues to empower Committees and Members to legislate more effectively for the people.

Sincerely,



Rep. Suzan DelBene
Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Scott Peters
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Ami Bera
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Sharice Davids
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Ann McLane Kuster
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
Whip
New Democrat Coalition



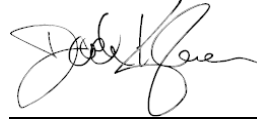
Rep. Kathy Manning
Freshman Leadership Representative
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Bradley S. Schneider
Leadership Member
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Stacey E. Plaskett
Leadership Member
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Derek Kilmer
Chair Emeritus
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Cindy Axne
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Julia Brownley
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Sean Casten
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Jim Costa
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Angie Craig
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress
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Rep. Bill Foster
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Ron Kind
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Susie Lee
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress
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Rep. Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress
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Rep. Chris Pappas
Member of Congress
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Rep. Dean Phillips
Member of Congress
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Rep. Mike Quigley
Member of Congress
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Rep. Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress
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Rep. Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress
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Rep. Kim Schrier
Member of Congress
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Rep. Terri Sewell
Member of Congress
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Rep. Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress
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Rep. Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress
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Rep. Abigail Spanberger
Member of Congress
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Rep. Haley Stevens
Member of Congress
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Rep. Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress
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Rep. David Trone
Member of Congress
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Rep. Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress
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Rep. Susan Wild
Member of Congress
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