

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

December 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We write to ask for the inclusion of language in the House Rules package for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress banning members from carrying firearms on Capitol grounds.

Currently, Members of Congress are exempt from the firearms prohibition in 40 U.S.C. § 5104 under the Capitol Police Board's regulations. These regulations, which date back to 1967, raise several serious concerns. For example, the regulations do not direct Members of Congress to secure firearms that are stored within their offices; as you know, Member offices are open to staff, visitors, and the general public, and a firearm that is not secured could easily end up in the wrong hands. Moreover, the regulations do not appear to be enforceable: there is currently no way for the Capitol Police to know which members are carrying or storing firearms.

Paradoxically, these regulations are not clearly made available to Members. Despite assurances from the House Sergeant at Arms that Freshmen Members would be instructed on gun regulations during New Member Orientation, most returning Members are likely not aware of any regulations whatsoever regarding firearms on Capitol grounds. As a result, there is a total lack of uniformity and procedure surrounding Members of Congress carrying firearms, which fosters an environment where Members may unwittingly be putting themselves and others in danger.

Ultimately, the current regulations create needless risk for Members of Congress, their staff, members of the Capitol Police, and visitors to the Capitol grounds. A provision in the Rules package directing the Capitol Police Board to ensure that Member of Congress may not possess firearms on Capitol grounds would ensure clarity surrounding firearms policy and protect all individuals in and around the Capitol. We urge inclusion of this commonsense protection in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Robin Kelly  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

David Price  
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress