

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jefferies
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

We write with urgent concern for the safety and security of the President, other dignitaries, and guests at the upcoming State of the Union Address. The GOP House Majority's new rules have made the safety and security of the House Chamber, the very seat of American Democracy, at risk to infiltration and violence with reckless changes to necessary preventative measures. As both of our chambers come together to hear a message from the President on the state of our Union, we are concerned for the safety and security of those present.

In the wake of the violent insurrection of January 6, an attempt by a Member of Congress to bring a concealed weapon on to the House Floor, other Members vowing to do so in contravention of House rules, and most recently a colleague distributing what appeared to be legitimate, and later revealed to be inert hand grenades on the House Floor, we know from experience that the House is vulnerable to multiple fronts of attacks both from inside and outside Congress. Considering the ability of Members of Congress to carry firearms in the capitol complex outside the House Floor, removal of magnetometers from the entrances to the House Floor, and with record threats against the lives of Members of Congress, the security of the House complex is today precarious.

We urgently request information on what steps you are taking, in coordination with the House and Senate Sergeant at Arms, Secret Service, and other federal agencies to protect the President, Vice President, the diplomatic corps, Cabinet Secretaries, Supreme Court Justices, Senators, Representatives, and their guests ahead of the State of the Union address on February 7, 2023. Any attack on this gathering would threaten our democracy and undermine the functionality of the entire federal government. We are amenable to receiving a closed-door briefing on the security plan such that the contents discussed are not available to those who would wish to do State of the Union attendees harm.

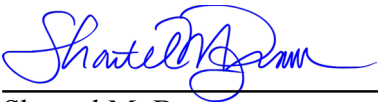
Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



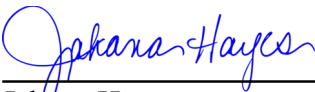
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



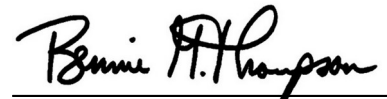
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



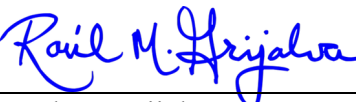
André Carson
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress