

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

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  
Member of Congress



Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

## List of Cosigners

Katie Porter	Sheila Jackson Lee
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Lizzie Fletcher	Theodore E. Deutch
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Mark Takano	Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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