Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2022

Brian P. Monahan, MD, MACP Office of the Attending Physician H-166, U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Monahan,

We write to you today to express our concern about the continued closure of the House side of the U.S. Capitol building to the American public despite the fact that major sporting and entertainment gatherings are occurring regularly around the country and companies across the nation are open for business. As you may be aware, the Senate side of the U.S. Capitol building recently announced it will be reopening to tours on a limited basis but the House Sergeant At Arms has yet to adopt a similar policy.

The Capitol closure order, issued by the House Sergeant At Arms on March 12, 2020¹, cited guidance from your office and Congressional leadership as the justification for issuing the order. Since that time, Congressional leadership has repeatedly stated it defers to you on questions of COVID-19 workplace safety policies, including a recent statement made by Committee on House Administration Chair Zoe Lofgren to the Washington Post². The last Social Distancing Guidelines document (V6.1) issued by your office was dated July 27, 2021³ and Chair Lofgren noted that discussions with your office have not been recently active.

Given these facts, we respectfully request you immediately issue up-to-date Social Distancing Guidelines to Congressional leaders and consider modifying your recommendation on the closure of the U.S. Capitol as part of that guidance. We also ask that you clarify whether your office has issued the same guidelines regarding the resumption of public tours to both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Congress is accountable to the American people, and the American people have a Constitutional right to be heard, to see their democracy in action, and to petition their leaders for redress of grievances. Unfortunately, Congress has lagged far behind the rest of America in reopening. Now more than ever, we must be proactive in building public trust and getting back to work.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter of national importance.

¹https://cha.house.gov/sites/democrats.cha.house.gov/files/documents/Limited%20Access%20to%20the%20Capit ol%20Complex.pdf

²https://www.washingtonpost.com/powerpost/capitol-reopening/2021/12/03/dea2a440-5470-11ec-9267-17ae3bde2f26 story.html

³https://attendingphysician.house.gov/sites/attendingphysician.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/Social%20Distancing%20Guidelines%20V6.1.pdf



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