

KATHLEEN M. RICE
4TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2435 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5516

DISTRICT OFFICE:
229 7TH STREET, SUITE 300
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530
(516) 739-3008

WWW.KATHLEENRICE.HOUSE.GOV



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3204

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
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AND OPERATIONS

CYBERSECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE
PROTECTION, AND INNOVATION

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

January 13, 2021

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

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
U.S. Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James P. McGovern
Chairperson
U.S. House Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Chair Lofgren, and Chair McGovern,

Thank you for your leadership after last week's unprecedented assault on the United States Capitol and all of the Members of Congress, law enforcement and staff that run the building on a daily basis. This attack was not only an assault on the Congress but on democracy itself. We are grateful for the law enforcement officers who worked bravely to secure us, our staffs, and all workers in the Capitol from violent insurrectionists and we join you in grieving for the six individuals who lost their lives as a result of the violence on that day.

We write today out of grave concern for all who work in the Capitol each day and for those who had to return to work the day after this tragedy. In light of the heightened threats since last week's terrorist attack and the forthcoming protests planned for the days leading up to, and including, the Presidential Inauguration, we ask that you make permanent the requirement that all Members, guests, and spouses pass through magnetometers before entering the House floor.

Given reports that Members of Congress were allegedly armed on the House floor on the day of the insurrection, we are pleased that the Capitol Police Board made the decision to require Members to undergo security screening before entering the House floor. We are concerned that more Members will take the violence on Wednesday as an invitation to bring weapons to the floor again, which is why we ask that you make this change permanent and that you provide Capitol Police with the resources they need to ensure its enforcement. The presence of firearms, concealed or not, can increase tragic violence and poses a great risk to all who work on the floor, including Members, floor staff, and staff who work for the Clerk of the House and the Parliamentarians.

Additionally, we reiterate Representative Jared Huffman's request to ban Members from carrying firearms on Capitol grounds. If Members do not go through metal detectors, Capitol Police cannot monitor which Members are carrying or storing firearms and this poses a serious risk to all Members, staff, and the public at large. We thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working together to secure the Capitol and the surrounding community.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Rice (NY-04)
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman (CA-02)
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne (IA-03)
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal (WA-07)
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán (CA-44)
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones (NY-17)
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer (OR-03)
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly (IL-02)
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas (CA-29)
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee (CA-13)
Member of Congress

Andre Carson (IN-07)
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath (GA-06)
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09)
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy (FL-07)
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper (TN-05)
Member of Congress

Richard Neal (MA-01)
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch (FL-22)
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley (IL-05)
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans (PA-03)
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez (CA-38)
Member of Congress

Bill Foster (IL-11)
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D. (WA-08)
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier (CA-14)
Member of Congress

David J. Trone (MD-06)
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell (CA-15)
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23)
Member of Congress

Mark Takano (CA-41)
Member of Congress

CC: Timothy P. Blodgett, Acting Sergeant at Arms