

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 23, 2021

The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott  
Chairman  
House Committee on Education and Labor  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Scott:

We write to request the prompt return of in-person committee hearings, mark-ups and other committee-related activity. We believe that the lack of face-to-face committee business and communication with members of the committee will only continue to obstruct productivity, bipartisan collaboration and will ultimately be detrimental to the American people.

Congress, and much of America, has made tremendous strides at recovering from this pandemic, and in many cases has been largely successful at resuming in-person work. Many congressional committees have resumed in-person work, including the full chamber of the House of Representatives. Over the course of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee on Education and Labor’s work has been marred with setbacks preventing or hindering our ability to efficiently conduct business—especially while members are prioritizing time in their respective districts to hear from their constituents. Members participating in virtual work have experienced loss of service and technical difficulties, lack of decorum from fellow colleagues and difficulties following orderly business due to factors involving a virtual format leading to lengthy and unnecessary time lags. We strongly believe orderly procedures, decorum, and committee business are more easily followed and efficiently conducted in-person.

As we work diligently to encourage and support businesses and schools with the resources to open their doors and overcome the setbacks of the pandemic, we worry the precedent it sets that the congressional committee of jurisdiction will not do it themselves. Furthermore, as freshmen members of Congress and the committee, we have not yet had the opportunity to work collaboratively and holistically with our colleagues in a full committee manner.

Resuming in-person committee business should be a high priority during session periods when members are present. We look forward to your timely response on the timeframe of resuming in-person work and your swift action implementing this change. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



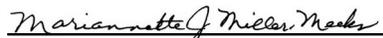
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Lisa C. McClain  
Member of Congress



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Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress



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Mariannette Miller-Meeks,  
M.D.  
Member of Congress



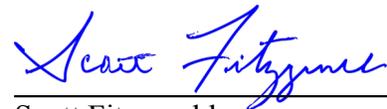
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Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress



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Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress



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Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress



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Mary E. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Bob Good  
Member of Congress



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Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress