

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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December 17, 2020

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

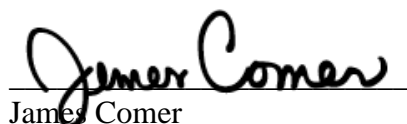
Today, Republicans are writing to follow up on our May 27, 2020, letter raising concerns regarding remote proceedings and particularly remote hearings. The Purdue Pharma hearing today was fraught with technological problems and ineffective witness questioning due to the platform and low bandwidth. We call on you to follow the example of your colleagues, such as Chairwoman Waters, and hold hybrid or other appropriately socially distanced hearings.

Additionally, Madame Chairwoman, during your technical difficulties today, Representative Tlaib made a statement that it was unsafe and contrary to the House Office of the Attending Physician's (OAP) guidance to hold in-person hearings. She was mistaken. According to the OAP's guidance, released just two weeks ago, hearings are permissible so long as they are socially distanced. And on December 2, the Financial Services Committee – on which Representative Tlaib serves – did just that. We are sure the representative from Michigan is not accusing Chairwoman Waters or other Democratic Committee Chairs of intentionally risking Members' health by holding hybrid hearings, and appearing in-person themselves, so we wanted to make that clarification.

Throughout the summer and fall, this Committee held hybrid hearings without any resulting infections, much less an outbreak. This winter, to further mitigate viral spread, the OAP instituted a rigorous testing infrastructure for all House Members and staff. Since circumstances on Capitol Hill have changed, we call on you to resume the hybrid or in-person posture immediately.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



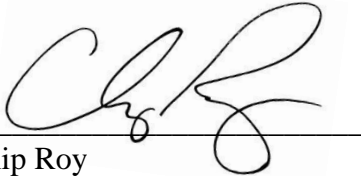
Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



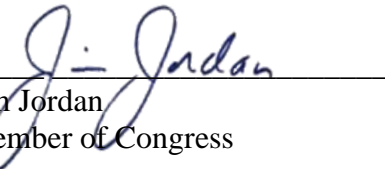
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



Chip Roy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



Mark E. Green, M.D.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



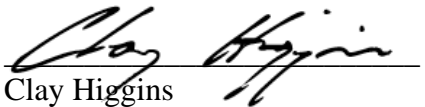
Thomas H. Massie
Member of Congress



Gary Palmer
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Ralph W. Norman
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress

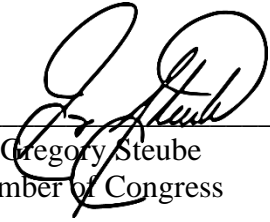


Kelly M. Armstrong
Member of Congress

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney

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W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Fred B. Keller
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

The Honorable Harley E. Rouda, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment