

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 13, 2023

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Speaker Pro Tempore
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pro Tempore:

As the Democratic Members of the Problem Solvers Caucus Executive Council, we are writing regarding our strong belief that, especially during this critical time, our country must have a fully functioning U. S. House of Representatives. Last week, following the Motion to Vacate, the House selected a Speaker Pro Tempore with very limited authority. In light of our nation's pressing issues, a looming government shutdown, and the attacks on our key ally, Israel, we strongly support an immediate vote to expand the Speaker Pro Tempore's authorities to allow for the consideration of a legislative agenda limited to the most pressing issues.

Unless and until a Speaker of the House is elected, Congress should implement temporary, expanded authorities -- at fifteen calendar day increments -- directing the Speaker Pro Tempore to bring before the House proposed legislation only covering the following specific areas:

- 1) Foreign aid emergency supplemental funding for Ukraine and Israel;
- 2) An extension of the current continuing resolution through January 11, 2024, to prevent a looming government shutdown; and,
- 3) Committee and floor consideration of remaining FY24 appropriations bills.

Additionally, the Speaker Pro Tempore should be granted the authority to introduce suspension bills evenly distributed between the majority and minority caucuses. This will help us avoid Rules Committee gridlock.

The government cannot continue to be hamstrung — leaving American families, our economy, and national security at risk. We hope you'd agree that we must restart the business of the House of Representatives without delay.

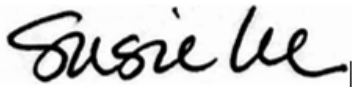
We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss a possible bipartisan path forward. Thank you.



Josh Gottheimer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ed Case
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Susie Lee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jared Golden
MEMBER OF CONGRESS