

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable James P. McGovern  
Chairman, Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, and Chairman McGovern:

With the pending April 1st expiration of the period in which bills may bypass committee deliberations and come straight to the floor, we write to urge that the House revert to full adherence to the letter and spirit of the current House Rules encouraging regular order. We also request that legislation should not be considered on the House floor unless it has received a score from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) or the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) and Members of Congress have had adequate time to review that score before a vote on the measure.

Regular order is essential to ensuring the views of our constituents are heard and considered regardless of the legislative outcome. Specifically, H.Res.8 requires proposed legislation to be heard and marked up in the committees of jurisdiction before referral to the House Rules Committee for consideration of full House action. This, paired with the allowance of reasonable floor amendments by the Rules Committee, checks excessive control of the legislative process, encourages broad Member inclusion and ensures that the legislative product will be broadly representative and supportable.

In addition to adherence to regular order, the CBO and JCT play crucial roles in good policymaking by producing nonpartisan reports and estimates that project the cost and other economic effects of legislation under consideration by Congress. Without these reports and estimates, lawmakers are blind to the economic effects of the policies they are developing. When provided with reasonable time ahead of a floor vote, these reports give Congress the opportunity to further improve legislation by preventing any unintended policy consequences and fully evaluating options to address unpaid-for measures.

It is our view that these steps are key for Democrats to uphold our promise to the American people for inclusive, responsible, and transparent governance. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to continuing to work with you to build our country back better.

Sincerely,



REP. STEPHANIE MURPHY (FL-07)  
Co-Chair for Administration  
Blue Dog Coalition



REP. ED CASE (HI-01)  
Co-Chair for Policy  
Blue Dog Coalition



REP. TOM O'HALLERAN (AZ-01)  
Co-Chair for Communications  
Blue Dog Coalition



REP. KURT SCHRADER (OR-05)  
Co-Chair  
Blue Dog Coalition