

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2021

The Honorable William J. Walker
Sergeant at Arms
U.S. House of Representatives
H-124 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear General Walker:

We write regarding the official business visitor procedures for the House of Representatives that were issued by your predecessor on April 21, 2021. According to the procedures, “all offices must provide meeting and guest information for official business visitors so badges can be provided.”¹ In addition to attesting that each visitor has completed a daily health screening prior to the visit, the Member office must provide the visitor’s full name to the House appointment desk. According to your website, the visitor should also be prepared to show some form of identification.

While we have general concerns about the practice of collecting personally identifiable information from visitors to Members of Congress, we have particular concerns about how this policy affects the ability of whistleblowers to maintain their anonymity should they wish to make an in-person disclosure to a Member or staff. The First Amendment of the Constitution establishes the right of public employees to communicate with Congress, and Title 5 of the U.S. Code outlines the rights of whistleblowers to petition Congress. To quote Section 7211: “The right of employees, individually or collectively, to petition Congress or a Member of Congress, or to furnish information to either House of Congress, or to a committee or Member thereof, may not be interfered with or denied.”² Whistleblowers choose to come forward and make their disclosure at risk to themselves and their livelihoods. It should be a top priority of Congress to ensure that a potential whistleblower does not have to choose between maintaining anonymity and sharing important information.

To that end, we would appreciate answers to the following questions by August 20th:

- 1) Are there currently any procedures in place to maintain anonymity for whistleblowers who wish to make their disclosure in person in a House office?
- 2) If there are procedures in place to ensure whistleblower anonymity, can you outline them?
- 3) Who has access to the personally identifiable information that is submitted to the House appointment desk?

¹ <https://e-dearcolleague.house.gov/Home/Preview?DCID=330557>

² <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=%28%22Employees%3F+right+to+petition+Congress%22%29&f=treesort&fq=true&num=9&hl=true&edition=prelim&granuleId=USC-prelim-title5-section7211>

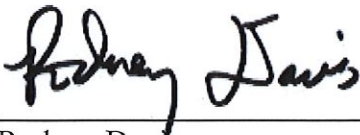
- 4) How long is the information that is submitted to the House appointment desk kept?
- 5) What is done with the information submitted to the House appointment desk after it is no longer needed?
- 6) Is there a certain date by which this information will no longer be necessary to enter the House office buildings? If so, when?
- 7) What is the process to request to view the list of visitors collected by the House Sergeant at Arms?
- 8) Has the House Sergeant at Arms received any request by any Capitol Hill staff to view or collect the list of visitors?
- 9) Has the House Sergeant at Arms shown the visitor log collection to any person?

We appreciate your service to the House of Representatives, its Members, and the visiting public. As you know, we are strong supporters of returning the House to its pre-pandemic visitation policy. However, while the current policy is in place, we must make sure that members of the public who wish to make a whistleblower complaint are protected. We look forward to working with you on this matter.

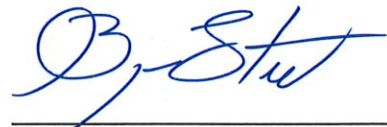
Sincerely,



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on House Administration



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Republican Whip



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



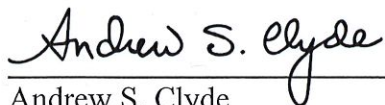
Daniel Webster



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



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



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



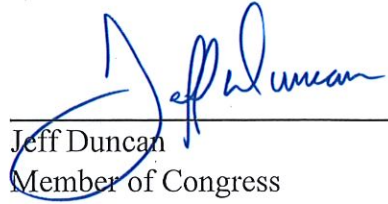
Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks

Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

Gary J. Palmer

Gary J. Palmer
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald

Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

Carol D. Miller

Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress

Ron Estes

Ron Estes
Member of Congress

David P. Joyce

David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

Pat Fallon

Pat Fallon
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber

Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



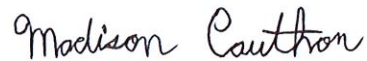
Bob Good
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Brian J. Mast
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress