

Thank you for allowing me to join you today and participate in this hearing.

When this virus first came to our shores, through no fault of our own, in the spring of 2020, small businesses, schools, and offices were forced to shut down. Similarly, the United States Capitol Building, the halls of Congress, and our office buildings were also closed to the public and have remained this way for over 21 months.

Now, through the ingenuity and perseverance of the American people, we have adapted and found ways to reopen while ensuring we are keeping our families and neighbors safe.

However, one place that remains closed to the American people is the House of Representatives, the People's House.

This is unacceptable.

The Office of the Attending Physician plays a vital role here on Capitol Hill by keeping us and our staff safe and healthy. Unfortunately, Speaker Pelosi and other Democrat leaders have politicized this office and are using their guidance to keep the American people out.

Not only are their rules inconsistent with Washington D.C.'s and other surrounding area's regulations, they are even inconsistent with Senate rules.

While the public is not allowed into the House of Representatives, Capital One Arena, just five blocks away, is hosting thousands of fans for hockey and basketball games.

Even more absurd, over on the Senate side, restrictions are much softer and indoor

Halloween events were even held. Now there are reports that Senate Offices will be allowed to restart tours of the Capitol while House offices are not even allowed to welcome larger groups of our constituents up to our offices.

Tell me, where is the science in that?

At the same time, the Speaker's strict rules and protocols seem only to be enforced when they are convenient for her.

When she needed every vote possible in order to be elected Speaker, she found a way to make an exception for members, who just days before tested positive for COVID, to come to the House Chamber and cast their vote for her.

When a group of over 50 State House Democrats from Texas fled to Washington

instead of voting on an elections bill, they were allowed into the House office buildings and Speaker Pelosi was glad to meet with them. To make matters worse, some of these members tested positive for COVID just days after their return to Texas.

And most recently, when we have seen celebrities and Hollywood elites fly cross country to Washington, she seems to find a way to make exceptions and welcome them into her office in the Capitol.

Meanwhile, my office has had to give the disappointing news to a countless number of my constituents that they are not allowed into the Capitol for a Capitol Tour.

This includes families bringing their children all the way from northern Minnesota to our nation's capital.

This includes students on their class trip who came to learn more about how their government works.

This includes groups of first responders and members of law enforcement who risk their lives every day to keep us safe.

And finally, this includes Veterans who are coming to visit the war memorials and pay their respects to their fallen brothers and sisters at Arlington National Cemetery.

All of them must be asking themselves, Speaker Pelosi, where is *our* exception to the rules?

I would like to end by saying this on behalf of these constituents of the 8<sup>th</sup> District of Minnesota:

It is far past time to find a way to let the  
American people back into the People's House.

Thank you, and I yield back.