

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 19, 2021

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chair
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

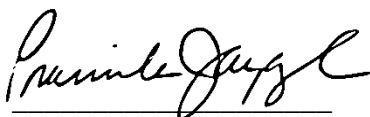
Dear Chair Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis:

In light of the COVID-19 emergency and the barriers it has added for students across the nation, we applaud the decision to make all paid House interns eligible to telework in the event of a disaster, pandemic or other emergency. This decision has been instrumental in many offices' continuity of operations while simultaneously expanding access to congressional internships. We respectfully request that you make paid interns permanently eligible for telework.

Non-emergency telework eligibility in the House paid internship program would allow offices to keep their internship programs open to many students historically denied access to congressional experience. The paid internship program seeks to make House internships "available to the broadest possible pool of candidates who have the ability and interest to serve." Allowing interns to serve remotely, including using House-issued devices, would ensure access to these internships for otherwise qualified candidates for whom the cost, time or physical requirements of moving to Washington, D.C. has been prohibitive.

We appreciate your efforts to increase funding and resources for House interns. As we work to make House internships more just and accessible to Black, Indigenous, and people of color, students with disability, first-generation students, and working-class students, we must actively work to increase the flexibility and resources behind the internship program. Removing the emergency circumstances requirement for intern telework would improve accessibility to help make our institution more reflective of the communities we were sent to serve in Congress.

Sincerely,



PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress

ANDRÉ CARSON
Member of Congress

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



ILHAN OMAR
Member of Congress

GWEN S. MOORE
Member of Congress

DONALD S. BEYER JR.
Member of Congress

STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress

JESÚS G. "CHUY" GARCÍA
Member of Congress

SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress

AYANNA PRESSLEY
Member of Congress

KAIALI'I KAHELE
Member of Congress

DEAN PHILLIPS
Member of Congress

KAREN BASS
Member of Congress

DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress

VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress

JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
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PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress

PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress

EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress

MONDAIRE JONES
Member of Congress

RITCHIE TORRES
Member of Congress

ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

CHRISSEY HOULAHAN
Member of Congress

SUZAN K. DELBENE
Member of Congress

A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress