

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0550

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On February 12, I wrote regarding the unprecedented security posture that remains at the U.S. Capitol. I expressed concern about both the substantial scope and prolonged nature of the razor wire fencing, concrete barricades, road closures, magnetometers outside of the Chamber and heavy National Guard presence, and requested a briefing for all Members of Congress so we too can access the intelligence underlying the shutdown to all visitors that has endured for more than a month.

Two weeks have now passed since my request, and many other Members have expressed concerns as well. To this day, you have still not provided anything resembling adequate details.

Today, my colleagues and I received some information, and I thank my friend Rep. Davis very much for arranging our audience with law enforcement. But we did not hear anything that in any way justifies why the House should continue in a state of militarized lockdown.

It should be noted that Washington, D.C.'s acting chief of police says he has not been given any intelligence to back up the need for a continued National Guard presence around the Capitol complex. In addition, the National Guard reportedly intends to depart by mid-March. Other reports indicate the full spectrum of this lockdown may be maintained through the fall. Again, insufficient details have been provided.

This degree of transparency is insufficient. I therefore request the barriers and restrictions be lifted immediately. Not in March. Not in the fall. Immediately. It took only days to build; it should require only days to remove.

The U.S. Capitol is not a fortress off limits to the public and ringed by an excessive show of force. It exists on behalf of the American people. If the majority is unable to provide justification for preventing even a visit by health care heroes, World War II veterans or a church choir to its steps, then all the doors we have closed to them must be reopened today.

Sincerely,



DARRELL ISSA
Member of Congress