

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 05, 2021

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

We write with concerns about the security measures and enhanced fencing around the U.S. Capitol even though high profile events like the inauguration are over. In particular, we are concerned with recent reports that the fencing surrounding the Capitol may become permanent. We are willing to have an honest debate about providing Capitol Hill Police with the resources they need to be better prepared without turning the Capitol into a permanent fortress. To that end, we urge you to remove the barbed wire fencing surrounding the Capitol and send the National Guard troops home to their families. It's time. It's time for healing and it's time for the removal of the fencing so the nation may move forward.

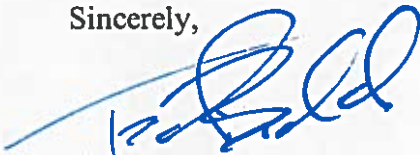
Let us be clear. The events that happened on January 6 were horrific. Understandably, certain increased security measures following that date were implemented. But it is time for Congress and its representatives to stop hiding. The American people see through the double standard. Members of Congress cannot demand more security and protection for themselves after they decied federal law enforcement activity across American cities last summer.

The U.S. Capitol is a symbol of freedom both at home and abroad. It is a place where Americans from all walks of life can visit, learn about, and witness U.S. history. Sadly, because of the fortress-like security in place, this is no longer the case. American citizens who wish to visit are not allowed to because only authorized personnel and the military are permitted. The people who call Capitol Hill home live day in and out with fences, military trucks, and military personnel in their backyards, on their way to work, to school, or the grocery store. Enough is enough.

Of course, we all understood that some increase in security was necessary after the tragic events of January 6, but now there is no valid reason to continue the same level of security measures. It is appalling that Communist China allows their citizens more freedom to visit historical sites like Tiananmen Square than currently exists for Americans who want to visit the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

At the top of the Capitol building stands the Statue of Freedom. Much like the Statue of Liberty in New York City, the statue symbolizes why so many people from around the world come to America. They come to start anew, unshackled by tyranny and oppression, to be free from political and religious persecution, and to live in freedom and peace. The current state of the Capitol Complex fundamentally undermines that message, and we urge an end to it.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd
Member of Congress

Other Members of Congress signing this letter:

Rep. Robert B. Aderholt
Rep. Jodey C. Arrington
Rep. Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Rep. James R. Baird
Rep. Jim Banks
Rep. Andy Biggs
Rep. Dan Bishop
Rep. Lauren Boebert
Rep. Ken Buck
Rep. Kat Cammack
Rep. Jerry L. Carl
Rep. Madison Cawthorn
Rep. Andrew Clyde
Rep. Rick Crawford
Rep. Warren Davidson
Rep. Scott DesJarlais
Rep. Jeff Duncan
Rep. Bob Gibbs
Rep. Bob Good
Rep. Glenn Grothman

Rep. Michael Guest
Andy Harris, M.D.
Rep. Yvette Herrell
Rep. Jody Hice
Rep. Ronny L. Jackson
Rep. Dusty Johnson
Rep. Fred Keller
Rep. Trent Kelly
Rep. Doug LaMalfa
Rep. Doug Lamborn
Rep. Debbie Lesko
Rep. Nancy Mace
Rep. Barry Moore
Rep. Ralph Norman
Rep. Matthew Rosendale
Rep. Scott Perry
Rep. John Rose
Rep. Chip Roy
Rep. David Schweikert
Rep. Randy K. Weber
Rep. Beth Van Duyne

CC: Acting Senate Sergeant at Arms Jennifer A. Hemingway, Acting House Sergeant at Arms Timothy P. Blodgett, and Acting Chief of Police Yogananda D. Pittman