

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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March 4, 2022

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
Chair, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

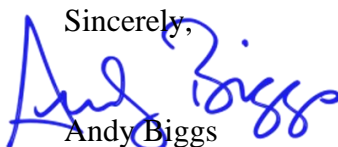
Dear Chair Jackson Lee:

On behalf of the Subcommittee's Republican Members, I request that next week's Subcommittee hearing on defunding the police be conducted in our Committee hearing room. The hearing, titled "Reimagining Public Safety in the COVID-19 Era," is currently scheduled as a fully remote hearing. We believe, however, that an issue of such importance to American communities demands the immediate attention of all Members. If you refuse to grant our request, we ask, at a minimum, that you open the hearing room for Republican Subcommittee Members, so we may participate in this hearing with full audio and video capabilities.

Several other Judiciary Subcommittees have conducted and are conducting in-person hearings. For example, the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing on March 1 in the Committee hearing room. Additionally, the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet has noticed a hearing for March 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the Committee hearing room—the same day as our hearing on defunding the police. There is no reason that our Subcommittee should be the only Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee conducting fully remote hearings.

The Office of the Attending Physician (OAP) has issued updated guidance that should encourage every Member to return to in-person Committee work. On February 27, 2022, the OAP stated that due to a decline in COVID-19 cases, wearing a mask "is now an individual choice option." In light of the updated OAP guidance, many Members attended President Biden's State of the Union address in person without masking. We must re-open the Committee hearing room for Subcommittee business so that Members may discuss the important issue of defunding the police face-to-face. The future of our public safety and the security of our communities demand nothing less.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
and Homeland Security