

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

October 25, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pence  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Vice President Pence,

We are writing today about your reported intention to attend the final Senate vote on the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. With five of your closest aides recently testing positive for COVID-19, it is not a risk worth taking. We ask you to reconsider.

Not only would your presence in the Senate Chamber tomorrow be a clear violation of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, it would also be a violation of common decency and courtesy. Your presence alone could be very dangerous to many people – not just Senators, but to all the truly essential staff – both Democratic and Republican – who must be physically present inside the U.S. Capitol for it to function. These men and women are the Capitol Police officers, the custodians, the food service workers, the floor staff, and everyone else that makes the Capitol complex work. On their behalf, please reconsider your decision to attend tomorrow's vote.

Nothing about your presence in the Senate tomorrow can be considered essential. You will not need to cast the deciding vote to break a tie. Your presence tomorrow would be purely ceremonial.

We believe that if you and President Trump finally began to take this crisis seriously, instead of taking actions that could further increase the spread, we would all be safer and better off. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Mark Warner  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator