

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

May 28, 2021

Dear Colleague:

As we go into the Memorial Day weekend and the upcoming state work period, I want to thank you all for a productive May session. In the last three weeks, the committees have advanced critical issues in the Build Back Better agenda, we have confirmed many of President Biden's executive nominations, and the Senate came together on a bipartisan basis to advance the historic U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA), the most significant investment in science, technology and American manufacturing in a generation. Exercising our authority under the Congressional Review Act, we reversed several egregious Trump-era rules that hurt our environment, gave big corporations more power over American workers and circumvented critical protections for consumers. We also witnessed President Biden sign the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, a piece of legislation that originated in the Senate and is critical to combatting the wave of attacks against Asian-Americans.

At the same time, we have also seen the limits of bipartisanship and the resurgence of Republican obstructionism. Despite three months of regular order on USICA, the input of no fewer than six committees, dozens of Republican amendments accepted to the bill, and 21 roll call and voice votes on amendments, Senate Republicans sought to delay the inevitable passage of USICA by two weeks, even as American manufacturers experiencing a devastating semiconductor shortage plead for help. Senate Republicans, at the personal request of Leader McConnell, also continue their brazen attempts to whitewash the attack of January 6th by filibustering the House-passed bipartisan January 6th Commission, even though Speaker Pelosi and I agreed to changes proposed by Senator Collins. Senators should rest assured that the events of January 6th will be investigated and that as Majority Leader, I reserve the right to force the Senate to vote on the bill again at the appropriate time.

Senate Democrats are doing everything we can to move legislation in a bipartisan way when and where the opportunity exists. But we will not wait for months and months to pass meaningful legislation that delivers real results for the American people. Looking ahead, the June work period will be extremely challenging. I want to be clear that the next few weeks will be hard and will test our resolve as a Congress and a conference. When the Senate reconvenes on June 7th, we will seek to pass H.R.7, the Paycheck Fairness Act, a long overdue piece of legislation previously filibustered by Senate Republicans during President Obama's second term. We will also begin to confirm President Biden's judicial nominees, including Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson for the highly important U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. We may also consider gun safety and LGBTQ equality legislation during the June work period. And finally, in the last week of the June work period, the Senate will vote on S.1, the *For the People Act*, legislation that is essential to defending our democracy, reducing the influence of dark money and powerful special interests, and stopping the wave of Republican voter suppression happening in the states across the country in service of President Trump's Big Lie.

Lastly, we need to continue to make progress on President Biden's Build Back Better economic agenda. I am proud that the Senate Finance Committee reported historic Clean Energy legislation that will begin the fight to combat climate change, albeit with no Republican votes. I am also encouraged that the Environment and Public Works Committee reported bipartisan Surface Transportation legislation that includes the first-ever Climate title. As the President continues to discuss infrastructure legislation with Senate Republicans, the committees will hold hearings and continue their work on the Build Back Better agenda – with or without the support of Republican Senators. We must pass comprehensive jobs and infrastructure legislation this summer.

In closing, the American people gave us a Democratic Senate to produce big and bold action on the major issues confronting us. And that is what we will do.

Have a great Memorial Day weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator