

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0913

September 16, 2014

The Honorable Richard B. Nugent
Chairman
Subcommittee on Rules and Organization of the House
House Rules Committee
United States House of Representatives
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nugent,

As the Subcommittee on Rules and Organization of the House meets to consider proposed changes to the standing rules of the House of Representatives, I write to strongly advocate for a permanent rule change that would formally require the House to be in session significantly more days during the 114th Congress, which will convene in January 2015. The House of Representatives, the "People's House", simply cannot address the many priorities of the nation if we are not in session more days. From major policy issues like debt reduction and budget reforms that garner the support of the nation, to matters of national security and terrorism, to border enforcement, immigration, education, and an economy that creates jobs, we simply must work more.

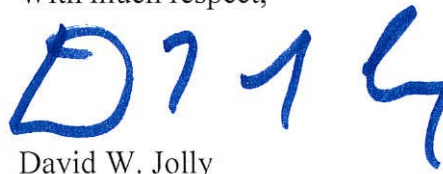
A change in the House rules to require more days in session will also demonstrate to the American people, by our actions, that we as a Congress remain committed to representing everyone's best interests in Washington. Nearly 40 percent of Americans work an average of 50 hours or more per week. I submit that the House of Representatives must do the same. In fact, as part of adding more session days to the legislative calendar, I would respectfully request that your subcommittee require for any week that Congress is in session in Washington D.C. that such session run from 8:00 a.m. on Monday until 6:00 p.m. on Friday. Simply put, a work week is a work week. Our efforts should reflect those of every other working American.

I applaud Speaker Boehner for his leadership in paving the way towards restoring regular order and a commitment to legislating to address difficult issues and solve the many problems we as a nation face. Under his leadership, the House has passed over 350 pieces of legislation that await Senate consideration. Let's build on this momentum. I believe spending more time in session and creating more avenues of communication across party lines and between both chambers will yield only positive results for Congress and the American people at large.

The extent of the national and global issues we face today, more than ever before, require great deliberation, robust debate, moments of conviction, and decisive action on our part. As individuals who have pledged to our constituents a commitment of service to our communities and to the nation, we have a responsibility to put forth every effort to address the many great and dire issues we as a country face today.

A work week in Washington should be no different than a work week in every other town across America. A change in the rules of the House to reflect that very basic principle is one that we as a House, as Republicans and Democrats, and most importantly as Representatives of our neighbors and fellow Americans, should swiftly adopt.

With much respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DJJL", is positioned above the printed name.

David W. Jolly
Member of Congress