

January 31, 2019

House Democratic Caucus
1420 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Jeffries:

On behalf of a coalition of eleven organizations, we request that you publish online the current rules for the Democratic Caucus of the House of Representatives.

The Democratic Caucus rules do not merely set forth rules of procedure but are an embodiment of the values of Democrats in the House of Representatives — and ought also represent the values of the voters who elected them. Do the rules promote staff diversity, equal pay for equal work, and equal opportunity for advancement? Do they encourage responsible governance, progressive policies, and a battle of ideas? Do they demand ethical behavior and hold members accountable for their actions? Do they promote transparency?

Process is policy, and the rules adopted by the Democratic caucus have a significant impact on the legislative process. For example, they can govern who may lead the caucus, who may serve on committees, and who must step down. They can control how members must vote on legislation on the floor, on appropriations measures, and on suspending the House rules.

For several Congresses, the House Republican Conference has published online the text of matters adopted during the organizational conference, which includes their conference rules. Democrats should do no less.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter. Should any questions arise, please contact Daniel Schuman, Demand Progress Education Fund policy director, at Daniel@DemandProgress.org or 240-237-3930.

Sincerely yours,

American Civil Liberties Union
Color of Change
CREDO
Demand Progress Education Fund
Fight for the Future
Indivisible

Our Revolution
Progressive Change Campaign Committee
RootsAction.org
Social Security Works
X-Lab

Cc: Speaker Pelosi
Majority Leader Hoyer