



January 10, 2023

Hon. Kevin McCarthy
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC. 20515

RE: C-SPAN request for ongoing access to House Chamber

Dear Speaker McCarthy:

Since the U.S. House first allowed its sessions to be televised nearly 43 years ago, there has been little change in the strict rules that House technicians must follow to provide video coverage of the floor to news organizations, including C-SPAN. During last week's Speaker election, C-SPAN was permitted to bring its own cameras into the chamber. The public, press, and Member reaction to C-SPAN's coverage—along with the "transparency" themes in your new rules package—have encouraged us to resubmit a request we have made to your predecessors without success:

Allow C-SPAN to cover House floor proceedings on behalf of our network and all Congressionally-accredited news organizations.

C-SPAN, a private not-for-profit public affairs network, commits to covering House debates in the same manner we have televised Congressional hearings—fully, accurately and with the unbiased production style on which we have built our reputation since 1979. We also pledge to make our floor coverage fully available to accredited news organizations following established pool practices.

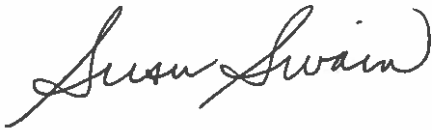
We do not propose replacing the existing House Recording System or its output. Instead, we request to install a few additional cameras in the House chamber. When mixed with the existing House production, shots from our cameras would allow us to create a second, journalistic product, just as we did last week. Audio would continue to be provided by the House Recording Studio.

We understand there is a move among some members for a resolution that would relax the rules used by the House Recording Studio. While this would be an improvement over the current static shots of the dais and the podium, video produced by government employees lacks the transparency that C-SPAN, as a journalistic institution is able to provide.

If ongoing daily coverage of sessions by C-SPAN is not acceptable to the Congress, we request that you at least revisit the rules and **permit C-SPAN and other independent journalists to cover key legislative sessions**. This process could work quite simply with us and/or other accredited news organizations submitting requests for enhanced coverage to the Radio/TV Gallery, much as we now do with Congressional hearings.

We stand ready to answer any questions you or the Democratic leadership might have about our requests. We all share an important goal— informing and involving the American public with what transpires in the People's House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Swain". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Susan Swain
Co-CEO, C-SPAN

Cc: Hon. Steve Scalise, Majority Leader
Hon. Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader