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Dear Colleague:

Congratulations again on your election to the 118th Congress!

When I initially sought the position of Chair of the House Democratic Caucus two terms ago, none of us could have predicted the challenges the American people would confront in the years to come. However, time and again, throughout a period of enormous turmoil for our nation, House Democrats rose to the occasion.

Today, I write to humbly ask for your support for the position of House Democratic Leader as we once again prepare to meet the moment.

### **Our Journey Together**

It was an extraordinary responsibility to chair the House Democratic Caucus during a time of significant turbulence and legislative accomplishment. The Beltway skeptics claimed we were in disarray. Instead, we united time and again with one of the narrowest legislative margins in American history to get big things done For The People.

From the longest government shutdown in history, to the impeachment of a lawless president, a once-in-a-century pandemic, resulting economic crisis, reckoning with systemic racism, a violent insurrection, inauguration of a new President, second impeachment and finally a historically productive congressional term, my time as Chair of the dynamic House Democratic Caucus has been eventful. I worked as hard as possible with each of you to make it fruitful.

Building upon this track record of leadership experience and collective success, I now look to the future. In doing so, I am thankful for the invaluable opportunity I have had to learn from legendary figures like our iconic Speaker Nancy Pelosi, our resolute Leader Steny Hoyer and our historic Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, who has mentored and nurtured my leadership development from the moment I arrived in Congress.

My candidacy for House Democratic Leader is rooted in three operating principles.

### **Empowering Every Member**

The House Democratic Caucus is the most authentic representation of the gorgeous mosaic of the American people, anchored in our incredible diversity of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, region, life experience and ideology. To further unleash our talent and ability in the most powerful fashion possible, the entire team should be on the playing field and put in position to elevate our individual strengths, interests and areas of expertise.

Ranking members and committees in their entirety must be fully empowered to work their will. Meaningful policymaking and public engagement opportunities should be robustly distributed regardless of length of service. High-profile leadership assignments should be spread out throughout the Caucus. In addition, the Steering and Policy Committee should be fully empowered as a vehicle for broader engagement, and we must chart a return to regular order. Equally significant, I promise to prioritize and value input from every corner of the Caucus.

Each member from the most junior to the most senior, brings to the table enormous talent, skill, vision and experience. At this moment of transition, we are presented with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to further unleash our full potential as a team. In this spirit, it will be my mission to make sure that every single Member of the Caucus has an authentic seat at the legislative table and the maximum opportunity to excel. That is my promise to you.

### **Prioritizing Security**

We have entered an era of unprecedented extremism, disinformation and political violence that threatens our ability to serve the public without fear or favor. As the horrifying attacks on Paul Pelosi, Steve Scalise and Gabby Giffords illustrate, these are dangerous times. In a democracy, we should be able to agree to disagree without turning to violence. But that is not the case at the moment.

In terms of public safety for all Americans, I look forward to continuing our robust legislative and policy efforts to combat crime, crush gun violence and promote safer communities. At the same time, it is important to significantly enhance the security of all Members and their families. During the 117th Congress, Chairwomen Rosa DeLauro and Zoe Lofgren, along with their respective Committees, took meaningful steps in this regard that we can now build upon.

First, it is essential that every single Member takes advantage of the additional MRA resource allotment established to secure your residence and hire in-district security personnel. Second, we must strengthen the coordination between the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms, Capitol Police and

local law enforcement, especially with respect to intelligence sharing and public-facing events within our districts. Third, I propose establishing a Task Force on Member Security to solicit input from all corners of the Caucus, comprehensively document the challenges and experiences confronting Members and families and expeditiously recommend a complete set of legislative, administrative and executive steps that we can immediately act upon to address the political violence problem.

We have all been given the precious opportunity to serve the public and make life better for everyday Americans. We cannot do so to the best of our ability unless the safety of each and every Member and our families is secured.

### **Reclaiming The Majority**

Our top non-governmental priority, for the sake of the American people, must be retaking the majority in November 2024. It has sometimes been said that the job of the majority is to govern, while the job of the minority is to get back into the majority. Given the dangerous and dysfunctional nature of the Extreme MAGA Republicans who will dominate the ranks of the other side of the aisle in the 118th Congress, we must do both.

As we prepare to temporarily relinquish the gavels, House Democrats will be locked in a fierce governmental, political and messaging struggle. In this regard, our Caucus must unify with purpose, communicate with discipline, legislate with precision and partner with the Biden Administration to vigorously address the continuing challenges impacting our constituents.

Thanks to our incredible frontline Members and incoming colleagues, stellar leadership from Speaker Pelosi and an amazing team effort, we achieved unprecedented midterm success for the party in power. Without question, House Democrats have delivered tremendous progress for the American people in terms of lower costs, better-paying jobs and safer communities. Of course, more must be done to combat inflation, defend our democracy, secure reproductive freedom, welcome new Americans, promote equal protection under the law and improve public safety throughout this country.

It is my hope that we can find common ground where possible with our Republican colleagues in order to deliver results for the American people. At the same time, the opposing party appears to have no plan to accomplish anything meaningful. If the Republican Conference continues to major in demagoguery and minor in disinformation, their bankruptcy of ideas must be aggressively exposed on an ongoing basis. I have done that work and, if necessary, will continue to do that work should I be given the opportunity.

House Democrats must also continue to advance a forward-looking vision anchored in kitchen

table, pocketbook issues. We can unify around an agenda designed to make life better for everyday Americans from all walks of life, and simultaneously embrace issues of social justice consistent with the promise of the Constitution. I will also work hard to make sure that our track record of substantial legislative accomplishment translates into future electoral success.

To that end, I hope to lead an effort that centers our communication strategy around the messaging principle that values unite, issues divide. House Democrats are actually the party that defends freedom, promotes economic opportunity and values families by uplifting them. We must make sure that the perception of the Democratic brand matches up with the reality that we do in fact authentically share values that unite the Heartland, Urban America, Rural America, Suburban America and Small Town America. This undertaking will not be easy. We must show up early and in unexpected places. It will require the involvement, creativity and input of every single House Democrat to be successful. Together, we can make it happen.

I am grateful for the confidence that you have placed in me as the Caucus Chair during such tumultuous times. Building upon my leadership experience and our shared journey, I look forward to creating a better future together for all Americans and humbly ask for your support.

Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hakeem Jeffries". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hakeem Jeffries