



November 18, 2022

Dear Colleague:

Congratulations on your election to the 118th Congress. We Democrats faced tremendous headwinds this election cycle—most notably, an inflation fueled by our efforts to recover from the pandemic and by the war in Ukraine. We exceeded expectations, both historical and among the pundits. Many of you prevailed in tough races and can be proud of your accomplishments. That said, even though we held Republicans to a much-closer-than-expected margin, our loss of the majority is a tough blow for our party’s agenda of “putting people over politics,” and our nation’s orderly “pursuit of a more perfect Union.”

I am proud of the roles I have played during my tenure in this august body, most especially in the 117th Congress helping our Caucus achieve historic legislative accomplishments. The agenda and approach of President Joe Biden and the leadership of Speaker Nancy Pelosi were recognized and handsomely rewarded by the American people. As we Democrats set about the work of retaking the majority in 2024 and re-electing our President, I humbly ask for your support to remain at the leadership table as the Assistant Democratic Leader, to work alongside our new generation of Democratic Leaders which I hope to be Hakeem Jeffries, Katherine Clark, and Pete Aguilar.

Retaking the House majority and holding the White House in 2024 will require that we continue the task I urged President Biden to undertake in 2020 in Charleston, South Carolina: advancing an agenda focused on making America’s greatness accessible and affordable to ALL Americans. Housing, food, healthcare and prescription drugs, gasoline, energy, education, childcare, whatever it is—it must be made accessible and affordable to all.

Our agenda must build on our progress in bringing manufacturing jobs back to Americans here at home. Our agenda must offer real solutions to protect public safety in our communities and advance our nation’s strength as both a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants. And finally, our agenda must be steadfast in protecting Americans’ fundamental constitutional rights, starting with voting rights and reproductive rights. Republicans do not have solutions to these problems—we must continue showing the American people that Democrats do.

As I wrote in the Introduction of my memoir, *Blessed Experiences: Genuinely Southern, Proudly Black*, “all my experiences have not been pleasant, but I have considered all of them to be blessings.” If elected Assistant Democratic Leader, I will bring my experiences to the table to continue working with every corner of our caucus to find unity, even on the toughest of issues.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Clyburn".

James E. Clyburn