

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida, The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

With COVID-19 cases rising in Florida and across the country, we write to urge you to again extend Executive Order 20-69 which expires on November 1, 2020. That order allows local government boards to meet virtually, providing our communities an avenue for civic engagement that still protects the health and safety of the public and the officials they elect.

As you know, under Florida law, city councils, county commissions, school boards, and other local government bodies are required to meet in person. Due to the risks from the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 20, 2020 you issued the following executive order:

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section (1)(a) of the Florida Constitution, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order to take immediate effect:

Section 1. I hereby suspend any Florida Statute that requires a quorum to be present in person or requires a local government body to meet at a specific public place.

Section 2. Local government bodies may utilize communications media technology, such as telephonic and video conferencing, as provided in section 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

Section 3. This Executive Order does not waive any other requirement under the Florida Constitution and “Florida’s Government in the Sunshine Laws,” including Chapter 286, Florida Statutes.

Section 4. This Executive Order shall expire at the expiration of Executive Order 20-52, including any extension.”

You last extended that order on September 30, 2020 to expire November 1, 2020.

We have heard from constituents and officials across the state who are worried about the risk to their own health, as well as the risk to their communities, by requiring in-person meetings while the state is experiencing an increase in positive COVID-19 cases.

We therefore respectfully urge you to extend your executive order to allow the option of virtual meetings until it is clear that requiring in-person meetings would not pose a risk to the health of our public officials or their constituencies.

We appreciate your full and fair consideration of this important matter, consistent with applicable statutes and regulations.

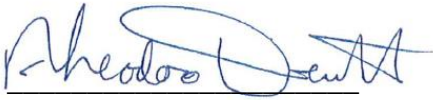
Sincerely,



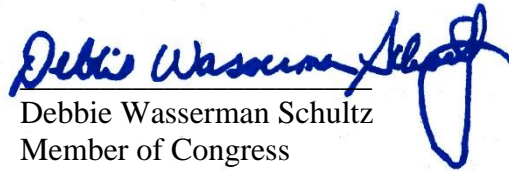
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



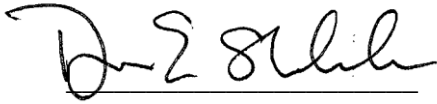
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



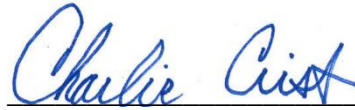
Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



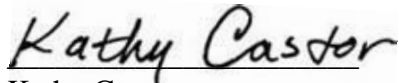
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress



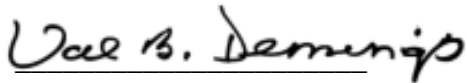
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Val Demings
Member of Congress