

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2301

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July 15, 2019

Dear Indivisible Group of St. Peter, Greater Mankato and the First District,

We appreciate hearing your thoughts and concerns about legislation currently before the U.S. Congress. To that end, we have held 20 in-person meetings with you in our Mankato office in 2019.¹

On Tuesday, June 18, one of your group's leaders admitted to a member of my staff that your group is using visits to our district office to keep staff from attending to their other work. This is disappointing, especially coming from a group that claims to be dedicated to making people's lives better. Such tactics represent a disservice to every taxpayer and every resident of Minnesota's First District, particularly those with pressing case work needs.

The primary role of a Member of Congress's district office is to engage in case work on behalf of the district's residents. This case work includes, but is not limited to, resolving issues with veteran's benefits, immigration cases, passport issues, Social Security payments, issues with Medicare and Medicaid, agriculture programs and more. These cases deal with real-life struggles such as a person facing immigration red tape or a senior citizen who faces bankruptcy after her VA or Social Security benefits got lost in the maze of federal bureaucracy.

Southern Minnesotans regularly contact our office to resolve these significant issues. Our case work responsibility is one of the main reasons we must to be fair and equitable in the amount of time we spend with constituents.

Further, according to our district office's building management, I understand that your visits have become a disruption to the business of other building tenants. As a member of the Small Business Committee, I am an ardent supporter of the small businesses and hard-working Minnesotans that drive our district's growth.

I am honored and privileged to serve all of the approximately 675,000 people of Minnesota's First District, even those with whom I disagree on the overriding issues of the day. We all have deeply-held beliefs as to how best meet the challenges facing our great nation. However, I have always been very clear as to where I stand on these major issues. In fact, I promised to support and vote for securing America's borders and implementing merit-based immigration, patient-

¹ The dates of those meetings are as follows: February 14, 2019, February 21, 2019, February 28, 2019, March 7, 2019, March 14, 2019, March 21, 2019, March 28, 2019, April 4, 2019, April 18, 2019, April 25, 2019, May 2, 2019, May 9, 2019, May 16, 2019, May 23, 2019, May 30, 2019, June 6, 2019, June 18, 2019, June 27, 2019, July 11, 2019, and July 12, 2019.

centered medical care reforms, defending the 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding American citizens, protecting the right to life, U.S. energy independence and to work with like-minded colleagues and President Trump to keep moving America in the right direction.

My district office is not a campaign office. It is a government office, tasked with doing the work of the people. That work cannot be efficiently and effectively performed when a very small, very vocal group demands a wholly disproportionate amount of the people's time.

Therefore, my staff is no longer available to meet with you in-person in our district office. Like the thousands of other constituents who also have opinions on federal legislation, we invite you to write us to share your thoughts.

Please direct any future correspondence to:

Rep. Jim Hagedorn
325 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

You are also free to bring your questions to my town hall meetings; I will host at least 18 more of them between now and May 31, 2020. Information about upcoming town halls will be posted at hagedorn.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress