

# REPORTERS COMMITTEE

FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

1156 15th Street NW, Suite 1020  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 795-9300 | [www.rcfp.org](http://www.rcfp.org)  
Bruce D. Brown, Executive Director

## STEERING COMMITTEE

STEPHEN J. ADLER  
*Reuters*

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE  
*The Associated Press*

WOLF BLITZER  
*CNN*

DAVID BOARDMAN  
*Temple University*

MASSIMO CALABRESI  
*Time Magazine*

MANNY GARCIA  
*USA Today Network*

EMILIO GARCIA-RUIZ  
*The Washington Post*

JOSH GERSTEIN  
*Politico*

ALEX GIBNEY  
*Jigsaw Productions*

SUSAN GOLDBERG  
*National Geographic*

JAMES GRIMALDI  
*The Wall Street Journal*

LAURA HANDMAN  
*Davis Wright Tremaine*

DIEGO IBARGÜEN  
*Hearst*

KAREN KAISER  
*The Associated Press*

DAVID LAUTER  
*Los Angeles Times*

DAHLIA LITHWICK  
*Slate*

MARGARET LOW  
*The Atlantic*

JANE MAYER  
*The New Yorker*

COLLEEN MCCAIN NELSON  
*The McClatchy Company*

MAGGIE MULVIHILL  
*Boston University*

JAMES NEFF  
*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

NORMAN PEARLSTINE  
*The Los Angeles Times*

CAROL ROSENBERG  
*The New York Times*

THOMAS C. RUBIN  
*Quinn Emmanuel*

CHARLIE SAVAGE  
*The New York Times*

BEN SMITH  
*BuzzFeed*

JENNIFER SONDAG  
*Bloomberg News*

ADAM SYMSON  
*The E.W. Scripps Company*

PIERRE THOMAS  
*ABC News*

SAUNDRA TORRY  
*Freelance*

VICKIE WALTON-JAMES  
*NPR*

JUDY WOODRUFF  
*PBS/The NewsHour*

## SENIOR ADVISORS

CHIP BOK  
*Creators Syndicate*

JOHN C. HENRY  
*Freelance*

TONY MAURO  
*National Law Journal, ret.*

ANDREA MITCHELL  
*NBC News*

PAUL STEIGER  
*ProPublica*

*Affiliations appear only  
for purposes of identification*

January 16, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader, United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Restrictions on press access during upcoming Senate impeachment trial

Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer:

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and the 57 undersigned media organizations write in opposition to restrictions on the press during the upcoming Senate impeachment trial of President Donald J. Trump.

It is our understanding that the Senate plans to impose restrictions on reporters in the Capitol building that will impair their ability to cover the impeachment trial proceedings, which are of abiding interest to Americans from across the political spectrum. The undersigned news media organizations echo concerns raised by the Standing Committee of Correspondents in its letter of January 14, 2020.

Absent an articulable security rationale, Senate leaders, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and the United States Capitol Police have an obligation to preserve and promote the public's right to know. Reporters must have the ability to respond quickly to rapid developments and need reasonable access to lawmakers who wish to speak to the press. The reported restrictions on the use of electronic devices and on the ability of reporters to question lawmakers as they move about the Capitol, as well as the additional security screening, will hinder reporting without an obvious benefit for Senate security.

With these restrictions in place, journalists' efforts to share timely and accurate updates and commentary on the proceedings with the American public will be impeded. We ask that Senate security officials and the Senate Rules Committee reconsider these overly restrictive regulations.

Please do not hesitate to contact Gabe Rottman, director of the Technology and Press Freedom Project at the Reporters Committee, at [grottman@rcfp.org](mailto:grottman@rcfp.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of  
the Press  
Advance Publications, Inc.  
American Society of Magazine Editors  
The Associated Press  
Association of Alternative Newsmedia  
Atlantic Media, Inc.  
The Atlantic Monthly Group LLC  
Bloomberg News  
Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC  
California News Publishers Association  
Committee to Protect Journalists  
Courthouse News Service  
The Daily Beast Company LLC  
Dow Jones & Company, Inc.  
The E.W. Scripps Company  
First Look Media Works, Inc.  
Free Press  
Gannett Co., Inc.  
Government Executive Media Group LLC  
Hearst Corporation  
International Documentary Assn.  
Investigative Reporting Workshop at  
American University  
Los Angeles Times Communications LLC  
The McClatchy Company  
The Media Institute  
Media Law Resource Center  
MediaNews Group Inc.  
Military Reporters and Editors  
Mother Jones

National Association of Broadcasters  
National Journal Group LLC  
The National Press Club  
National Press Club Journalism Institute  
National Press Photographers Association  
National Public Radio, Inc.  
New England First Amendment Coalition  
The New York Times Company  
The New Yorker  
The News Leaders Association  
News Media Alliance  
Newsday LLC  
The NewsGuild - CWA  
NYP Holdings, Inc.  
Online News Association  
PEN America  
POLITICO LLC  
Radio Television Digital News Association  
Reporters Without Borders USA  
Reuters News & Media Inc.  
Reveal from The Center for  
Investigative Reporting  
Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.  
Society of Environmental Journalists  
Society of Professional Journalists  
TIME USA, LLC  
Tribune Publishing Company  
Tully Center for Free Speech  
VICE Media  
The Washington Post

cc: The Honorable Roy Blunt,  
Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar,  
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Michael C. Stenger,  
United States Senate Sergeant at Arms

Steven A. Sund,  
Chief of Police, United States Capitol Police