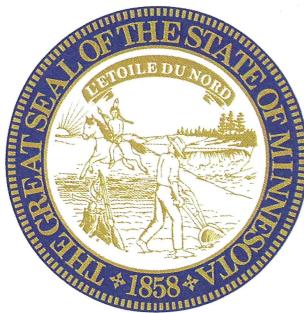


**Melissa Hortman**  
Speaker of the House

District 36B  
Anoka  
Hennepin



**Minnesota  
House of  
Representatives**

January 10, 2021

Commissioner Alice Roberts-Davis  
Minnesota Department of Administration  
200 Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: State Office Building security and potential for re-opening

Dear Commissioner Roberts-Davis,

I am writing today to express my concerns related to security within the State Office Building and to ask for your assistance to resolve security issues so that the State Office Building may be reopened to the public as soon as possible. Unfortunately, due to the continued prevalence of the COVID19 virus, the building has a very low level of occupancy which contributes to and exacerbates the security issues we face as tenants of the State Office Building.

As the Speaker of the House, I work to ensure a safe work environment for members of the House, House staff, and members of the public who interact with their elected officials at the Capitol complex. House Rules provide my office general control over House spaces in the State Office Building. As the primary tenant of the building, we have decided to keep the building open to members and staff only at this time. This decision was not made lightly and consists of numerous factors – not the least of which are the documented security issues related to the existing infrastructure of the building.

In order to reopen the building to the public during normal weekly business hours (8:00 am to 4:30 pm), I would need to be made certain that the most serious security concerns can be addressed. Please assist us in developing a plan for reopening and provide cost estimates for the following:

- installation of cameras on all floors and personnel costs related to monitoring public ingress/egress (please consult with Capitol Security as needed to obtain staffing costs),
- restricting access to the non-main internal stairwells for emergency use only,
- ensuring that member and staff office space can be accessed only via keycard, and
- system development and personnel costs related to establishing a check-in system for members of the public.



As you know, the Minnesota Capitol and Senate Office Building have numerous security enhancements in place due to recent renovations and construction. All 134 Members of the House, our staff, and visitors also deserve safe and secure spaces to conduct our work.

During the present time when the State Office Building is open only to members and staff, we will be making increased use of the spaces in the State Capitol. Thank you for the assistance we have received from the Department of Administration staff. They have been incredibly helpful.

Thank you as well for your assistance in developing a plan to re-open the State Office Building to the public.

Sincerely,

*Melissa Hortman*

Melissa Hortman  
Speaker of the House

cc: John Harrington, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety  
Bob Meyerson, House Sergeant at Arms  
Ryan Winkler, House Majority Leader  
Kurt Daudt, House Minority Leader  
Sean Rahn, DFL Caucus Executive Director  
Susan Closmore, GOP Caucus Executive Director