



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

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July 27, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate SD-511
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Thune:

Today, I sent a follow up letter to Senator McConnell under the assumption that he is capable of reading and responding verbally, and not incapacitated by means of consciousness or cognition. In the letter, I stated that if the senator is unable to respond due to either of those, or other conditions, to consider it a demand for his Senate staff to be honest and transparent with the people of Kentucky.

It has now been 43 days since news of Senator McConnell's hospitalization. During that time he has cast zero votes, engaged in no official activities, and aside from two photos and corresponding statements, made no effort to communicate with his Kentucky constituents or the nation. Even the attending physician's written statement does not discuss the senator's actual condition, including whether he can speak, reason, or carry out his duties as a senator. I understand anyone's desire for privacy, but when you run for office and serve as one of a state's two U.S. senators, you willingly abdicate much of your personal privacy. That's the deal, and we all know it when we run.

Important events are happening in our country right now during the senator's absence. President Trump is stuck in a war of his own making and greatly strengthened the very country he claims is a threat. Prices continue to rise, crushing Americans who are working hard but not getting ahead. Americans' voting rights are being eliminated by the Supreme Court and threatened by congressional action. All while he is absent and refuses to communicate clearly and directly to the people he serves.

As Governor of the state he serves, I am calling on him to directly and verbally address the people of Kentucky and provide proof of his capacity to serve, or resign. Per our research, a vacancy in the Senate occurs when a senator dies, resigns, or is expelled by a vote of the Senate itself. If Senator McConnell is unwilling to voluntarily show that he still has the capacity to serve, I will insist that you as the Majority Leader of the Senate fully investigate his condition, report to the American people, and begin the process if warranted.

All of this speculation and even this letter could have been avoided with a minimal amount of transparency. Even the senator's protégé Scott Jennings stated July 23rd on television, "truthfully a little transparency on the front here would have saved him a whole lot of grief."

Kentuckians are just asking Senator McConnell to be honest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AB', is positioned above the printed name.

Andy Beshear
Governor