

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3214

April 12th, 2021

Dear Members of the Muslim American Community,

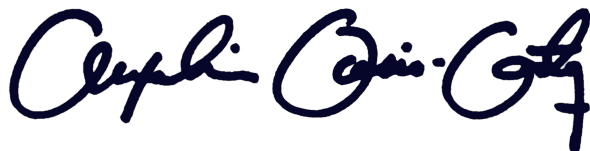
Peace and blessings to you. The holy month of Ramadan is upon us once again! In past years I have had the privilege of breaking bread with so many community members for whom this is a sacred tradition. Last year's Ramadan took place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic - leaving so many of our Muslim siblings to abandon communal traditions, and forge new ways to observe this blessed month.

This year, with vaccinations on the rise, the horizon is starting to look promising. Though many precautions will likely continue to be in place at houses of worship and indoor gatherings, according to CDC guidance, fully vaccinated people can safely gather indoors for a meal. I commend the Muslim American community for doing their part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In part, due to your commitment to social distancing, quarantining and vaccinating, we as a country can start the process of healing.

The month-long observance is a practice of self-discipline, compassion, and spirituality. The dedication shown by Muslim Americans who carry on the physical demands of a day-long fast, while maintaining work, social and educational commitments is nothing short of remarkable. The commitment to charity and remembrance of the needs of others while dealing with one's own hunger pains offers the wider community a valuable lesson in empathy.

As you abstain from food and water during the daylight hours, and engage in spiritual acts in the evenings, I hope this month offers ample opportunity for reflection and growth. It is an honor and privilege to represent so many Muslim American community members in the halls of Congress. Ramadan Kareem!

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alex Ocasio-Cortez". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Alex" and last name "Cortez" being more prominent.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez