

COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

MARCH 12, 2019

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WASHINGTON : 2019

CONTENTS

MARCH 12, 2019

	Page
Committee Funding for the 116th Congress	1
OPENING STATEMENTS	
Chairperson Zoe Lofgren	1
Prepared statement of Chairperson Lofgren	26
Hon. Rodney Davis, Ranking Member	27
Prepared statement of Ranking Member Davis	28
WITNESSES	
Hon. Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman, House Oversight and Reform Committee	29
Prepared statement by Hon. Cummings	31
Hon. Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, House Oversight and Reform Committee	33
Prepared statement of Hon. Jordan	34
SUBMISSIONS FOR THE RECORD	
Hon. Colin C. Peterson, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture, statement	2
Hon. Adam Smith, Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services, statement	4
Hon. John Yarmuth, Chairman, House Committee on the Budget, statement ..	7
Hon. Bobby Scott, Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor, statement	8
Hon. Frank Pallone, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, statement	9
Hon. Theodore E. Deutch, Chairman, House Committee on Ethics, statement ..	10
Hon. Maxine Waters, Chairwoman, House Committee on Financial Services, statement	11
Hon. Eliot Engel, Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, statement ..	12
Hon. Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security, statement	13
Hon. Adam B. Schiff, Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, statement	14
Hon. Raul M. Grijalva, Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources, statement	15
Hon. Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Reform, statement	16
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chairwoman, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, statement	19
Hon. Nydia M. Velázquez, Chairwoman, House Committee on Small Business, statement	20
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary, statement	21
Hon. Peter A. DeFazio, Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, statement	23
Hon. James P. McGovern, Chairman, House Committee on Rules, statement ..	24
Spending cuts, growth outpace tax cuts, military increases, <i>Roll Call</i> article of March 11, 2019	40
Hon. Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Reform, 116th Congress Oversight Plan	49

COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 3:04 p.m., in Room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Zoe Lofgren (chairperson of the Committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Lofgren, Raskin, Davis of California, Butterfield, Fudge, Aguilar, Davis of Illinois, Walker, and Loudermilk.

Staff Present: Jamie Fleet, Staff Director; David Tucker, Parliamentarian; Sean Jones, Legislative Clerk; Khalil Abboud, Deputy Staff Director; Eddie Flaherty, Director of Operations; Jen Daulby, Minority Staff Director; and Tim Monahan, Minority Director of Oversight.

The CHAIRPERSON. Now we will begin the Committee funding hearing. And I would like to thank the members, our witnesses, and those in the audience for being here.

Every Congress, the House is required to adopt a committee expense resolution, which provides funding for all the committees of the House. Each committee is required to introduce a committee expense resolution and prepare a budget submission. We have received and are reviewing those budget submissions.

I would ask unanimous consent for the letters regarding committee budgets from the chairs and ranking members of the committees to be entered into the record.

Without objection, so ordered.

[The information follows:]

COLLIN C. PETERSON, MINNESOTA
CHAIRMAN
DAVID NULTY, GEORGIA
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CRYSTIA ANNE, IOWA

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6001

(202) 225-2171

March 8, 2019

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER
GLENN HINSCHBAUGH, PENNSYLVANIA
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JAMES R. BARD, INDIANA
JIM HAUGEDORN, MINNESOTA

ANNE SIMMONS
STAFF DIRECTOR
MATTHEW S. SILVERZ
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairwoman
House Committee on Administration
1309 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
House Committee on Administration
1316 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis,

Attached you will find the bipartisan budget submission from the House Agriculture Committee for fiscal year 2020. We appreciate the opportunity to submit our joint request, and we look forward to working with you as the funding process continues.

The Agriculture Committee is asking for a modest increase relative to funding levels that have generally decreased over the last ten years.

Having just completed a 5-year farm bill conference, we understand the need for dedicated and knowledgeable committee staff, and adequate resources are a necessity.

Additional resources will help us keep that institutional knowledge available to the Committee and its members with salaries that are comparable with other committees, knowing that we still cannot compete directly with the private sector. Maintaining institutional knowledge is vital as we bring on a younger and more diverse staff to work on agriculture policy, developing the next generation of agriculture staff on the Hill.

The increase in funding will also address the Agriculture Committee's serious need for technological modernization, including upgrades to software and hardware to bring us in line with 21st century technology standards and improve the level of transparent service we can offer our constituents. These include upgrades to web services, document and resource sharing, and increased access to Committee proceedings, as well as rebuilding the Committee's intranet site.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please contact us, or Democratic Staff Director Anne Simmons or Republican Staff Director Matt Schertz, if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Collin C. Peterson
Chairman



K. Michael Conaway
Ranking Member

ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON, CHAIRMAN
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 DEBRA A. HAALAND, NEW MEXICO
 JARED GOLDEN, MAINE
 LORI TRAHAN, MASSACHUSETTS
 ELAINE S. LURA, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

March 8, 2019

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY, TEXAS,
 RANKING MEMBER
 JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
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 PAUL MITCHELL, MICHIGAN
 JACK BERGMAN, MICHIGAN
 MICHAEL WALTZ, FLORIDA
 PAUL ARCANDELLI, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
 Chairperson
 Committee on House Administration
 1309 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our joint views on the House Armed Services Committee's budget request for the 116th Congress. We are requesting an increase of \$1.55 million to the committee's budget, consisting of approximately \$440,000 for 2019 and \$1.1 million for 2020. This request for modest growth is necessary to ensure the committee is able to compete for, and retain, individuals qualified to conduct thorough and professional oversight of the Department of Defense (DOD) – the single largest element of the Federal Government made up of more than 3 million people and an annual budget in excess of \$700 billion.

The committee's request for additional funding reflects the ongoing, bipartisan challenges to attracting and retaining our most valuable asset – our people – for the purpose of providing the required oversight of the Department of Defense. The requested increase of \$1.55 million for the 116th Congress is needed to hire, train, and retain the experienced staff required for that oversight. This increase is not for additional staff but rather to correct historical salary shortfalls that put us far behind other federal governmental entities who are competing for this same talent. At the same time, this request does not seek to increase our current budget for administrative functions; we will seek economies in those areas in an effort to focus our efforts on the urgent need for recruiting and retaining staff.

The committee has three tiers of staff it routinely recruits to populate: senior staff leads; professional staff members; and administrative staff. The backbone of the committee oversight work is carried out by senior staff leads, as well as the professional staff members they manage, all of whom are evaluated on their ability to plan and conduct oversight of specialized programs that have significant fiscal or national significance or both. Conducting this oversight requires specialized professional training and, in many cases, specific technical backgrounds. In addition, due to the nature of the committee work, all committee staff have to demonstrate the ability to obtain and retain a high-level security clearance.

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
 March 8, 2019
 Page 2

On a bipartisan basis, the committee has a long history of recruiting appropriate candidates from the executive branch at the comparable level of a GS-15, Step 5 for our senior staff leads and a GS-15, Step 1 for our professional staff members. The statutory job description for a GS-15 states that individuals in that grade must be able to: plan and direct specialized programs of marked difficulty and national significance requiring extended training and experience, or perform consulting or other professional work of equal importance and difficulty. The duty description of a professional staff member on the committee meets, and in many respects, exceeds that standard.

Despite the significant duties of professional staff members, their salaries are not commensurate with a GS-15. In the DOD, a GS-15, Step 5 is responsible for managing teams of other staff and makes \$152,760. In comparison, our senior professional staff members, with an equal or greater level of management responsibility, earn \$140,000. A GS-15, Step 1 employee of the Department of Defense in the Washington metropolitan area, whose duties and responsibilities are roughly similar to our most junior professional staff members, is \$134,789. In contrast, at current budget levels the committee has only been able to offer salaries of \$110,000 to our junior professional staff members, all of whom have extensive experience in the DOD, and other related agencies and industry.

Our administrative staff faces similar disparities. An entry-level GS-7 position, with less than a year's experience and a bachelor's degree at the DOD, pays \$45,972. In comparison, the committee is only able to offer our equivalent administrative staff a starting salary of \$35,000. These salary discrepancies have made it very difficult to hire staff for the 116th Congress.

In terms of historical funding levels, the committee's authorized budget for the 115th Congress equated approximately to its 2010 funding level. However, that increase did not account for the significant growth in the cost of living in the Washington, DC metropolitan area nor did it pace with inflation which was 17% during the past nine years. Our request for \$8.5 million for 2019 represents a modest 5.7% increase over the previous high-water mark for the committee's budget almost ten years ago. Our funding request for 2020, \$9.2 million, is a 7.8% increase from 2019, and still well below the inflation level. At present, the committee's ratio for the 116th Congress of staff to members will be 1.19:1, which remains far lower than that of the first and third largest committees which have ratios of approximately 1.45:1. Simply put, oversight activities and workload have increased significantly while the committee's budget – even after accounting for the increase in the 115th Congress – is essentially flat in comparison to 2010.

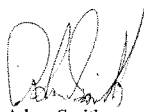
The primary duty of the committee is to conduct oversight of the Department of Defense, including ensuring it has the necessary resources to accomplish its missions. For 58 straight years, the Armed Services Committee has produced a National Defense Authorization Act. This past year's House-passed NDAA alone included over 837 provisions, after consideration of over

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
 March 8, 2019
 Page 3

1000 Member amendments. This enormous effort would not have been possible without experienced and talented professional staff

For fiscal year 2020, we expect to receive a DOD budget request for more than \$750 billion, a record amount. The DOD remains engaged in ongoing combat operations across the greater Middle East, as well as constant deployments to defend our allies and deter potential adversaries in Europe and Asia. While DOD readiness has improved in the past year, the lows caused by the 2013 sequestration remains a long-term recovery effort that requires substantial oversight, particularly over acquisition programs. In addition, a wide range of DOD issues demanding oversight by this committee routinely emerge. Recent examples include: the poor state of privatized military housing, military operations providing support to other government agencies along the southern border, and a proposal to create a new military branch, Space Force. The size, complexity and challenges of the Department of Defense continues to expand, which significantly increases the workload of the committee staff.

To summarize, and as pointed out in our testimony in 2017, the committee cannot afford to “hire inexperience.” We must be able to compete for, and retain, the very best to ensure the long-term ability of the committee to do its vital work for our military, Congress and the people of the United States. Investing in oversight allows the committee to better manage the substantial defense budget. Trying to economize when it comes to oversight capability is penny-wise and a pound-foolish and leaves greater potential for financial missteps with the taxpayer funds we oversee. While we understand that overall funding for House committees is limited, we urge you to consider the arguments in this letter and, if possible, fully support our request for growth in the committee’s budget for the 116th Congress.



Adam Smith
 Chairman

Sincerely,



William M. “Mac” Thornberry
 Ranking Member

Attachments
 AS:WMT.rar

JOHN YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
CHAIRMAN
ELLEN BALIS, STAFF DIRECTOR
(202) 226-7200



STEVE WOMACK, RANKING MEMBER
DAN KENRY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
(202) 226-7270

U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

The purpose of this letter is to forward the House Budget Committee's budget request for the 116th Congress to the Committee on House Administration.

The request includes \$5,190,212.00 for 2019 and \$5,190,212.00 for 2020, the same funding levels provided for the 114th and 115th Congresses. We both agree that these amounts are sufficient for the majority and minority operations—with the same division of resources as in past years—and are committed to continue the tradition of running the administrative operations of the Committee in a bipartisan manner.


We are confident we can continue operating the Committee effectively within these frozen levels for the next two years. However, the Committee will be unable to function at this funding level indefinitely and will likely need a modest increase in the next Congress to keep pace with inflation and to continue paying salaries that are competitive with the private sector.

We owe it to the American taxpayer that we spend their money as efficiently as possible and the Committee will continue to do its level best to search for ways to get the most out of every dollar spent.

We look forward to working with the Committee on House Administration over the course of the 116th Congress. If there are any questions regarding our budget request, Scott Russell is the point of contact on the Committee staff and can be reached at 202-226-7200.

Sincerely,


John Yarmuth
Chairman


Steve Womack
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Rodney Davis

(202) 226-7200

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e-mail: Budget.Democrats@mail.house.gov



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VA
Chairman

MAJORITY - (202) 225-3725
FAX - (202) 225-2350

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2176 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

VIRGINIA FOXX, NC
Ranking Member

MINORITY - (202) 225-4527
FAX - (202) 225-9571

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

Thank you for your consideration of the Committee on Education and Labor's primary expense resolution for the 116th Congress. Pursuant to your instructions regarding our budget proposal, the following documents are attached:

1. Completed Budget Request Form
2. Responses to Committee Funding Questionnaire
3. Committee Oversight Plan (adopted 1/29/19)
4. Primary Expense Resolution (H. Res. 194, introduced 3/8/19)

The Chairman and Ranking Member are in full agreement with the figures listed on the 116th Congress Budget Submission.

We ask the members of the Committee on House Administration to support this request as a reasonable and accurate reflection of the needs of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Sincerely,

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Chairman

Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
CHAIRMAN

GREG WALDEN, OREGON
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Committee on House Administration
House of Representatives
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

The Committee on Energy and Commerce presents for your consideration the attached budget request and supporting documents for the 116th Congress.

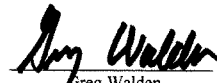
The proposal reflects an approximately 10% increase over our budget for the 115th Congress, which will allow the Committee to maintain and hire additional personnel for our ambitious legislative and oversight agenda and to conduct field hearings and site visits.

The budget was developed in cooperation with the Minority and reflects the Minority's request. The Energy and Commerce Committee continues to work in a collaborative and bipartisan fashion and will continue working together to make the most of the Committee's available resources.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Jeff Carroll, at 5-2927 if you need any other additional information.

Sincerely,


Frank Pallone Jr.
Chairman


Greg Walden
Ranking Member

*You know the work
we have ahead of us.
Any additional funds
will go a long way
to getting other work
done.
Thank*

Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Chairman
Kenny Marchant, Texas
Ranking Member

Grace Meng, New York
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Dean Phillips, Minnesota
Anthony Brown, Maryland

John Ratcliffe, Texas
George Holding, North Carolina
Jackie Walorski, Indiana
Michael Guest, Mississippi



ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

March 8, 2019

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

David W. Arrojo
Counsel to the Chairman

Christopher A. Donesa
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

We are enclosing the requested budget submission from the Committee on Ethics. We are in agreement related to the submission. However, we would welcome the opportunity to testify jointly before the Committee on House Administration in support of our request.

We are available to answer any questions you may have about our request. If members of your staff have any further questions, please feel free to contact Tom Rust, the Committee's Chief Counsel and Staff Director, at (202) 225-7103.

Sincerely,

Theodore E. Deutch
Chairman

Kenny Marchant
Ranking Member

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member

MAXINE WATERS, CA
CHAIRWOMAN

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Financial Services
Washington, DC 20515

PATRICK McHENRY, NC
RANKING MEMBER

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Per your letter of March 4, 2019, we write to inform you that we have mutually agreed on the attached budget submission. This budget submission would fund the Committee on Financial Services at a level 5 percent above the Committee's authorized funding level for the 115th Congress. We believe that this increase is necessary given the Committee's expansive legislative and oversight agenda this Congress. The Committee adheres to a traditional 2/3 to 1/3 split between the Majority and Minority.

If you have any questions about this submission please contact the Committee's Staff Director, Charla Ouertatani, at extension 5-7057 or the Minority Staff Director, Stephen Cote, at extension 5-7502.

Sincerely,


Maxine Waters
Chairwoman


Patrick McHenry
Ranking Member

ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
CHAIRMAN

JASON STEINBAUM
STAFF DIRECTOR



MICHAEL T. McCAUL, TEXAS
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

BRENDAN P. SHIELDS
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

We are submitting for your consideration the budget request of the Committee on Foreign Affairs for the 116th Congress.

We both agree with the details of this budget submission, and would be happy to forego testifying before the Committee on House Administration if this request meets your approval.

Sincerely,


ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman


MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Ranking Member

BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MISSISSIPPI
CHAIRMAN



MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA
RANKING MEMBER

One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

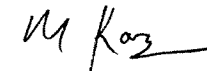
In response to your letter dated March 4, 2019, we are enclosing a copy of H. Res. 192, the primary expense resolution for the Committee on Homeland Security, along with our supporting materials, for consideration by the Committee on House Administration. Ranking Member Rogers and I agree to this submission.

By way of H. Res. 192 the Committee on Homeland Security requests \$8,718,127 for 2019 and \$9,114,309 for 2020 for expenses for the 116th Congress. This reflects the amount that the Committee believes is necessary to cover staff salaries and other expenses for the Full Committee and our six subcommittees.

We would be pleased to provide you with any additional information that may assist you in preparing the primary committee funding resolution. We look forward to working with the Committee on House Administration.

Sincerely,


BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman


MIKE ROGERS
Ranking Member

ADAM B. SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
 CHAIRMAN
 TIMOTHY BRENNAN, STAFF DIRECTOR
 (202) 225-7690
 www.intelligence.house.gov



ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
 DEVIN NUNES, CALIFORNIA
 RANKING MEMBER
 SCOTT GLASS, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

**Permanent Select Committee
 on Intelligence
 U.S. House of Representatives**

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
 Chairperson
 Committee on House Administration
 1309 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis
 Ranking Member
 Committee on House Administration
 1216 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis:

Attached please find the Committee Funding Request Form and Questionnaire for the 116th Congress. The Committee utilized this form and questionnaire to develop the Committee's Primary Expenses Resolution, which we hope to introduce shortly.

Given the Committee's unique and expanding oversight and investigative responsibilities, the Committee is requesting an increase to its budget from the 115th Congress. Further justifications can be found in the details in the attached documents. We appreciate your attention to this matter and thank you for your consideration.

Questions regarding this request may be directed to Ms. Carly Blake, Deputy Staff Director, at 202-225-7690.

Gratefully,

Adam B. Schiff
 Chairman

Devin Nunes
 Ranking Member

RAUL M. GRIJALVA OF ARIZONA
CHAIRMAN

DAVID WATKINS
STAFF DIRECTOR

ROB BISHOP OF UTAH
RANKING REPUBLICAN

PARISH BRADEN
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2019

Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rodney Davis
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

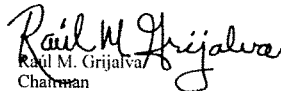
Dear Chairperson Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis:

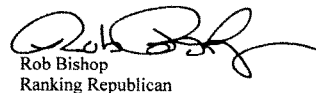
Attached please find the documents required for your consideration of the Committee on Natural Resources' budget request.

We have discussed the proposed budget request and are in agreement on the functional and operational needs of the Committee. Therefore, should the Committee on House Administration opt to waive the need for any in person testimony, we respectfully concur.

If you have any questions, please contact Ilene Clauson at 6-0766.

Thank you,


Raul M. Grijalva
Chairman


Rob Bishop
Ranking Republican

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
CHAIRMAN

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JIM JORDAN, OHIO
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<http://oversight.house.gov>

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

I am pleased to submit the budget request for the Committee on Oversight and Reform for the 116th Congress. This request seeks \$19,939,573 to operate the Committee for this Congress. For 2019, the Committee is requesting a 4% increase over our 2018 budget. For 2020, the Committee is requesting a 10% increase over our proposed 2019 level.

Even with these increases, the Committee's budget would still be far lower than a decade ago. The Committee would need a funding increase of approximately 22.36% to restore funding to the level allocated ten years ago. The Committee's budget request for this Congress would be a down-payment towards restoring Committee funding to fill essential oversight staff positions that have long been vacant.

Over the past ten years, the Committee's budget has been reduced dramatically, from approximately \$22.3 million in the 111th Congress to approximately \$18.3 million in the last Congress. The Committee's budget was reduced by 8.04% in the 112th Congress and by 12.54% in the 113th Congress. It was increased by only 0.5% in the 114th Congress and by only 1.11% in the 115th Congress. For your review, I am enclosing a summary of our budget reductions over the last decade.

I understand that other committees may be seeking additional funds. However, with Republicans in charge of the House of Representatives and President Trump in the White House, the Oversight Committee received only a miniscule increase last Congress compared to other committees. In fact, the Committee's 1.11% increase was the second smallest among 20 House committees. Other committees' increases ranged from 2% to more than 30%.

Since the election, the Committee has attempted to hire the most qualified mix of professionals possible. They bring phenomenal and varied experiences, and some have made major sacrifices to support the work of the Committee, in some cases absorbing pay cuts of 50% or more. We have also added junior staff to stretch our budget and support the work of the Committee.

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Page 2

However, although we have made top-notch hires, we have exhausted our salary budget without coming close to filling our currently allotted staff slots. At our existing funding level, we will have 25 vacancies for existing staff slots that we will not be able to fill, including 15 on the majority staff and 10 on the minority staff.

For 2019, we can stretch our salary budget by taking into account that our new hires are not joining the Committee all at once. But to enable the Committee to fill its investigative staff positions, we will need more significant increases for 2020 and in future years.

I recognize the funding constraints faced by the Committee on House Administration, and I have tried to present as small a budget as possible that would enable the Oversight Committee to carry out its core responsibilities. If budgets were not so tight, the Committee could make effective use of significantly more resources than I am requesting.

As you weigh our request for funding, I urge you to keep several overriding factors in mind. As the primary investigative committee of the House of Representatives, the Oversight Committee has one of the broadest jurisdictions of any committee in Congress, and we are charged with conducting robust and responsible oversight of the entire federal government.

This Congress, we are overseeing the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which is charged with developing a national strategy to combat the generational opioid crisis that is killing tens of thousands of Americans every year; the Census Bureau, which is struggling to prepare for its national enumeration next year; and the entire federal workforce, who have had their pay and benefits slashed by hundreds of billions of dollars over the past decade.

Conducting effective oversight of the Executive Branch has always been a core function of Congress under the Constitution. In addition, our Committee is investigating myriad private sector interests that affect consumers. One of the Committee's most significant investigations this Congress is examining the actions of pharmaceutical companies in increasing drug prices to unsustainable levels—a critical issue that affects nearly every family in the nation.

Finally, when the House adopted its Rules for the 116th Congress, it made clear in Rule X that the Committee on Oversight and Reform is charged with overseeing “the operation of Government activities at all levels, *including the Executive Office of the President*.” Our work is facing unprecedented challenges at this moment because the President chose not to follow the example of previous presidents before him, not to heed the advice of career ethics experts, and not to divest his assets and place the proceeds into a truly independent blind trust. As a result, we are compelled by the Constitution to conduct even more rigorous oversight to guard against conflicts of interest, abuses of power, and unconstitutional emoluments.

Restoring the Oversight Committee's funding—which has been slashed by Republicans over the past decade—will send a strong signal that the House of Representatives is now taking seriously its oversight responsibilities under the Constitution, while at the same time ensuring that our government is working effectively and efficiently on behalf of the American people.

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Page 3

Thank you for considering this request, and if there is any additional information the Committee can provide, please feel free to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "E" and a stylized "C".

Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Texas
CHAIRWOMAN

FRANK D. LUCAS, Oklahoma
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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(202) 225-6375
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The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

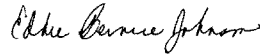
Dear Ms. Chairperson,

In accordance with the requested procedures, we are pleased to submit a proposed budget and the questionnaire for the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for the 116th Congress.

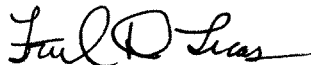
The Committee is requesting a budget of \$5,766,700.00 per year for 2019 and 2020. This represents a 5.1% increase to the funds allocated to the Committee for 2018. We believe this funding level will allow the Committee to retain and recruit top-level senior staff and successfully complete many legislative and oversight tasks related to key issues under the Committee's jurisdiction.

If needed, we would be happy to testify further to justify this request. We plan on a busy and productive agenda for the Committee in the 116th Congress. We urge a favorable consideration of this reasonable and essential budget increase.

Sincerely,



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology



Frank D. Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ, NEW YORK
Chairwoman

STEVE CHABOT, OHIO
Ranking Member

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2561 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

March 8, 2019

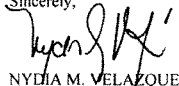
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

The attached budget proposal for the Committee on Small Business is being submitted on behalf of myself and Ranking Member Chabot. This budget would allow the committee to move forward with our legislative priorities during the 116th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
CHAIRWOMAN


STEVE CHABOT
RANKING MEMBER

Jerrold Nadler, New York
CHAIRMAN

Zoe Lofgren, California
Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas
Steve Cohen, Tennessee
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., Georgia
Ted Deutch, Florida
Karen Bass, California
Cedric L. Richmond, Louisiana
Hakeem S. Jeffries, New York
David Cicilline, Rhode Island
Eric Swalwell, California
Ted Lieu, California
Jame Raskin, Maryland
 Pramila Jayapal, Washington
Val Demings, Florida
Lou Correa, California
Mary Gay Scanlon, Pennsylvania
Sylvia Garcia, Texas
Joseph Neguse, Colorado
Lucy McBath, Georgia
Greg Stanton, Arizona
Madeleine Dean, Pennsylvania
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, Florida
Veronica Escobar, Texas

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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Doug Collins, Georgia
RANKING MEMBER

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Wisconsin
Steve Chabot, Ohio
Louie Gohmert, Texas
Jim Jordan, Ohio
Ken Buck, Colorado
John Ratcliffe, Texas
Martha Roby, Alabama
Matt Gaetz, Florida
Mike Johnson, Louisiana
Andy Biggs, Arizona
Tom McClintock, California
Debbie Lesko, Arizona
Guy Reschenthaler, Pennsylvania
Ben Cline, Virginia
Kelly Armstrong, Alabama
Greg Steube, Florida

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

We are pleased to submit to you the Committee on the Judiciary's budget proposal for the 116th Congress.

Historically, the Judiciary Committee has been one of the most active committees in the House. In the 115th Congress, for example, a total of 1516 legislative measures were referred to this Committee. The Judiciary Committee held 75 hearings and reported 55 bills and resolutions to the House, with accompanying legislative reports on all but a few. The Committee also had a jurisdictional involvement in the passage of 138 bills and resolutions. A total of 32 bills in which the Judiciary Committee had a jurisdictional interest were signed into law by the President. Additionally, the Committee convened a working group to carefully examine complicated issues like police accountability, and the Committee also visited numerous locations throughout the United States to gather information from stakeholders outside Washington, D.C. The Committee anticipates conducting additional field hearings and evidentiary visits in the 116th Congress.

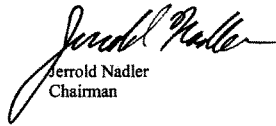
In the first weeks of the 116th Congress, the Judiciary Committee has already been hard at work to meet the demands of a heavy workload, including work on issues of great importance to the entire Congress, such as immigration reform, preventing gun violence, voting rights and other issues connected to H.R. 1. We anticipate that the Committee's workload will increase significantly during the 116th Congress on all of these fronts and several others. Finally, we also plan to continue to conduct oversight of the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and other agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction.

The Committee will continue its commitment to give the Minority one-third of the staff slots and one-third of the salaries after accounting for shared administrative personnel and expenses.


March 8, 2019
Page 2

We look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have regarding this budget request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Chairman



Doug Collings
Ranking Member



**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives**

Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

Sam Graves, MO
Ranking Member

March 8, 2019

Katherine W. Dedrick, Staff Director

Paul J. Sass, Republican Staff Director

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

In accordance with your letter dated March 4, 2019, our Committee is pleased to submit the budget proposal for the Committee's Primary Expenses Resolution for the 116th Congress. Pursuant to your instructions, this submission includes the Budget Request Form and our responses to the Committee Funding Questionnaire. This budget submission has been reviewed and approved by both the Chairman and Ranking Member.

As a side note, our Committee would like to thank you and your Committee for your assistance in securing HVC-210 in the Capitol Visitors Center for Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearings during our hearing room renovation process. The timing of the renovation was not ideal, but your assistance made the process bearable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our joint input on our Committee budget process. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel to contact us.

Sincerely,


PETER A. DeFazio
Chairman


SAM GRAVES
Ranking Member

Attachments

JAMES P. MCGOVERN,
MASSACHUSETTS
CHAIRMAN

ALICE L. HASTINGS, FLORIDA
NORMA TORRES, CALIFORNIA
ED PERAZICHITA, COLORADO
JAMES RASKIN, MARYLAND
MARY GAY SORANLOU, PENNSYLVANIA
JOSEPH D. MORELLE, NEW YORK
DONNA E. SHALALA, FLORIDA
MARK DESCHAMBER, CALIFORNIA

DON SISSON, STAFF DIRECTOR
(202) 225-9091
www.rules.house.gov



Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515-6269

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

TOM COLE, OKLAHOMA
RANKING REPUBLICAN

BOB WOODALL, GEORGIA
MICHAEL C. BURGESS, TEXAS
DUBIE LEE, ARIZONA

KELLY DIXON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

MINORITY OFFICE
H-312, THE CAPITOL
(202) 225-9191

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairperson Lofgren:

Thank you for your letter dated March 4, 2019 regarding our Committee's budget proposal for the 116th Congress. We greatly appreciate your inclusive and thorough process to ensure that all committees have the resources needed to accomplish their goals. As you know, the Rules Committee works with nearly every other committee each year in pursuit of our primary mission of ensuring that the House can consider critical legislation. We currently complete this vital work with the second lowest budget of any standing committee, and with one of the smallest staffs. For example, at this time, due to budget constraints, the incoming majority has only been able to add three additional staff beyond those it employed in the minority, despite taking on new, critical duties.

For each of the first and second sessions of the 116th Congress, we request a total of \$3,327,190 in annual budget authority. The budget we are presenting reflects a three percent increase over the funds allocated to the Committee for the 115th Congress in January 2017. This budget request, as has been true for several Congresses, remains under the amount of funding approved for the Committee in 2007, even before accounting for inflation. We make this request to allow the Committee to staff at a level that matches the functional needs of the Committee, to permit an overdue upgrade to the infrastructure hosting the custom-built Electronic Database application relied upon to efficiently produce structured rules for the consideration of priority legislation, and to maintain a minimal level of flexibility in spending.

Enclosed, as requested, please find our completed Budget Request Form and our responses to your Committee Funding Questionnaire. If you have any further questions or need additional information regarding our budget request, please contact Don Sisson of the Committee staff at 202-225-9091.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern
Chairman

Tom Cole
Ranking Republican

The CHAIRPERSON. It is my intention to mark up an omnibus expense resolution on Tuesday, March 26, and for the House to consider it on Thursday, March 28.

Now, understanding the quick pace of this schedule and after conferring with the Ranking Member, he and I decided that to most expeditiously consider these requests we would forego the usual testimony of our committee chairs and the ranking members only if there was bipartisan support from the chair and ranking member of each committee, reserving the right, of course, for either myself or the Ranking Member to pull something off the consent agenda, which we have decided not to do at this point.

Obviously, this has always been a collaborative process and a bipartisan process, and I wish to thank the Ranking Member for his cooperation and assistance in enabling the Committee to begin this process in an expedited fashion.

We certainly reserve the right to change this process next year if it doesn't work out well. But, certainly, in the past, we have had chairmen and ranking members sitting around all day long for something where there was agreement, and it seemed not necessarily to be a productive use of time.

So, with that, I would recognize Ranking Member Davis for his opening statement, and then we will get to the one committee that has asked to be heard today.

[The statement of The Chairperson follows:]

ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRPERSON

JAMIE RASKIN, MARYLAND
VICE CHAIRPERSON

SUSAN DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCIA FUDGE, OHIO
PETE AGUILAR, CALIFORNIA

JAMIE FLEET, STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
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Washington, D.C. 20515-6157
(202) 225-2061
<https://cha.house.gov>

RODNEY DAVIS, ILLINOIS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

MARK WALKER, NORTH CAROLINA
BARRY LOUDERMILK, GEORGIA

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JEN DAULBY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

Committee Funding for the 116th Congress Chairperson Zoe Lofgren Opening Statement

I would like to thank the Members of the Committee, our witnesses, and all those in the audience for being here today.

Every Congress, the House is required to adopt a Committee expense resolution which provides funding for all the Committees of the House. Each Committee is required to introduce a Committee expense resolution and prepare a budget submission. We have received and are reviewing those budget submissions.

I ask unanimous consent for the letters regarding Committee budgets from the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Committees be entered into the record.

It is my intention to mark up an omnibus expense resolution on Tuesday, March 26th and for the House to consider it on Thursday, March 28th.

Understanding the quick pace of that schedule, and after conferring with the Ranking Member, he and I decided that to most expeditiously consider these requests that we would forgo the usual testimony of our Committee Chairs and Ranking Members if there was bipartisan agreement on the request.

The Committee reserves the right at any time in the future to ask Chairs and Ranking Members of any Committee to come back to this hearing room to discuss how Committee funds are being used, or to resolve any disagreements between the majority and the minority.

The Committee funding process has traditionally been one of the most bipartisan and collaborative efforts that this Committee undertakes. I wish to thank Ranking Member Davis for his cooperation and assistance in enabling the Committee to begin this process in an expedited fashion with the goal that the House approves the funding resolution prior to the expiration of the interim funding authorization on March 31st.

Considering this agreement and the short time that remains to us to fund our Committees for this Congress, today we will hear from the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you, Chairperson Lofgren.

I readily agreed to your suggestion that if there is bipartisan consensus between the chairs and the ranking members of the committees regarding their funding requests they ought to be able to submit the paperwork and we will do a thorough review of their requests and ensure that we move those requests forward.

I think each chairperson and ranking member understands that, even though they may have an agreement on their budget request, it may not be what this Committee ends up agreeing to.

That being said, we see that there is disagreement on one committee. I am looking forward to hearing from Chairman Cummings and Ranking Member Jordan on that disagreement.

But, you know, even though not all the chairs and the ranking members are coming to testify before us today, we will do that thorough review.

I request, Madam Chairperson, in order to conduct proper oversight of the committee funding, I would like to request that we keep the section requiring a review of the use of funds in the first session in this Congress's funding resolution. I think it gives our Committee the option of requesting that the chair and ranking member of each committee provide a review of the use of the funds in the first session and an update on any changes to anticipated expenditures for the second session.

The CHAIRPERSON. If the gentleman would yield?

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Yes.

The CHAIRPERSON. It was not my intention to change the processes, simply to waive them in this case because it is inconsistent. Now. We may decide that there is not a reason to bring people in—

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Sure.

The CHAIRPERSON [continuing]. But because this has been bipartisan and I expect it to continue to be so, you know, we are not eliminating those tools.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Well, I appreciate that.

And that is the only request I had. I appreciate your consideration and, most importantly, your cooperation that you have already shown us.

So I will yield back the balance of my time, and we can get to Chairman Cummings and Ranking Member Jordan.

[The statement of Mr. Davis of Illinois follows:]

ZOE LOFGREN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRPERSON

JAMIE RASKIN, MARYLAND
VICE CHAIRPERSON

SUSAN DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCIA FUDGE, OHIO
PETE AGUILAR, CALIFORNIA

JAMIE FLEET, STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
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RODNEY DAVIS, ILLINOIS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

MARK WALKER, NORTH CAROLINA
BARRY LOUDERMILK, GEORGIA

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JEN DAULBY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

Committee Funding for the 116th Congress **Ranking Member Rodney Davis** **Opening Statement**

In a departure from this Committee's regular practice, we are not having the Chair and Ranking Member of each Committee come testify before our Committee to justify their 116th Congress budget request. Instead, we have asked Chairs and Ranking Members to work together and come to an agreement for their request. It is encouraging so many of the Chairs and Ranking Members have been able to work together to achieve this as well as determine an equitable allocation of funding and staff to the minority.

We will be hearing testimony from the one committee whose chair and ranking member are not in agreement on their budget request submission. Based on the budget submission, Chairman Cummings believes that Oversight and Reform needs additional funding to conduct its oversight and legislative agenda. Ranking Member Jordan does not agree with that assessment and maintains that the Committee could function at the same funding level of the 115th Congress. Although they disagree on the amount being requested, there remains agreement that regardless of the amount eventually authorized, the minority will be allocated a minimum of 1/3rd of the resources.

Even though not all Chairs and Ranking Members are coming to testify, this Committee will be doing a thorough review of the committees' budget requests prior to authorizing funds for the 116th Congress. In order to conduct proper oversight of committee funding, Madam Chairperson, I request that we keep the section requiring a "review of use of funds in the first session" in this Congress' funding resolution. This gives our Committee the option of requesting that the Chair and Ranking Member of each Committee provide a review of the use of funds in the first session and an update on any changes to anticipated expenditures for the second session. Thank you, Chairperson Lofgren for your consideration of this request, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRPERSON. Well, we will invite the chairman and ranking member of the Oversight Committee to take their seats and to address us.

We ordinarily operate under the 5-minute rule so we will do so at this time. If you are ready, Chairman Cummings, we would be happy to recognize you for 5 minutes and then the Ranking Member, Mr. Jordan.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mr. CUMMINGS. Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

To Chairwoman Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis and to Members of the Committee, I thank you very much for this opportunity to testify before you today regarding our budget submission for the Committee on Oversight and Reform for the 116th Congress.

As you know, we submitted our formal request on Friday with the supporting documentation. I will not recount everything in that submission, but I would like to briefly make four key points.

First, over the past 10 years, the Oversight and Reform Committee's budget has been reduced dramatically, from about \$22.3 million in the 111th Congress to \$18.3 million in the last Congress. For the Committee's review, I have submitted a summary of our budget reductions over the last decade.

I understand that there were many reasons for that, but the bottom line is that we have not been able to fill out our allocated staffing slots in many years. At our existing funding level, we will have 25 vacancies for existing staff slots that we are not able to fill. Fifteen of these vacancies are on the majority staff, and 10 are on the minority staff.

Second, we understand the financial challenges that you are facing, and we have tried to respect those limitations. As a result, we are not asking for full funding to restore us to levels we were 10 years ago. The Oversight and Reform Committee would need a funding increase of approximately 22.3 percent to restore funding to the level that we were 10 years ago.

Instead, we are requesting only a modest 4-percent increase this year, followed by a 10-percent increase next year. From my perspective, this would be a downpayment toward restoring full committee funding in future years to fill the essential oversight staff positions that have long been vacant.

Third, I understand that other committees may be seeking much bigger increases, some even as large as 20 percent. However, I would like to point out that, in the last Congress, the Oversight and Reform Committee received one of the most minuscule increases compared to other committees. Our Committee's 1.11-percent increase was the second-smallest among 20 House committees. Other committee increases range from 2 percent to more than 30 percent.

Finally, our work, in particular, is designed to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, and this often results in direct savings to the taxpayers. Eliminating duplication and inefficiency can translate into

real savings in both the short term and long term. That is one of the special benefits of the good work that our Committee does.

Let me close with this. As the primary investigative committee of the House of Representatives, the Oversight and Reform Committee has one of the broadest jurisdictions of any committee in the House. We are charged with conducting robust and responsible oversight of the entire Federal Government and beyond.

We are not only conducting robust and responsible oversight of the executive branch in this administration, we are also overseeing ONDCP's efforts to combat the opioid crisis that claimed more than 70,000 lives last year; we are conducting hearings on the upcoming census next year, which is facing extremely significant challenges; we are working on a bipartisan basis to address the financial troubles at the Postal Service; and—as I close—and we are investigating the skyrocketing prices of prescription drugs.

Beginning the process of restoring the Oversight and Reform Committee's funding will send a strong signal that the House of Representatives is taking seriously its oversight responsibilities under the Constitution.

And, with that, I yield back.

[The statement of Mr. Cummings follows:]

Insert 1-1

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
CHAIRMAN

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JIM JORDAN, OHIO
RANKING MEMBER**Congress of the United States****House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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HTTP://OVERSIGHT.HOUSE.GOV

Opening Statement**Chairman Elijah E. Cummings****Committee Budget Request for the 116th Congress****2 p.m.—1310 Longworth House Office Building****March 12, 2019**

Chairperson Lofgren, Ranking Member Davis, and Members of the Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to testify before you today regarding our budget submission for the Committee on Oversight and Reform for the 116th Congress.

As you know, we submitted our formal request on Friday with the supporting documentation. I will not recount everything in that submission, but I would like to briefly make four key points.

First, over the past ten years, the Oversight Committee's budget has been reduced dramatically, from about \$22.3 million in the 111th Congress to about \$18.3 million in the last Congress. For the Committee's review, I have submitted a summary of our budget reductions over the last decade. I understand that there were many reasons for that, but the bottom-line is that we have not been able to fill our allocated staffing slots in many years. At our existing funding level, we will have 25 vacancies for existing staff slots that we are not able to fill. Fifteen of these vacancies are on the majority staff, and ten are on the minority staff.

Second, we understand the financial challenges you are facing, and we have tried to respect those limitations. As a result, we are not asking for full funding to restore us to the levels we were at ten years ago. The Oversight Committee would need a funding increase of approximately 22.3% to restore funding to the level a decade ago. Instead, we are requesting only a modest 4% increase this year, followed by a 10% increase next year. From my perspective, this would be a down-payment towards restoring full Committee funding in future years to fill the essential oversight staff positions that have long been vacant.

Third, I understand that other committees may be seeking much bigger increases, some even as large as 20%. However, I would like to point out that in the last Congress, the Oversight Committee received one of the most miniscule increases compared to other committees. Our Committee's 1.11% increase was the second smallest among 20 House committees. Other committee increases ranged from 2% to more than 30%.

I supported Chairman Chaffetz's larger budget request in the last Congress, but unfortunately it was not approved. I also supported every other budget request from our previous republican colleagues as well.

Finally, our work in particular is designed to root out waste, fraud, and abuse—and it often results in direct savings to the taxpayer. Eliminating duplication and inefficiency can translate into real savings in both the short-term and the long-term. That is one of the special benefits of the good work that our committee does.

Let me close with this. As the primary investigative committee of the House of Representatives, the Oversight Committee has one of the broadest jurisdictions of any committee in Congress. We are charged with conducting robust and responsible oversight of the entire federal government—and beyond.

We are not only conducting robust and responsible oversight of the Executive Branch and this Administration. We are also overseeing ONDCP's efforts to combat the opioid crisis that claimed more than 70,000 souls last year. We are conducting hearings on the upcoming census next year, which is facing extremely significant challenges. We are working on bipartisan legislation to address the financial troubles at the Postal Service. And we are investigating the skyrocketing prices of prescription drugs, which affect nearly every family in America.

Beginning the process of restoring the Oversight Committee's funding will send a strong signal that the House of Representatives is taking seriously its oversight responsibilities under the Constitution. It will also help ensure that our government is working effectively and efficiently on behalf of the American people.

Thank you again for considering this request, and I stand ready to answer any questions that you may have.

The CHAIRPERSON. Thank you, Mr. Cummings.
Mr. Jordan, you are recognized for 5 minutes.

**STATEMENT OF THE HON. JIM JORDAN, A REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO**

Mr. JORDAN. Chairperson Lofgren, Ranking Member Davis, thank you for having us today. I am pleased to be here with the chairman.

I have the utmost respect for Chairman Cummings, but I respectfully disagree with the proposed budget. This is very simple. This is about setting an example.

I mean, everyone knows the facts. We are going to run a \$900 billion deficit this year. Trillion-dollar deficits for the next decade is the projection. In addition, CBO projects that Federal outlays will amass \$4.4 trillion in fiscal year 2019 and up to \$7 trillion in fiscal year 2029.

Simply put, our Federal Government has grown out of control. In this environment, it seems to me we should be giving money back to the American taxpayer, certainly not increasing budgets for Congress. As I said, this is real simple. It is about setting an example.

Understand this, too: The last year of the Obama Administration, just 4 years ago, the budget for the Oversight and Reform Committee was more than it is now, and Chairman Cummings still seeks an increase. I understand where it was 10 years ago, but just 4 years ago we were doing—the Committee was functioning on a level that is higher than what we are currently at, and the Chairman is asking for an increase.

I respectfully submit for your consideration that the funding level for the Committee on Oversight and Reform should remain unchanged from the previous Congress.

I want to thank you again, Chairperson Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis. We are happy to answer any questions.

[The statement of Mr. Jordan follows:]

Opening Statement

Ranking Member Jim Jordan

Committee Budget Request for the 116th Congress

2 p.m.—1310 Longworth House Office Building

Chairperson Lofgren, Ranking Member Davis, thank you for having us here today. I am pleased to be here with the Chairman.

I have the utmost respect for Chairman Cummings, but I respectfully disagree with the proposed budget. This is real simple. I mean everyone knows the facts. We are going to run a \$900 billion deficit this year. Trillion-dollar deficits for the next decade is the projection. In addition, CBO projects that Federal outlays will amass \$4.4 trillion in fiscal year 2019 and up to \$7 trillion in fiscal year 2029.

Simply put, our Federal Government has grown out of control. In this environment, it seems to me we should be giving money back to the American taxpayer, certainly not increasing budgets for Congress. As I said, this is real simple. It is about setting an example.

Understand this too: The last year of the Obama Administration, just 4 years ago, the budget for the Oversight and Reform Committee was more than it is now this fiscal year. Chairman Cummings still seeks an increase.

I understand where it was 10 years ago, but just 4 years ago the Committee was functioning on a level that is higher than where we currently are and the Chairman is asking for an increase this fiscal year.

I respectfully submit for your consideration that the funding level for the Committee on Oversight and Reform should remain unchanged from the previous Congress.

I want to thank you again, Chairperson Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis. We are happy to answer any questions.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentleman yields back.

Now is the time where Members can ask questions of either the Chair or the Ranking Member. I will turn first to Mr. Davis for any questions he may have.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Thank you, Chairman Cummings and Ranking Member Jordan.

Ranking Member Jordan, I appreciate your concerns. We should have a concern about how our allocations are moving forward and how we, as Republicans and Democrats, work together to lower the cost to taxpayers in everything we do within this legislative branch.

Can you elaborate a little more, Mr. Jordan, on some of the concerns maybe with the increased dollars within your Committee operations or any other issues that we as a Committee might need to know about before we make this decision?

Mr. JORDAN. Yeah, maybe I will just—I will just look at the numbers here. The current budget right now is \$200,000 more than it was in the 114th Congress, and the Chairman is seeking a \$1.7 million increase.

I just—again, I come back to the basics. I think there are all kinds of families across this country who have had to live on the same thing they did in previous years. I don't know why the government can't, as I said before, lead by example and function on where we were in previous Congresses.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Jordan, you and Chairman Cummings have agreed on the two-thirds/one-third ratio for funds that you already have established and any future funds too, right?

Mr. CUMMINGS. That is correct.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. That is correct? Thank you, Chairman.

I will go to you, Chairman Cummings. A \$1.7 million increase in funding. I noticed through some of your requests, obviously you look at some of the investigatory issues that you may be facing as a committee in the future. What do you think is going to be the costliest portion of your oversight agenda?

Mr. CUMMINGS. I am not sure, but I can tell you that when you have slots where you have 15 people, positions you can't fill, that means that my people are working night and day, day and night. It is not unusual, by the way, for my staff to be working at 4 o'clock in the morning, literally. It is quite a bit—we get a lot of getting documents in, have to oversee them.

So basically what we want to do is make sure that people have decent working conditions and are able to do their jobs in an efficient and effective manner. There are two words that I govern my staff by, and that is “efficiency” and “effectiveness.” And I am going to tell you, if you or any of us were working at 4 o'clock in the morning and then had to come back at 9, you are not going to be but so effective.

So, you know, again, we have had very minuscule increases. Other committees have gotten far more than what we have gotten. And I just think that, when you think about the breadth of our jurisdiction, I think it is only appropriate.

Another thing that a lot of people don't consider is that we are now in a social media situation, where 10 years ago the social media was not near what it is now. Now somebody can just sit at

a computer; next thing you know, they are shooting all kinds of letters and information to us. And so we just want to be in a position to appropriately deal with that, again, in an effective and efficient manner without working our employees to death.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Well, Mr. Chairman, I certainly understand the impact social media has made on how we do our jobs here in Congress.

Mr. Jordan, at what level would you think that the Committee should be funded at?

Mr. JORDAN. Keep it where it is at. I mean, Twitter shouldn't drive a \$1.7 million decision. I mean, come on.

Look, we can do it. We have 25 people who work for the Republican side. We are committed to working hard, just like the Chairman talked about. Everyone, I think, wants their staff to work hard, and they all do.

But we have to, as I said over and over again—maybe for once, Congress should step up and set a little bit of an example and say, at a time when we are running trillion-dollar deficits for the next decade—that is the projection—at a time when we have a \$22 trillion debt, I don't think it is good enough to tell the taxpayers, oh, people are on Twitter, we need a \$1.7 million increase. I just don't think that works.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Well, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Cummings—

Mr. CUMMINGS. I got to say something about that.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Okay.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I will not leave here with somebody talking about Twitter—

Mr. JORDAN. You brought up social media—

Mr. CUMMINGS. Let me finish.

Mr. JORDAN [continuing]. Mr. Chairman, I didn't.

Mr. CUMMINGS. May I finish?

The CHAIRPERSON. Yes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I have the floor.

Let me be abundantly clear. According to many, we have one of the best staffs on Capitol Hill. I plan to keep it. I care about his staff, and I care about mine.

Mr. JORDAN. We—

Mr. CUMMINGS. Let me finish. I have the floor.

I have never—on this Committee, I have stood up for his staff and mine, because these are public employees. A lot of times, they are criticized over and over again, but they deserve to have decent working conditions.

And all I am just—and I hate it that it has been put to Twitter. Strike all of that. All I am saying, decent working conditions. We want to set an example, but we are also going to set an example of excellence.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentleman's time has expired, but I am sure we will have an opportunity, because other Members may want to weigh in.

The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Chairperson, thank you so much.

Chairman Cummings, first, I want to thank you for coming today, and I want to thank you for the extraordinary work you are doing as Chairman of the Oversight and Reform Committee. You

are relentless, you are focused, and you are fair-minded every step along the way in trying to ferret out corruption, waste, fraud, abuse, and lawlessness in every branch of government.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Thank you.

Mr. RASKIN. You are a gentleman. Because I have watched you; you are a gentleman, and you treat people with fairness and with kindness.

Second, I am sorry, I know that your knee still hurts you, and I am sorry you had to come all the way down here for this hearing. But fair enough. I like the new process that the chair is instituting here, and I think that we can proceed on a bipartisan basis.

Now, let me say this. The Oversight and Reform Committee budget was reduced from \$22.3 million in the 111th Congress to \$18.3 million in the last Congress. You would need a 22-percent increase in order to just get back to the level that Oversight had a decade ago. But you are not asking for a 22-percent increase. You are asking for a 4-percent increase, as I understand it.

Now, the job of the Oversight and Reform Committee is to go after waste, fraud, abuse, duplication, corruption, inefficiency, ineffectiveness in the Federal Government. If there is any committee you think we should be investing more in, certainly it is the committee that is trying to save the taxpayers—I am not talking about a million or 2 million here; we are talking about billions of dollars.

We have had hearings where we have discovered that there is \$150 billion unaccounted for in the Department of Defense, right? Waste, fraud, and abuse.

Say something about what you see as the principal purpose of your committee.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Well, first of all, you are absolutely right. We are looking not only at waste, fraud, and abuse, but we are also looking at the way—and this is something that we have not talked about a lot here, but the way employees are treated. As you know, we have had some real problems with regard to sexual harassment in the various agencies. But the waste, fraud, and abuse is significant. Because we are saving a lot of money.

A lot of people—we have three people, Congressman, on my staff, I call them the drug team, and what they deal with is the high price of prescription drugs. If you follow headlines, we have already seen the impact that they have had, these three people—three people—have had on stock prices with regard to drugs. I mean, it has been astronomical, saving the taxpayers money.

And, by the way, it is not just government. We are looking at the opioid crisis. We are looking at a whole lot of things that might not normally get the attention.

Right now, for example—and this is something that goes along with what you just said. We have Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross coming in tomorrow, Madam Chairperson, Secretary Wilbur Ross coming in tomorrow, and he is going to talk about this citizenship question. That affects all of us, with regard to the census.

He has already been told—he came to us and said—he told the Congress that the citizenship question—I am going to be very brief—came from DOJ. Come to find out, it came from Steve Bannon. And that one question will affect redistricting, distribution of funds, reapportionment, a whole lot of things.

So, again, I believe our savings, the savings will—whatever you all give us, we will give it back in savings by rooting out—

Mr. RASKIN. Yeah.

Mr. CUMMINGS [continuing]. Fraud, waste, and abuse.

Mr. RASKIN. But, Mr. Chairman, let me ask you this. I understand, I think, every other committee is getting some at least modest increase, except for the Budget Committee, which didn't request it, but every other single committee. This is the only one where there has been an objection, the Oversight and Reform Committee, which is looking into corruption throughout government and in the corporate sector, the private sector, as you say.

Do you find some irony in the fact that we voted—or at least some people voted for a \$1.5 trillion tax cut to the wealthiest interests in the country and then come back and complain about a \$1.5 million increase to go after the corruption that exists in government?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes, I do.

Mr. RASKIN. Okay.

Well, let me just say, finally, again, as a Marylander, I am very proud, especially, of the work you are doing for the whole United States of America. Thank you for your testimony.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentleman yields back.

Would the gentleman from North Carolina like to be recognized?

Mr. WALKER. Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON. And you are recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALKER. Thank you. I just have one question. Shouldn't be that long.

I served on the House Oversight and Reform Committee for 4 years and echo some of the comments, the compliments by Mr. Raskin as far as the character and integrity that I have seen you display, and I don't mind going on the record sharing that.

The question, as far as the \$1.7 million, the additional money, Chairman Cummings, you mentioned working conditions. I wrote down two or three things here. Where is the bulk of that money? I know we don't have an exact budget. Is it to working conditions? Is it to additional employees? Do you feel like that more investigations are part of the projection? Or is it a combination of all of the above?

Mr. CUMMINGS. A combination of all of the above.

There are probably some things that we want to look at. There is so much to look at. As I have said many times, we have so many things that are coming towards us. We are at a time when a lot of people, career employees, are very dissatisfied. And so you have a lot of people who are concerned about what is going on in government.

We could not even get to probably—we will, at best, get to about a third of the things that we need to get to.

Mr. WALKER. Okay. All right.

And since we are passing out accolades, I would be remiss if I didn't say the Jim Jordan I know is consistent. His style may not always be for everybody, but he is somebody who is a truth-seeker. And it has been a privilege to work with him as well.

With that, I yield back, Madam Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentleman yields back.

The gentleman from North Carolina, do you wish to be heard for 5 minutes?

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I do, Madam Chairperson. Thank you very much for recognizing me.

Let me just say at the outset that I find it so interesting that Mr. Jordan has come forward today to lecture us on fiscal discipline.

I want to read to you an article that appeared in yesterday's Roll Call. I just happen to have it in my pocket for another reason today. But I want to just put it in the record today. It said the following.

The CHAIRPERSON. Without objection, so ordered.
[The information follows:]

Spending cuts, growth outpace tax cuts, military increases

Posted Mar 11, 2019 12:59 PM

David Lerman

@davidlerman2

10 things to know about the \$4.7 trillion Trump budget Trump budget request triggers clash with Congress White House readies lean budget with fat nondefense cuts



Copies of President Donald Trump's budget for Fiscal Year 2020 are prepared for distribution at the Government Publishing Office in Washington. (Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call)

President Donald Trump unveiled a \$4.7 trillion budget request for fiscal 2020 that would boost military funding, cut non-defense programs and intensify the partisan fight over a southern border wall.

The tax and spending blueprint calls for saving \$2.8 trillion over the coming decade by cutting non-defense discretionary programs, curbing health care costs, imposing tougher work requirements on welfare programs and restructuring federal student loans, among other things.

Even so, the budget plan assumes \$7.2 trillion in annual deficits over the coming decade. It would take 15 years to bring the budget into balance, a senior administration official said.

For the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, Trump would increase defense spending by about 5 percent to \$750 billion, despite a spending cap imposed by a deficit reduction law that requires cuts. To get around the cap, the budget calls for funneling \$165 billion into a war-related account that is exempt from spending limits.

At the same time, Trump would cut non-defense programs by about 5 percent from current levels and cancel previously approved projects to total about \$55 billion in reductions, as required under the deficit law.

Total discretionary spending, combining defense and non-defense programs, would be trimmed by 1.8 percent in the coming year, to \$1.3 trillion. The rest of the budget is made up of entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare, along with interest on the debt.

If all the administration's recommendations were carried out, deficits would gradually decline from \$1.1 trillion in fiscal 2020 to \$202 billion in fiscal 2029.

But the plan also assumes a continuation of relatively robust economic growth for the coming decade with no downturns. The administration forecasts a growth rate of 3.1 percent in fiscal 2020 and staying at 3 percent through fiscal 2024. By

contrast, the Congressional Budget Office forecasts a 1.7 percent growth rate, on average, from 2020 through 2023.

Trump would also renew his fight over a border wall and up the ante by requesting \$8.6 billion in fiscal 2020, a 50 percent increase from the \$5.7 billion he sought from Congress this year. The new larger request includes \$5 billion for the Department of Homeland Security, combined with \$3.6 billion from military construction accounts, a senior administration official said.

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Democratic lawmakers, and even some Republicans, have already dismissed Trump's budget as a non-starter. Democrats have insisted on rough "parity" in the treatment of defense and non-defense spending, while opposing money for a border wall.

The overall trim to discretionary spending masks large shifts in funding priorities among various agencies. While on average, non-defense accounts would be cut by 5 percent, border security and veterans programs within those totals are in line for big boosts.

The Department of Veterans Affairs would get a 7.5 percent boost, to \$93.1 billion. And the Department of Homeland Security would get a 7.4 percent increase, to \$51.7 billion.

Revenue would total \$3.6 trillion in the coming year, while spending would total \$4.7 trillion, resulting in a deficit of \$1.1 trillion. The debt held by the public would grow from nearly \$18.1 trillion in fiscal 2020 to \$24.8 trillion in fiscal 2029.

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Mr. BUTTERFIELD. For the fiscal year that begins October 1st, President Trump would increase defense spending by 5 percent, to \$750 billion, despite a spending cap imposed by a deficit-reduction law. To get around the cap, the budget calls for funneling \$165 billion into a war-related account.

At the same time, President Trump would cut nondefense programs by 5 percent from current levels and cancel previously approved projects, to total about \$55 billion in reductions.

Total discretionary spending, combining defense and nondefense, would be trimmed by 1.8 percent in the coming year to \$1.3 trillion. The rest of the budget is made up of entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare.

If all of the administration's recommendations were carried out, deficits would continue to decline. But the plan also assumes a continuation of robust economic growth.

Trump would also renew his fight over a border wall and up the ante by requesting \$8.6 billion in fiscal 2020, a 50-percent increase from the 5.7. The new, larger request includes \$5 billion for Homeland Security, combined with \$3.6 billion for military construction. The VA, the Department of Veterans Affairs, would get a 7-percent increase, and the Department of Homeland Security would get a 7.4-percent increase.

So that is the President's budget. For Mr. Jordan to come today to say that the hardworking committee that is charged with the responsibility of government oversight cannot have the resources to evaluate and to monitor the executive branch, I believe, is disingenuous.

It is also instructive that this is the only committee out of—how many committees do we have?—20, 21 standing committees in the House, this is the only committee where the Ranking Member and the Chairman of the committee cannot reach a consensus on budgeting for that committee.

I would vote to give the committee the 4-percent increase that Mr. Cummings has requested. And I would ask that perhaps some of the comments that we have heard today be also addressed to the executive branch and to the President himself.

Thank you. I don't have any questions.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Butterfield?

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Yes.

The CHAIRPERSON. Mr. Cummings.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Just 1 second.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Yes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I want you to know that, in all my years as Ranking Member, I have always, with Issa, Chaffetz, and Gowdy, come in with them and we jointly asked for—we jointly did our budget request of this Committee.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I just don't want your committee to be a guinea pig on fiscal discipline.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I understand.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Fiscal discipline belongs—

Mr. CUMMINGS. But I want you to understand—

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Yes.

Mr. CUMMINGS [continuing]. We have done that in the past.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Yes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. We have been able to come together in the past and——

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Well, if I am given the opportunity, I am going to vote to give you the resources.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Thank you.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. And with a one-third match to the Republicans as well.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Of course.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Thank you.

Thank you. I yield back.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentleman yields back.

Would the gentleman from Georgia like to be heard?

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Yes, Madam Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. I appreciate both Chairman Cummings and Ranking Member Jordan coming in today.

Look, you guys have disagreements, and that is good, that is fine. I appreciate, Mr. Cummings, your testimony in here. I appreciate Mr. Jordan's testimony.

I think if we had a few more like Mr. Jordan maybe we would find a way out of this \$22 trillion debt. But even as I go back home sometimes and I talk about people who are concerned about the debt, they are very concerned about the debt until it comes to cutting the one thing they are interested in. And until we are willing to do that, we are never going to get out of debt. So I appreciate Mr. Jordan coming in and standing up and taking his stance.

I actually have some questions. I actually do read the stuff that people send. I will start with Chairman Cummings.

One of the items listed in here is updating the camera systems for your committee. The first question is, the camera systems that are mentioned, are those for the main committee room, or are they for, like, a video production system?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Main committee hearing room.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Okay. A followup: What is the issue with the cameras you have now?

I just—and I know your staff has most of the answers. You recently had a committee hearing that a fairly prominent person was on, and millions of people across the Nation watched Mr. Cohen.

In fact, we had the Chairman of the Federal Reserve in Financial Services that day, which normally gets a lot of media attention, but you guys sucked the wind out of the room for everybody. I walked into our anteroom and all the staff was watching, in pretty good quality, all the hearings that were going on with Mr. Cohen.

It seemed to work well then, so my question really is, what is the issue?

Mr. CUMMINGS. They are outdated, and they have a tendency to malfunction.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Okay.

Mr. CUMMINGS. So we just want to bring them up to date.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Okay. Fair enough.

Mr. Jordan, have you experienced the same problems in the years you have been on the committee?

Mr. JORDAN. No, I would just—look, in the 114th Congress, 2015–2016, \$18,059,682 to run the committee. In the 116th Congress, the proposal is for \$19,939,573. I mean, like, that number back in 2015 was actually less than what the current budget is. So it is already an increase from where it was the final years of the previous administration, but they want even more.

I think we can do it. I think we can get by with the cameras that are there, as an example. They seemed to work fine, as you point out, 2 weeks ago.

I will tell you what didn't work fine 2 weeks ago. Their first big hearing, the first—think about this—the first announced witness of the 116th Congress, Michael Cohen, a guy who is going to prison in 2 months for lying to Congress. And when they brought him in front of the committee, what did he do? What did he do? He lied seven times.

We have sent a criminal referral letter to the Justice Department. Two are absolutely, 100 percent positive we know he did. He said he didn't want to work at the White House, and everyone else said, yes, he did. He said he didn't seek a pardon and even his lawyer said he was looking at a pardon.

So they need more money for those type of hearings? I don't think so. More money to bring in someone in front of Congress who has already lied to Congress and was brought in front of Congress again and did what? Lied again.

So, again, we are not asking to cut anything. We are just asking to hold the line.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. I do have a few more questions, as well, with you, Mr. Jordan. You have been on the committee for several years. Were we at 100 percent of all the staff slots in the last 4 years?

Mr. JORDAN. No.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. No?

Mr. JORDAN. Not under Chairman Gowdy, no.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Cummings, your request, will that bring up—the request for additional funding for additional staff members—

Mr. CUMMINGS. It will help a whole—

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Will it bring it up to full?

Mr. CUMMINGS. No, but it will help.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. It will help? Help—

Mr. CUMMINGS. I don't have all of that. I can supply that to you.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Okay.

Mr. CUMMINGS. But let me say this. When we talk about truth, let's be honest. Let's be honest. I have heard this untruth—and I usually don't use that word—about the first witness that we brought was Michael Cohen. That is a lie, and I don't use that word lightly. And he knows that.

The first witness that we presented was a woman with regard to prescription drugs, a lady named Ms. Worsham. He saw her. A lady came in and her 22-year-old daughter died because she couldn't get \$333 worth of insulin a month.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. I would like to reclaim—

Mr. CUMMINGS. No, no, no, no. I just—

Mr. LOUDERMILK [continuing]. Whatever time—

Mr. CUMMINGS [continuing]. Want to make sure that is clear.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Yeah.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Then we had another hearing, and then this was our third hearing, the Cohen hearing. So let's be honest now. Let's be truthful.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. I will just close with this. I appreciate what Mr. Butterfield said, but, from my recollection, the President did go and ask for 5-percent cost reductions from all of the Cabinet and all the agencies in the government.

I yield back.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Chairperson, could I clarify something?

The CHAIRPERSON. Briefly. I want to get to the gentlelady from Ohio.

Mr. JORDAN. I said the first announced witness of the 116th Congress was in fact Michael Cohen from this committee, and I said the first big hearing. Now, if you want to say that wasn't a big hearing—

The CHAIRPERSON. Well, I—

Mr. JORDAN [continuing]. two weeks ago, we can have that debate, but I said the first big hearing.

The CHAIRPERSON. I think that is really a diversion from the funding request, if I may.

Mr. JORDAN. I just want to be clear on the record.

Mr. CUMMINGS. And I want to be clear too.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentlelady from Ohio is recognized.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

I thank you both for being here. I just really have some comments as well.

Just in the last year, we paid farmers \$13 billion because of bad trade policy. We found \$13 billion. The President wants \$8 billion for a wall that we don't need. A trillion and a half in cuts to the very wealthiest people in this country.

We can't find \$1 million to help everyday people to make sure that they can afford their prescriptions? We can't help everyday people determine that they can vote the way that they are supposed to? We can't help people who are dying from opioids? \$1.5 million. But we spent \$13 billion to pay farmers because of a bad trade policy of the President; \$5 billion, to now \$8 billion, for a wall that we don't need.

We spent in the last 8 years millions and millions of dollars, just—I could just name one silly investigation now. We looked at Benghazi three times. I don't remember hearing anybody complain about it on your side. Our side did.

So if we can find money to do that, clearly we can find money to take care of people, everyday, hardworking people, to be sure that they know their government is working for them, that we are trying to be sure that there is no waste, fraud, and abuse—and we know that there is plenty—and to hold accountable the people that we pay. I don't think that is too much to ask, Madam Chairperson.

I yield back.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentlelady yields back.

Would the gentleman from California like to be heard for 5 minutes?

Mr. AGUILAR. Just a few questions, Madam Chairperson. I don't plan on using my entire time.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to the budget submittal before us, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to just understand the role of Oversight, which I understand does take resources. Does the committee plan on investigating the role the administration played in implementing the family separation policy at the border?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes.

Mr. AGUILAR. Does the committee plan on investigating the role the administration played in the preparation and response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes. It is one of my top priorities.

Mr. AGUILAR. Does the committee plan on investigating the ongoing water crisis in Flint, Michigan, and the administration's failure to address it?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Matter of fact, I just asked my staff about that last night. Yes. We have not tied that up yet.

Mr. AGUILAR. Does the committee plan on investigating reports on the Trump Organization's process for identifying payment from foreign governments and foreign government-controlled entities?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes.

Mr. AGUILAR. Does the committee plan on investigating the White House security clearance process and reports that the President personally intervened to grant clearances to his daughter and son-in-law against the recommendation of the intelligence—

Mr. CUMMINGS. Definitely, but right now the White House has been stonewalling us on information. But we are getting there.

Mr. AGUILAR. Does the committee plan on investigating the possible misuse of government-owned aircraft for personal use by Trump administration officials?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes. We have been investigating that for a while.

Mr. AGUILAR. Does the committee plan on investigating the multiple ethics violations by former EPA Administrator Pruitt?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes.

Mr. AGUILAR. Does the committee plan on investigating allegations that the Department of Homeland Security violated whistleblower protection laws?

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes.

Mr. AGUILAR. Thank you. Appreciate it.

The CHAIRPERSON. The gentleman yields back.

We are not having a second round, but the Ranking Member has asked to be recognized for a couple of additional questions or comments.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you. Just quick comments.

I certainly hope—I mean, I think we get the gist of what your committee is going to do by basically creating an investigatory environment for the executive branch.

I certainly hope that the committee chair will take into consideration our desires to ensure that, you know, processes that maybe the Ranking Member will bring up in regards to a FISA warrant that was requested during the last administration—I certainly hope your committee will take the time, with additional resources, to actually investigate those officials too.

But my issue is, you know, you mentioned the Cohen hearing. Do you plan on having Mr. Cohen back as part of these—

Mr. CUMMINGS. Not—no, I don't.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Okay. I mean, we had a 5-hour markup in here where we probably resembled the Oversight and Reform Committee a little more than we usually do, and it took about 5 hours that day, but nobody really covered us either. Your cameras were very well viewed.

My issue is, I thought—and this is something you might want to go back and work with your staff on. I thought all the cameras in the hearing rooms were covered by a reserve fund under the CAO for renovations and wouldn't come out of your budget anyway. So that may be an issue that you might want to address with your staff.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yeah, I will check with my staff on it. But believe me, I have one of the best chiefs of staff. He is right here. Dave Rapallo.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Yeah, no, no. I am a 16—

Mr. CUMMINGS. If he says there is a problem, there is a problem.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I am a former 16-year Congressional staffer—

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yeah.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois [continuing]. I have a lot of respect for staffers. I really do.

Mr. CUMMINGS. We are very careful with the people's money.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. So are we. That is why I wanted to at least bring it to his attention, to your attention. You might want to go back with your figures and address that in your request, because that should not count towards your request.

I want to make sure that we also put this into perspective. What you are asking for in an increase in just personnel compensation of about \$800,000 the first year. That is 72 percent of each Member of Congress's MRA. And what you are asking for the next year is another \$900,000, which is another about 81 percent of an MRA request.

I just want to put this into perspective, considering how we Members operate our offices, before we go forward.

With that, thank you both for being here. I really appreciate—

Mr. CUMMINGS. Would the gentleman—may I answer?

The CHAIRPERSON. The Ranking Member yields back.

The Chairperson recognizes herself for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yeah, I just wanted to say, we have our entire oversight plan that we have submitted last week, and it sets forth a very large set of investigative priorities ranging from hurricane-response efforts to preventing retaliation against whistleblowers—

The CHAIRPERSON. We will make that a part of our record, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CUMMINGS. It is a lot.

The CHAIRPERSON. We will make that part of the official record.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Thank you very much.

[The information follows:]

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
CHAIRMAN

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JIM JORDAN, OHIO
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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March 1, 2019

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairperson
Committee on House Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Chairperson:

Pursuant to Rule X, Clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I am submitting the oversight plan for the Committee on Oversight and Reform for the 116th Congress. While the enclosed plan was prepared in consultation with the minority, and while edits and additions were made in response to minority suggestions, the minority also submitted separate views, which are included within the enclosed plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Powell with my staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and Reform

OVERSIGHT PLAN
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
116th Congress
The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman

Rule X, Clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each committee of the House to submit an oversight plan to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on House Administration by March 1 of the first session of Congress.

The following is the oversight plan for the Committee on Oversight and Reform for the 116th Congress. This plan consists of topics designated for investigation, evaluation, and review by Chairman Elijah E. Cummings, in consultation with Ranking Member Jim Jordan, other Committee Members, and other Committees.

Before the end of March, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is expected to issue its biannual “High Risk” report, which identifies government programs that are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud, or abuse.¹ In addition, the Inspectors General from various agencies have submitted audit plans to the Committee.² The Committee will review GAO’s report and the Inspector General plans and investigate areas of concern as appropriate.

The Committee has received, and will continue to receive, information from whistleblowers regarding waste, fraud, and abuse. Whistleblowers perform an essential service to the Committee, flagging critical issues that otherwise might go unnoticed and unaddressed.

Below are descriptions of some of the issues the Committee intends to investigate during the 116th Congress. This list is not exhaustive but highlights significant areas for Committee oversight. The Committee will retain the flexibility to investigate emerging abuses and other issues as appropriate.

Health Care and Increasing Drug Prices

The Committee’s most important health care priority for the 116th Congress is investigating the actions of drug companies in raising prescription drug prices in the United States, as well as the effects of these actions on federal and state budgets and on American families. This was the subject of the Committee’s first investigation and first hearing. The Committee recognizes the complex nature of the prescription drug industry and the need to examine the role of all pertinent actors.

¹ See, e.g., Government Accountability Office, *High Risk Series: Progress on Many High-Risk Areas, While Substantial Efforts Needed on Others* (GAO-17-317) (Feb. 15, 2017).

² See, e.g., Office of Inspector General, Department of Labor, *Office of Audit Workplan Fiscal Year 2019* (November 2018).

For years, drug companies have been aggressively increasing prices on existing drugs and setting higher launch prices for new drugs while recording windfall profits. The goals of this investigation are to determine why drug companies are increasing prices so dramatically, how drug companies are using the proceeds, and what steps can be taken to reduce prescription drug prices.

Research and development efforts on groundbreaking medications have made immeasurable contributions to the health of Americans, including new treatments and cures for diseases that have affected people for centuries. But the ongoing escalation of prices by drug companies is unsustainable. As President Trump has said, drug companies are “getting away with murder.”³

In addition, the Committee will examine the opioid crisis and the urgent need for more resources to expand access to treatment and support services for those with substance use disorders. The Committee will examine the role of drug companies in aggressively marketing opioids while knowing their addictive dangers, as well as the profits these companies made as a result of their actions. The Committee will review the federal government’s actions to address the opioid epidemic, including those of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which was reauthorized in the 115th Congress.

The Committee will examine actions that inhibit access to high-quality, affordable health care in the United States, including the Executive Branch’s implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid program.

The Committee will continue to examine efforts by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to improve program integrity and beneficiary outcomes.

The Committee will evaluate the extent to which communities of color, women, and the LGBTQ population are able to access the full continuum of health care services, including federal policies and programs related to reproductive health.

Executive Branch Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability

Another top priority for the Committee in the 116th Congress is conducting robust oversight of a wide range of laws and regulations regarding Executive Branch ethics.

The Committee’s second hearing of the year was a review of H.R. 1, the For the People Act, which is one of the boldest reform packages to be considered in the history of the House of Representatives.⁴ This sweeping legislation, which was based on multiple abuses over the past

³ *Trump on Drug Prices: Pharma Companies Are “Getting Away with Murder,”* Washington Post (Jan. 11, 2017) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/01/11/trump-on-drug-prices-pharma-companies-are-getting-away-with-murder/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.bf515b3ac693).

⁴ *House Democrats’ Big Democracy Reform Package is Good Policy, and Smart Politics*, Vox (Dec. 10, 2018) (online at www.vox.com/polyarchy/2018/12/10/18134994/house-democrats-democracy-reform-package); Democracy Task Force, *Leading Grassroots Advocacy Organizations Endorse House Democrats’ Once-In-A-*

several years, is intended to clean up corruption in government, fight secret money in politics, and make it easier for American citizens across this country to vote.

As part of this broad effort, the Committee will investigate specific allegations that Executive Branch officials are not acting in the best interest of American taxpayers, including by taking actions to benefit themselves, former employers, or former clients.⁵

The Committee will examine allegations that Executive Branch employees, including White House employees, are violating the Ethics in Government Act, regulations issued by the Office of Government Ethics, Executive Order 13770, and other laws, regulations, and guidance.⁶

The Committee will investigate allegations that White House and agency employees have violated the Hatch Act.⁷ The Committee will conduct oversight of efforts to implement and enforce the Hatch Act by the Office of Special Counsel.

The Committee will investigate reports that White House and other Administration officials are obstructing GAO audits, evaluations, and investigations and refusing to cooperate with agency Inspectors General.⁸ The Committee will work with the Inspector General community to ensure they have the necessary tools and are performing their oversight fairly and responsibly.

The Committee will investigate allegations that White House officials are not complying with the Presidential Records Act.⁹ The Committee will investigate allegations that White

Generation Reform Package (Jan. 9, 2019) (online at democracyreform-sarbanes.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/leading-grassroots-advocacy-organizations-endorse-house-democrats-once-in-a).

⁵ See, e.g., *E.P.A. Chief Scott Pruitt Resigns Under a Cloud of Ethics Scandals*, New York Times (July 5, 2018) (online at www.nytimes.com/2018/07/05/climate/scott-pruitt-epa-trump.html); See e.g., *Trump Team's Conflicts and Scandals: An Interactive Guide*, Bloomberg (Jan. 25, 2019) (online at www.bloomberg.com/graphics/trump-administration-conflicts/).

⁶ See, e.g., *Wilbur Ross Scheduled Meetings with Chevron, Boeing Despite Conflicts of Interest*, Forbes (Oct. 25, 2018) (online at www.forbes.com/sites/danalexander/2018/10/25/wilbur-ross-scheduled-meetings-with-chevron-boeing-despite-conflicts-of-interest/#30c51af94d0e).

⁷ See e.g., Office of Special Counsel, *OSC Concludes Hatch Act Investigation of Kellyanne Conway, Finds Two Violations, and Refers Findings to President for Appropriate Disciplinary Action* (Mar. 6, 2018) (online at <https://osc.gov/News/pr-18-24.pdf>); See, e.g., *Six White House Officials Reprimanded for Violating the Hatch Act*, Washington Post (Nov. 30, 2018) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/six-white-house-officials-reprimanded-for-violating-the-hatch-act/2018/11/30/e4a12cb8-f4bf-11e8-acea-b85fd4449f5_story.html?utm_term=.6504cfaf022c).

⁸ See, e.g., Letter from Thomas H. Armstrong, General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, to Donald F. McGahn II, Counsel to the President, The White House (May 9, 2018) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/McGahn%20Letter.pdf>).

⁹ *Trump's Argument in Record-Keeping Case: 'Courts Cannot Review the President's Compliance with the Presidential Records Act'*, Washington Post (Jan. 17, 2018) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/trumps-argument-in-record-keeping-case-courts-cannot-review-the-presidents-compliance-with-the-presidential-records-act/2018/01/17/fb1eb520-fba8-11e7-ad8c-ecbb62019393_story.html?utm_term=.c55089c449ce).

House officials are using personal email accounts, text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software to conduct official business.¹⁰

The Committee will examine the implementation of open government laws, such as the Federal Records Act, the Freedom of Information Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and other transparency laws.

The Committee will continue to investigate allegations of retaliation against whistleblowers. The Committee's oversight efforts will include investigating the Administration's use of nondisclosure agreements that violate the Whistleblower Protection Act.

The President's Business Interests, Conflicts of Interest, and Emoluments

After Donald Trump was elected President in 2016—but before he was sworn in—both Republican and Democratic ethics experts warned that he should completely divest himself of his myriad business interests and place the proceeds into a truly independent blind trust. They explained that if the President decided not to follow decades of precedent set by previous Presidents, he would bring upon himself criticism that his decisions are not based on the best interests of the nation but on the financial interests of himself and his family.¹¹

President Trump chose to disregard this advice. As a result, he continues to have financial interests in businesses across the United States and around the world that pose both perceived and actual conflicts of interest. They also raise grave questions about whether President Trump is receiving emoluments that are prohibited by the U.S. Constitution “without the consent of Congress.”

Related to these decisions, President Trump also chose to defy decades of precedent by concealing his tax returns from the public, so Congress and the American people cannot fully evaluate his global financial interests.

Based on President Trump's decisions, the Committee is now charged with conducting robust and independent oversight of the President and his family's multiple business interests in order to guard against financial conflicts and unconstitutional emoluments.

Recognizing the unprecedented nature of President Trump's actions, the House of Representatives voted at the beginning of the 116th Congress to take several steps.

First, the House changed the name of the Committee from the “Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (OGR)” to the “Committee on Oversight and Reform (COR),”

¹⁰ *Id.* See, e.g., Letter from Chairman Jason Chaffetz, Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Donald F. McGahn, II, Counsel to the President, The White House (Mar. 8, 2017); Letter from Chairman Trey Gowdy, Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to Donald F. McGahn, II, Counsel to the President, The White House (Sept. 25, 2017).

¹¹ See, e.g., House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Democrats, *Minority Forum with Bipartisan Ethics Experts on Trump's Conflicts of Interest* (Dec. 14, 2016).

recognizing that the Committee has been conducting, and will continue to conduct, oversight of both governmental and private sector entities and individuals.

Second, the House made clearer in its Rules that the Committee has jurisdiction over the White House. For decades, the Committee has been the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives, and it has had broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. House Rule X now makes clearer that the Committee on Oversight and Reform has jurisdiction to “study on a continuing basis the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President.”

For example, the Committee is investigating President Trump’s failure to report on his annual Financial Disclosure form hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments and liabilities to his former attorney, Michael Cohen, to silence women alleging extramarital affairs during the 2016 presidential campaign. The Committee is also investigating campaign finance violations by the President and others relating to these payments.

The Committee is conducting oversight of the General Services Administration’s management of its lease of the Old Post Office Building to the President’s company for the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. As part of this review, the Committee is examining whether the President’s company is in breach of Article 37.19 of the lease, which provides: “No member or delegate to Congress, or elected official of the Government of the United States or the Government of the District of Columbia, shall be admitted to any share or part of this Lease, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom.”

The Committee is conducting oversight of the General Services Administration’s management of a decade-long procurement for a new headquarters building for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to replace the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington, D.C. The Committee is examining whether proposals for the expenditure of taxpayer funds protect against waste, fraud, and abuse, and whether any officials inappropriately interfered in the decision to cancel the procurement in favor of a costlier option.

The Committee is investigating the Administration’s travel spending, including the President’s spending on trips to Mar-a-Lago. GAO found that the Trump Administration spent approximately \$13.6 million in taxpayer funds for just four of the trips President Trump has taken to Mar-a-Lago.¹²

Security Clearances

One of the Committee’s most critical national security investigations in the 116th Congress is its in-depth review of the security clearance process at the White House and the Trump Transition Team in response to grave breaches of national security at the highest levels of the Administration, including by former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and others.

¹² Government Accountability Office, *Presidential Travel: Secret Service and DOD Need to Ensure that Expenditure Reports are Prepared and Submitted to Congress* (Jan. 2019) (online at www.gao.gov/assets/700/696512.pdf).

The goals of this investigation are to determine why the White House and Transition Team appear to have disregarded established procedures for safeguarding classified information, evaluate the extent to which the nation's most highly guarded secrets were provided to officials who should not have had access to them, and develop reforms to remedy the flaws in current White House systems and practices.

In addition, the investigation will seek to determine why the White House is currently defying federal law by failing to provide to Congress information about its security clearance process required by the SECRET Act, a bipartisan bill that passed out of the Committee, passed both Houses of Congress, and was signed into law by President Trump on May 22, 2018.

The Committee will continue its oversight of efforts to reform the government-wide security clearance process, including the reduction of the background investigation backlog and impending transition of all investigation functions from the National Background Investigations Bureau to the Defense Department.

Voting Rights, Voter Suppression, and Election Security

The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy. Yet in recent elections, there have been numerous reports of attempted or actual voter suppression, and federal courts have struck down several state laws that disproportionately impacted minority voters. The Committee will investigate the development and impact of laws and policies that have hindered eligible individuals from registering to vote and casting their ballots. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of federal, state, and local efforts to increase voter registration and turnout. The Committee will conduct robust oversight to support the Voting Rights Act and other laws aimed at preventing barriers to those seeking to exercise their right to vote.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the security of election infrastructure and efforts by federal, state, and local governments to ensure elections and election systems are resilient against intrusion or interference.

Environment and Public Health

The Committee intends to examine government and private sector policies and actions related to the environment, natural resources, and public health. The Committee will review the extent to which federal agencies responsible for environmental and public health protection are fulfilling their statutory missions.

For example, the Committee will examine climate change. The earth is warming, humans are causing it, and action is needed now to stop it. The United States must lead the way in reducing emissions and seeking other ways to combat climate change, while also adapting to the impacts that Americans are already experiencing, including rising sea levels and more extreme weather. The Committee intends to conduct oversight of government and nongovernment activities related to these issues.

The Committee will continue its investigation of the Flint water crisis. Thousands of Americans in Flint, Michigan have been poisoned by their water, and many questions remain about the decision to switch the source of drinking water in Flint and about state government officials' response to this crisis.

The Committee will continue its investigation of the federal government's response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2017. In the weeks and months that followed, critical aid failed to reach millions of hurricane survivors. The Committee will examine who was responsible for the federal government's inadequate response, why the Trump Administration failed to heed the lessons learned after Hurricane Katrina, and whether recovery efforts remain insufficient.

Immigration

The Committee intends to conduct oversight of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other agencies tasked with developing and implementing federal immigration policies.

The Committee will investigate Trump Administration policies that have separated thousands of children from their families at the southern border. This investigation will include accounting for the separated children, as well as examining the planning, implementation, and impact of these policies.

The Committee also intends to examine the development and impact of Administration policies relating to the immigration detention system, visa and asylum applications, and other issues administered by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and other relevant agencies.

Workers' Rights and Protections

The Committee will examine issues related to the protection of workers' rights, including issues relating to wages and benefits, employment agreements, working conditions, and the right to organize and bargain collectively.

Since 2011, federal employees have contributed nearly \$200 billion to deficit reduction and other government programs. Federal workers have endured pay freezes, hiring freezes, higher pension contributions, and furloughs as a result of sequestration and government shutdowns, including the longest shutdown in our nation's history.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Administration's efforts to weaken collective bargaining rights and employee protections affecting federal workers. The Committee's oversight will seek to ensure that such efforts do not undermine the statutory right to bargain, the ability of employee unions to represent federal workers, or employee due process rights. The Committee will work to prevent the return of the current merit-based civil service to a patronage system.

The Committee will examine the impact of federal agency vacancies at all levels, staffing reductions, and a lack of diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce on employee engagement, morale, productivity, and agency mission.

Federal employees have the right to work in an environment free from any form of sexual harassment, and they have the right to report allegations of harassment or bullying without fear of retaliation. The Committee will examine how allegations of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct are handled at federal agencies, including the need for legislation to strengthen standards for agency processes used to receive and investigate allegations of harassment and bullying. The Committee will examine ways to improve agency processes for disciplining employees found to have committed sexual misconduct.

Homeland and National Security

The Committee intends to conduct oversight of multiple agencies charged with securing the homeland, enhancing national security, and promoting American interests overseas.

For example, the Committee is investigating alleged efforts by former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and others within the White House to rush the transfer of highly sensitive U.S. nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia in potential violation of the Atomic Energy Act and without review by Congress as required by law.

The Committee will examine management at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), with a focus on implementation of unfulfilled security recommendations made by the Inspector General, GAO, and TSA's own internal testing teams. The Committee will continue the work of previous congresses and examine the agency's transparency, the agency's response to whistleblower claims, and the agency's use of non-disclosure agreements.

The Committee will examine management of the Coast Guard, including the Coast Guard's response to allegations and findings of harassment, bullying, and retaliation at the Coast Guard Academy.

The Committee will investigate reports that senior political appointees at the State Department and White House have engaged in prohibited personnel practices against career State Department employees, including by vetting career officials to determine whether they are sufficiently loyal to President Trump.

The Committee will continue its oversight of the Secret Service's efforts to reduce attrition and improve morale, especially in anticipation of the highly demanding 2020 presidential campaign. The Committee will examine the President's and his family's frequent travel and any impact on the agency's ability to fulfill its critical mission.

Criminal Justice Reform

The United States has the highest rate of incarceration of any nation on earth, and many observers have raised concerns about bias and unequal treatment throughout our nation's

criminal justice system. Although Congress passed, and President Trump signed into law, limited reforms to federal sentencing laws last year, more remains to be done to improve the criminal justice system while continuing to prevent and deter crime.

The Committee intends to conduct oversight of the federal departments and agencies responsible for administering the criminal justice system and to explore policy solutions at the federal, state, and local levels to address bias, eliminate excessive sentencing, help incarcerated people transition back into society, and reduce recidivism.

The Committee will also continue to examine staffing, resources, and facilities management challenges at the Justice Department's Bureau of Prisons.

Census

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Census Bureau and preparations for the Decennial Census in 2020. The Census is mandated by the Constitution and requires the Administration to count every person in the United States. Due to the complexity and importance of the Census, robust oversight is critical to ensure that the Census Bureau is ready and able to conduct an accurate and fair count. The Committee will examine Census planning, preparations, and readiness; technology and cybersecurity; communications; and other issues.

The Committee will also examine the Trump Administration's efforts to add a citizenship question to the Census after the deadline to notify of Congress of new census topics. The Committee will examine inaccurate testimony to Congress by multiple Trump Administration officials regarding the origination and the purported need for the citizenship question.

Postal Service

The Committee will oversee the operations of the United States Postal Service, over which the Committee exercises legislative and oversight jurisdiction. The Postal Service is an essential public institution that connects every family, business, and community in this nation by providing service to more than 157 million delivery points across the United States. The Committee will examine the urgent need for comprehensive reform legislation that can address the Postal Service's deepening financial challenges while guaranteeing universal service.

In addition, following an individual's attempt last year to send more than a dozen explosive devices through the U.S. mail to elected officials and media organizations, the Committee will conduct oversight of efforts by the Postal Service to protect its customers and prevent the shipment of explosives and other dangerous items.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

The Committee will continue its oversight of the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA), which requires federal agencies to implement a number of security controls on their information systems. The Committee will examine compliance with FISMA throughout the Executive Branch.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the increasing number of cyberattacks affecting federal agencies and the private sector, including companies in the retail, financial services, healthcare, and technology sectors. In recent years, millions of Americans have had their privacy compromised and personal data exposed due to data breaches. The Committee intends to explore ways to ensure that agencies and corporate entities take appropriate steps to protect American consumers' privacy and their personal information.

The Committee also will continue its oversight of government-wide cybersecurity tools and support provided to federal agencies by the administration, including but not limited to the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) program. The Committee will examine whether existing cybersecurity programs are adequately protecting federal networks from cyber threats.

Consumer Protection

Federal consumer watchdogs, including the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Trade Commission, and other agencies, work to stop unfair and deceptive business practices related to credit cards, student loans, mortgages, and other services and products. The Committee intends to conduct oversight to ensure these agencies are meeting their statutory responsibilities to protect consumers.

The Committee intends to conduct oversight of the management of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including examining the Department's rollback of regulations intended to combat housing discrimination.

Student Loans and For-Profit Colleges

Nearly 43 million Americans are paying off student loans, with approximately \$1.4 trillion in student debt outstanding.¹³ The Committee plans to examine the Department of Education's oversight of the student loan and for-profit college industries.

Title IX and Campus Sexual Assault

The Committee intends to conduct oversight of the Department of Education's enforcement of Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which protects people from sex discrimination in federally-funded education programs. One area of focus will be the Department's proposed regulation related to campus sexual harassment and sexual assault.

Government Contracting

The federal government buys a wide variety of goods and services, from sophisticated weapons systems to cybersecurity tools and services. The Committee will investigate waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement and conduct oversight of recent acquisition reforms, including on-line procurement. The Committee will conduct oversight of agency contracting, especially those agencies identified by GAO as "high risks," to ensure there is appropriate management of

¹³ Congressional Research Service, *A Snapshot of Federal Student Loan Debt* (Feb. 4, 2019).

taxpayer funds and agencies are effectively using acquisition strategies to achieve policy goals. The Committee will examine how to lower the barriers to entry for small and disadvantaged businesses.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

The Subcommittee on National Security intends to conduct robust oversight of national security and foreign affairs policies, including but not limited to:

- U.S. military, intelligence, and counterterrorism strategies and operations in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Sub-Saharan Africa, and other conflict areas;
- U.S. national security and defense strategies and foreign policy regarding Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Venezuela, and other countries critical to U.S. national security priorities;
- U.S. reconstruction activities in Afghanistan and Iraq;
- The preparedness of the diplomatic corps to represent U.S. interests abroad, and oversight of how the Defense Department and State Department protect embassy construction personnel and property, including an update on U.S. Embassy construction efforts;
- The role of the U.S. Agency for International Development and United Nations Peacekeeping operations in the U.S. national security framework;
- State-sponsored and terrorist cyber threats to national security;
- Homeland security policies, including immigration, efforts to prevent human and drug trafficking, and how federal agencies address the national security threat posed by transnational criminal organizations and drug cartels;
- Efforts the federal government to promote human rights and protect religious freedom throughout the world;
- The efforts of the Defense Department and State Department to return U.S. servicemember remains from North Korea and elsewhere;
- The treatment of veterans, including oversight of how the Defense Department and VA address suicides by active-duty, reservists, and veterans; and
- Federal acquisition policy related to national security.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Intelligence

Community, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, U.S. Agency for International Development, and other entities within its jurisdiction.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The Subcommittee on Government Operations intends to conduct robust oversight of many aspects of the Executive Branch, including but not limited to:

- Federal information technology and cybersecurity policy, including compliance with the requirements of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act and the Federal Information Security Management Act;
- Agency compliance with and enforcement of federal labor law;
- The transparency of the Administration's reorganization plans and their effects on the missions of federal agencies;
- Protections for whistleblowers and the performance of the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Special Counsel;
- The financial management and reform of the U.S. Postal Service;
- The safety, infrastructure, finances and performance of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;
- Intergovernmental affairs, including state and local governments; and
- The management and procurement of federal property.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Office of Personnel Management, the Office of Management and Budget, the General Services Administration, and other entities within its jurisdiction.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND CONSUMER POLICY

The Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy intends to conduct robust oversight of the role that public policy plays in the lives of the American people, including but not limited to:

- Free market and commerce regulations that impact Americans' safety and well-being;
- The causes of income inequality and the policies required to promote the growth and prosperity of the middle class;

- Consumer protection in the areas of finance, education, housing, and telecommunications, among others;
- The economic and social impact of federal policies relating to labor, intellectual property, taxes, trade, small business and investor protections;
- Cybersecurity and digital privacy in the private sector; and
- Federal acquisition policy unrelated to national security and information technology.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Department of the Treasury, Department of Education, Small Business Administration, Department of Labor, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services, and other entities within its jurisdiction.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

The Subcommittee on Environment intends to conduct robust oversight of our nation's environmental protection policies, with a focus on climate change and its growing threat to our society, actions to promote the development of sustainable energy, and market conditions to promote robust competition in the energy sector, including but not limited to:

- Regulatory reform efforts by federal agencies and their impacts;
- Examining current challenges and potential solutions regarding the storage of nuclear waste;
- Examining the federal government's preparation for, and response to, natural disasters, particularly as it relates to federal agencies serving all citizens in U.S. jurisdictions;
- Requiring transparency in the Executive Branch in relation to its actions and policy-making processes;
- Examining the Executive Branch's effectiveness in addressing climate change and its impacts;
- Exploring the Executive Branch's role in global climate change mitigation efforts and examining the decision-making processes related to international agreements;
- Examining the practices of the private sector in addressing the anthropogenic causes of climate change as well as mitigating its current and future effects;
- Examining the public health implications of government actions and policies; and

- Exploring opportunities for government agencies and the private sector to develop alternative energy sources.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, and other entities within its jurisdiction.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties intends to conduct robust oversight of the enforcement of civil rights and civil liberties, including but not limited to:

- Recent efforts to suppress voting;
- The status of freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly;
- The status of Equal Protection and respect for equal rights throughout government and society;
- Respect for due process in the immigration system and the treatment of undocumented immigrants and refugee asylum seekers and their families;
- The enforcement of laws ensuring equal employment and the use of non-disclosure agreements in employment and other contexts;
- Criminal justice reform policies; and
- The Census.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Census Bureau, Department of Justice, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, federal and state voting authorities, and other entities within its jurisdiction.

**Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
116th Congress Oversight Plan**

REPUBLICAN VIEWS

The Republican Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform intend to conduct objective, fact-based oversight of the Executive Branch. The Members will continue to work closely with the Government Accountability Office, the community of Inspectors General (IG), good-government groups, whistleblowers, and others to improve the efficiency and transparency of the federal government. While the Democrat majority seems intent on investigating the Trump Administration for partisan gain, the Republican Members will conduct responsible oversight to make the federal government more effective and more accountable to the American people.

Department of Justice Abuses

The Republican Members will continue their oversight into wrongdoing at the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In the 115th Congress, the Committee began a wide-ranging investigation into actions taken by the DOJ and FBI in 2016 and 2017. The Members will continue to examine the conduct of the DOJ and FBI personnel in departing from the norms of impartial justice and fairness, the political bias of DOJ and FBI personnel, departures from traditional investigative and prosecutorial practices, and insufficient adherence to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

In addition, the Republican Members will examine reports that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein discussed removing the President from power and recording his conversations with the President. The Members will seek Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein's testimony about these allegations at a public hearing.

Obamacare and Health Care Reform

The Republican Members will continue to examine the consequences of Obamacare to America's healthcare system. The Members will seek to bring transparency to the federal government's increased role in health care markets, with an emphasis on assessing Obamacare's effect on consumer choice and insurance premiums.

The Members will continue to examine efforts by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid program. The GAO has consistently classified Medicaid as a "high risk" program due to its increasing size and expense, stressing the need for enhanced oversight and data quality. The Members will also assess the incentives created by the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion for states to obtain more federal funding by artificially changing their state share.

The Republican Members will also examine the opioid crisis, its effects on states and localities, and how the federal government can best assist state and local jurisdictions. The Members will review the ongoing multi-district opioid litigation, in which trial lawyers are aggressively targeting pharmaceutical companies in the hopes of a multi-billion-dollar settlement.

The Republican Members will also conduct oversight of the Food and Drug Administration's implementation of Right to Try and its enforcement actions relating to e-cigarettes.

Border Security and Immigration Enforcement

The Republican Members will continue to oversee the Executive Branch's enforcement of border security and immigration laws. The Southern border should be secured, and the issues of illegal entry and crime should be addressed. The Members will assess the laws, regulations, and policies that incentivize caravans of migrants from Central America to make the long and dangerous journey to our Southern Border. The Members will examine how violent transnational criminal organizations exploit loopholes in our immigration laws for drug smuggling and human trafficking. Finally, the Republican Members will conduct oversight of the 1997 *Flores* Settlement Agreement.

Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Association

The Republican Members will continue to conduct oversight of attempts to restrict Americans' freedoms of speech and assembly by compelling the disclosure of the organizations to which they donate. In *NAACP v. Alabama* the Supreme Court explained that "[i]nviolability of privacy in group association may in many circumstances be indispensable to preservation of freedom of association" and that there is "a vital relationship between freedom to associate and privacy in one's associations."¹ The Members will continue their oversight of the Internal Revenue Service's efforts to eliminate the proactive collection of sensitive donor information.

The Republican Members will also continue to conduct oversight of allegations that social media companies reduced the visibility of conservative social media accounts, effectively silencing those individuals' right to free speech.

Regulatory Reform

The Republican Members will continue to examine the effect of burdensome regulations on small businesses and job creators. According to one analysis, the growth of regulation since 1980 had resulted in a loss of \$4 trillion in potential gross domestic product for 2012.² The Members will assess the effects of the Trump Administration's attempts to eliminate overly burdensome, outdated, or duplicative regulations. The Members will also evaluate rulemakings

¹ *NAACP v. Alabama*, 357 U.S. 449, 462 (1958).

² BENTLEY COFFEY, PATRICK A. MCLAUGHLIN, AND PIETRO PERETTO, MERCATUS CENTER, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, *THE CUMULATIVE COST OF REGULATIONS 8* (2016), *available at* <https://www.mercatus.org/system/files/Coffey-Cumulative-Cost-Regs-v3.pdf>.

to ensure that they do not exceed their statutory authority and adhere to the requirements specified in federal law. The Members will examine rulemaking practices that do not adhere to typical rulemaking requirements, such as the issuance of guidance documents, interim final rulemakings, and settlement agreements.

An Effective and Accountable Federal Workforce

The Republican Members will continue to encourage a federal workforce that is efficient, effective, and accountable to the American taxpayers. The Members will assess the Administration's efforts to make federal workers more accountable for poor performance or misconduct, including sexual misconduct. The Members will assess the use of taxpayer-funded official time by federal workers, some of whom perform exclusively union business during work hours.

In addition, the Members will support the work of the Office of Special Counsel and will examine findings of systemic Hatch Act violations in the United States Postal Service. The Members will support the work of the IG community, and strive that IGs have the resources they need to carry out their duties responsibly.

2020 Decennial Census

The cost of the decennial census is rising—the total cost for the 2000 census was \$9.4 billion; the total cost for the 2010 census was \$12.3 billion. The Census Bureau estimates a cost of more than \$15 billion for the 2020 Census.³ The Republican Members will continue to monitor the development of the Census.

Education

The Republican Members will support oversight to improve educational opportunities for all Americans. For example, the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program is a successful program that is making a meaningful difference in the lives of D.C. families. The Members will examine school choice in the District of Columbia and its potential to improve educational opportunities for students nationwide.

Cybersecurity

The Republican Members will continue to examine implementation of federal laws to enhance cybersecurity at federal agencies, including the Federal Information Management Act of 2002 and the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015. The Members will focus on the state of cybersecurity practices at federal agencies, as well as federal agencies' policies and regulations affecting cybersecurity technology.

³ 2020 Census Life-cycle Cost Estimate (Dec. 21, 2017).

The CHAIRPERSON. I would just note that, you know, part of what your committee is dealing with were very substantial decreases in prior Congresses: in the 113th, an 8-percent decrease; 113th Congress, an almost 14-percent decrease. And so here you are with a lot to do, and so I recognize that.

I respect that you have always supported your Chairmen's requests——

Mr. CUMMINGS. Always.

The CHAIRPERSON [continuing]. Even though you might not have agreed with them completely in the past, which has been, I think, the pattern for the Congress.

So I will note that this Committee and all the others do important work. When you look at the staffing of Congress, compared to the entire Federal Government, we are really not staffed up to take the kind of scrutiny that is required over Federal agencies.

We are the first branch of government. We have responsibilities. We need to make sure that not only in our individual offices but in our committees that we are equipped to discharge those obligations in an efficient and professional manner.

I will note that we have received, not just with this committee request but with other committees, requests for increases. The appropriations bill has already been passed for this year, and so we are operating within that constraint. So, meritorious as many of these requests may be, we are going to have to put on our green eyeshades and see what can be done for all of the requests that are coming in, as well as the Members' Representational Allowance. We will do our very best within the constraints that we have. And we will be doing the markup when we return from the recess.

Thank you both very much for being here.

And I believe that is the only testimony we have so we can adjourn this hearing without objection and we will reconvene after the recess for the actual allocations.

Without objection, we are adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:46 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]