

**To:** Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee

**Date:** March 16, 2026

**From:** The Honorable Jodey C. Arrington (R-TX-19)

**Re:** Member Testimony for Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee Member Day

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, and thank you to the members of this Subcommittee for having me here to testify today.

As the Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget, it is my responsibility to ensure the Committee conducts proper oversight of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The CBO plays an instrumental role in providing Members of Congress with pertinent information on how the bills they are voting on impact the economy and the federal debt and deficit. It is critical that the CBO provides Members with the most accurate and transparent information possible as our nation's debt has reached its highest level as a percentage of GDP since World War II.

Throughout the CBO's 50-year history, it has never gone through a comprehensive audit to review the modernity of its methodologies, models, and technology. Every major agency in the federal government is subject to independent financial, operational, and programmatic review, and the CBO should be no different.

It has come to the Budget Committee's attention that advancements are needed at the CBO to modernize and improve operational efficiency in order to help Congress make effective budget and economic policy. I believe an independent audit is necessary to improve CBO's forecasting accuracy, its transparency to the American people, and its ability to truly remain a non-partisan entity. An independent audit would cut through partisanship and provide a clear-eyed, objective assessment of how the CBO's operations can be strengthened. I can't imagine any organization achieving a standard of excellence and having a culture of continuous improvement without an independent audit.

Doing so will only increase confidence and trust in the CBO's models and scoring, allowing Members to make the most informed decisions possible when considering potential legislation.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.