

Statement of Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte  
Committee on House Administration  
Judiciary Committee Budget for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, First Session  
Wednesday, March 6, 2013

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**Chairman Miller, Ranking Member Brady and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Judiciary Committee's budget for the First Session of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.**

**In this economy all Americans are forced to tighten their belts and do more with less. I recognize that and the Judiciary Committee is prepared to do the same. However, Ranking Member Conyers and I would like to make the case before you today that the Judiciary Committee is deserving of the maximum amount of funds that you can dedicate to it.**

**Historically, the Judiciary Committee is one of the most active Committees in the House. In the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, for example, over 14.5% of the total**

legislative measures introduced were referred to this Committee. The Judiciary Committee reported 77 bills and resolutions to the House, with accompanying legislative reports on all but a few. In addition, a total of 42 bills in which the Judiciary Committee had a jurisdictional interest were signed into law by the President. Already in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Judiciary Committee has been hard at work to meet the demands of the heavy workload of the committee, including work on issues of great importance to the entire Congress. One only needs to pick up a newspaper and read the headlines to appreciate how busy the Judiciary Committee has been and will continue to be this year as we consider such issues as immigration reform and firearms in addition to our normal heavy workload. We also expect to increase the Committee's efforts to engage in aggressive oversight this Congress.

**Among the important issues the Committee continues to consider are ensuring that federal law enforcement agencies have the necessary tools to prevent terrorist attacks; that the Constitutional rights and civil liberties of Americans are protected; that America's borders are secure; and that the administration of justice is fair and efficient within both the Justice Department and federal law enforcement agencies and within our federal judiciary.**

**In addition, the Committee plays an important role in strengthening our economy and putting Americans back to work. We ensure robust and fair competition under the antitrust laws, encourage innovation and promote America's global competitiveness through our intellectual property laws, improve our immigration laws to attract the best and brightest from around the world and bolster the business climate by providing relief from burdensome and excessive regulations.**

**These issues are critical to the safety and economic well-being of millions of Americans.**

**Because of this, it is vital that we retain a highly qualified staff as the cornerstone of the Committee's capacity to consider complicated and often controversial legislation and policy issues that fall within its jurisdiction.**

**To attract and retain quality staff, the Committee must be able to offer compensation that is at least somewhat competitive with the private sector.**

**This is particularly challenging when a disproportionate number of committee staff are attorneys with substantial experience and public policy expertise who could command higher salaries from the private sector.**

**In addition to the personnel that are necessary to manage the demanding workload of the Judiciary Committee, there are operating funds that will be critical**

**in enabling the Committee to properly investigate certain policy issues under its jurisdiction. For example, I believe that it is an important function of the Committee to conduct field hearings on certain complex issues, such as immigration reform, where a full evaluation of the issue is not possible without seeing firsthand how the current programs operate and to better understand the successes and deficiencies of the current law.**

**Furthermore, one of the commitments that I made when I became Chairman of the Judiciary Committee is that the Committee would build a new, cutting-edge website to replace the outdated website that currently exists. It is a disservice to the members of the House and the public to not provide user-friendly, current, transparent information about the important issues being considered by the Judiciary Committee and**

therefore, rebuilding the Committee's website is a top priority.

While I will do what is necessary to ensure that the Judiciary Committee is even more productive while operating with less, I respectfully request that when allocating funds to committees, you take into account the legislative burden of the committee and whether it will require more resources when compared with other committees.

I thank you for your time and yield back the balance of my time.

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