

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE PAUL D. RYAN
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
March 6, 2013

Thank you, Chairman Miller and Congressman Brady, for the opportunity to testify concerning the Budget Committee's funding request for 2013.

The Budget Committee has requested a flat budget for the past 8 years and we have kept spending within the levels approved by this Committee. I have worked to maintain the disciplined approach to our budget that is a bipartisan tradition of the Budget Committee. For example, Chairman Spratt operated the committee well within its authorized level. I am determined to continue this prudent stewardship of our budget going forward.

Last year was an extraordinary year with large demands on the committee's resources. In addition to committee approval and House passage of the fiscal year 2013 budget resolution, we approved and passed through the House several budget process reform measures, including the bipartisan Expedited Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act which was sponsored by Mr. Van Hollen and me. We also reported and moved through the House the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act that would have replaced the impending automatic spending cuts with other spending reforms. We also, on a bipartisan basis, reported and passed through the House the Sequestration Transparency Act which the President signed into law in August. This legislation gave us important advance information about the sequester. Our work was also devoted to the fiscal cliff, debt ceiling, the sequester, and the continuing resolution.

As you examine the Budget Committee's actual expenditures from last year, I ask that you keep in mind that they were unusually low due to special one-time factors. As you know, in addition to running for Congress, I pursued another office last year. In addition, five members of my Budget Committee staff requested and were granted leave without pay from the Committee in accordance with House rules. Due to uncertainty associated with these factors, two existing vacancies for senior staff positions on my Budget Committee staff were not filled.

We at the Budget Committee have prided ourselves on living within the funds with which we have been provided. In addition, regardless of which party has been in the Majority, we have always fostered a collegial relationship on the issue of the Committee's budget. We have a bipartisan tradition regarding the allocation of resources between the Majority and Minority. The Majority makes at least one-third of the personnel budget available to the Minority, and this is the largest area of our spending needs. Equipment for both the Majority and Minority then comes out of the common fund, on the same schedule, and with the same quality, for both sides.

This year's budget proposal continues that tradition. I believe our request is a disciplined budget that treats the Minority fairly, and I believe Mr. Van Hollen's testimony supports both our budget request and our plans for the management of committee funds.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.