



Statement of Chairman Devin Nunes and Ranking Member Adam Schiff

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Before the Committee on House Administration

Committee Budget Request for the 114th Congress

February 4, 2015

Chairman Miller, Ranking Member Brady, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about the Intelligence Committee's budget request for the 114th Congress.

The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is charged with overseeing 17 entities that comprise the intelligence community of our federal government. Along with the Senate Intelligence Committee, it is the primary access point between the classified world of intelligence, Congress, and the American people. Our mission is twofold: to conduct diligent oversight while also providing the resources necessary to those operating at the tip of the spear. This responsibility grows with each passing year.

Entering the 114th Congress, the Committee has undertaken a significant reorganization designed to meet the increasingly complex challenge of oversight of the intelligence community and its activities. Specifically, the Committee, via a change to House Rules, increased its membership to 22 Members and has reorganized and expanded its subcommittees from three to four.

These changes will require the Committee to expand staffing to properly serve the committee members. Even under the smaller committee structure in the 113th Congress, it operated with one-third fewer staff than what is appropriate for fulfilling the committee's responsibilities.

The increased membership and planned increase in staffing will also require an expansion of the Committee's travel budget.

Furthermore, due to previous budget shortfalls, the Committee has delayed upgrading electronic equipment that is quickly approaching obsolescence. The Committee anticipates a significant level of replacement during the 114th Congress that will strain the Committee's budget. This reflects unique challenges facing the Intelligence Committee, since it has to maintain three separate classified and unclassified computer systems and sets of equipment as well as a separate fleet of communication devices used during international travel. Support for these systems requires expensive contractors with high-level clearances.

Given these facts and the unique nature of our Committee's work, we respectfully request a 3.6 percent increase above the authorized level of the 113th Congress – which is still 12 percent below the level authorized in the 112th Congress.

Thank you for allowing the Ranking Member and me to present our request for the 114th Congress. We welcome any questions the Committee may have.