

Richard E. Neal, Ranking Democrat
Committee on Ways and Means
Before the Committee on House Administration
Wednesday, February 15, 2017

- We are in support of the Ways and Means Committee budget submission which requests a modest increase in our Committee allocation.
- We were consulted as this budget was being developed and had an opportunity for input.
- As you can see, the largest part of our funding is dedicated to salaries with the rest going toward telecommunications, publications and water filtration service.
- Despite seeing a slight increase in our funding levels last Congress, we still rely heavily on House negotiated contracts with publication vendors.
- The Committee on Ways and Means has been tasked with a broad area of jurisdiction that includes Tax, Trade, and Entitlement Reform.
- While we differ from Republicans in our Democratic agenda, I believe that Chairman Brady and I can agree that the bulk of legislation in this body comes from the Committee on Ways and Means.

- What is apparent by the expenses incurred in the last Congress is that if more cuts are forthcoming this Committee cannot operate without cutting core legislative work. In fact, given the likelihood of both tax and health reform, an increase in the Committee's budget commensurate with this increased legislative work would be appreciated.
- I am very pleased to report that the Democrats will have full control over our 1/3 share of the Committee's budget.
- I hope that you consider these facts when you make your decision.