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Testimony Before the Committee on House Administration
Louise M. Slaughter
February 15, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member Brady. I'm pleased to join Chairman Sessions today to present the Committee on Rules' budget request for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress.

It is no secret that our committee often is a place of heated policy debates. Our meetings are representational of the same type of conversations happening all across the country during this particularly contentious environment. At the same time, however, I am proud that these debates have always remained solely about legislative substance and the process by which legislation goes to the floor, and not about how the committee functions administratively.

This committee stands alone in its unique mission of facilitating the work of all other House committees. Chairman Sessions and I take this responsibility seriously, and have worked in lockstep to ensure this committee fulfills its unique mission fairly and justly.

This principle guides the division of everything from equipment and office supplies to the allocation of space and personnel. I am grateful that Chairman Sessions is continuing the tradition of providing the minority full control over one-third of the committee's overall budget. The House Rules Committee has one of the smallest budgets of any committee in Congress, and this approach of administrative equity has helped ensure we are fulfilling our mission efficiently and effectively.

I fully support Chairman Sessions' request to the House Administration Committee. As Chairman Sessions has said, it is essential for our Democracy that every Majority has a fully functioning minority. This request will ensure that the Majority and minority alike can robustly fulfill their obligations to this body and the American people.

I want to also take a moment and thank the extraordinary staff of our committee on both sides. The Rules Committee is like family and I believe it has the most respected staff on Capitol Hill. In order for the House to fully function, the Rules Committee must be able to consider legislation quickly, and that often means working long hours sometimes late into the night. The Majority and minority staffs work hard and they work together, whether this committee meets in the morning or at midnight. They embody the collaborative approach that this committee is known for.

I'm proud to present this budget with Chairman Sessions today. I want to thank Chairman Sessions and Ranking Member Brady once again, and all the committee members, for your time and attention. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.