

**Statement of the Honorable Madeleine Dean, Vice
Chair, House Judiciary Committee, before the Committee on House
Administration’s Hearing on “Committee Funding for the 117th
Congress”**

March 12, 2021

Chairperson Lofgren, Ranking Member Davis, and Members of the Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today on behalf of Chairman Nadler to discuss the House Judiciary Committee’s funding request for the 117th Congress. Mr. Nadler asked me to apologize to the Committee for being unable to testify before you today due to preexisting commitments.

The House Judiciary Committee has historically been one of the most active committees in the House. Our wide jurisdiction—ranging from antitrust, immigration, and constitutional law, to issues relating to criminal justice, civil rights, and the courts—places us at the forefront of many of the most pressing issues facing our country today. In fact, last Congress 1,724 legislative measures were referred to this Committee, representing roughly 15% of the bills in the House. The Judiciary

Committee held 91 hearings and reported 78 bills and resolutions to the House and had primary jurisdictional involvement in the passage of 107 bills and resolutions. Despite a divided Congress and a Republican White House, we were able to work across the aisle to pass 45 Judiciary bills into law.

We expect to be even busier this Congress. We have already held 11 hearings, and 8 Judiciary bills and resolutions have already passed the full House of Representatives, and we expect at least another four Judiciary bills to be voted on next week. Many of our priority bills, including the Equality Act, policing reform, immigration reform, gun safety legislation, and violence against women legislation are under our jurisdiction. Other critical issues, like antitrust enforcement, voting rights, bankruptcy, arbitration, intellectual property and civil rights and liberties are also under our jurisdiction. We expect to have a robust oversight, hearing and markup schedule planned for the remainder of the year to tackle these and other issues.

With that in mind, we are requesting a 10% increase in funding for 2021 and an additional 5% increase over that for 2022. Our committee staff went above and beyond the ordinary course last Congress in working to deliver for the people, but we need to hire and recruit additional highly trained staff in order to fulfill our legislative and oversight responsibilities. Due to the technical nature of the Committee's work, most of the Committee's vacancies will need to be filled by attorneys who have very specific legal knowledge and abilities, and we will need to offer salaries that are competitive with similar positions in other areas of government and in the private sector. We also pay for numerous subscription and software services that are essential to our Committee's functioning and our counsels' work. Our requested 2021 funding increase, as well the Committee's 2022 request which reflects inflation and additional costs arising from follow through on the work we will conduct in 2021—will be critical to recruiting and hiring the staff we need and providing them with the resources they need to succeed.

As in past years, after subtracting amounts to cover administrative expenses and salaries for shared employees, we will allocate 2/3rds of the remaining funds to the Majority and 1/3rd to the Minority to cover salaries. We also plan to maintain 5 shared employees for matters such as IT and payroll, as was the case last Congress.

With so many pressing issues before our country, this funding increase is critical to allow us to continue to deliver results for the American people. Thank you, and I look forward to taking your questions.