

Draft Statement of the Honorable Jodey C. Arrington
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
February 28, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle, for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Budget Committee's funding resolution for the 118th Congress. Given the current state of fiscal affairs we face in this country – runaway deficit spending and an unsustainable debt trajectory – it is imperative that we lead by example in being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Therefore, we are requesting that the Budget Committee's annual funding level for the 118th Congress remain frozen at the 2022 level. This requested amount will ensure that the Committee has the necessary resources to accomplish our current and future priorities.

Historically, the Budget Committee has maintained a bipartisan tradition of allocating its resources between the Majority and the Minority and I intend to continue this tradition. In the past, the Committee has allocated one-third of the Committee's budget to the Minority to ensure that both the Majority and Minority have adequate resources to carry out the Committee's responsibilities and maintain a highly professional staff.

We take our oversight responsibilities seriously and once the Committee completes its work on the fiscal year 2024 budget resolution, the Committee plans to hold several hearings on federal spending. These hearings would examine federal spending to identify both areas where spending for federal programs has been efficient and effective, as well as wasteful and unnecessary. Budget process reforms are another important tool to control federal spending and we plan on using our resources to pursue these reforms, working with my friend, the Ranking Member, Brendan Boyle.

I believe that our funding request is both responsible and disciplined to ensure that our resources are used wisely and efficiently, and it is my understanding that Mr. Boyle supports this request and our plans for the management of the Committee's funds.

I am honored to lead the Budget Committee and play an important role in protecting our children's future from the mountains of debt we have built. I hope to use the valuable resources you provide us to do just that. Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.