

**Testimony of Rep. Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman, Committee on Education and the Workforce  
before the Committee on House Administration  
on “Committee Funding for the 118th Congress”  
February 28, 2023**

Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear with my colleague, Ranking Member Scott, to testify about our budget request for the 118th Congress. In my experience, when it comes to opening statements, “less is more,” so hopefully I can live up to my own standards of brevity here.

The work of the Committee on Education and the Workforce is broad—from education and employment to health care and retirement, our work affects every aspect of people’s lives. That’s why the work we do here is so important. In that light, we have proposed a fiscally prudent budget that will allow the Committee to advance bold legislative and oversight agendas, while continuing to serve as trusted stewards of the resources we have been given by the American public.

The Committee respectfully requests a seven percent budget increase for the first session of the 118th Congress and an additional six percent increase for the second session of the 118th Congress. The request will provide the Committee with the resources needed to address the poor state of education at all levels and protect Americans’ ability to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce, while ensuring the policies and programs under the Committee’s jurisdiction operated effectively and efficiently.

The Committee will help advance a number of extensive legislative priorities this Congress. The pandemic gave us a window into just how broken our entire education system is. I know everyone here cares deeply about giving our nation’s students the best chance at success. Working together this Congress, we can truly improve the education system and give all students the opportunities they deserve. We will look for real solutions that help borrowers and protect taxpayers to address the broken student loan system.

Across every industry, we are seeing there is a workforce shortage. We will also strengthen our workforce development programs so we can close our nation’s skills gap and prepare the next generation of workers for our evolving economy.

As healthcare continues to be a huge expense for Americans, we will focus on strengthening and expanding access to employer-sponsored health insurance.

The Committee also will conduct vigorous oversight, ensuring the federal bureaucracy administers laws responsibly and as Congress intended. The executive branch has gotten too comfortable bypassing the legislative process set up by the Constitution. As the people’s representatives, we should all be willing to guard the authority granted to us by the Constitution, regardless of which party is in the Oval Office.

A I have said many times, my middle initial A no longer stands for Ann, but rather accountability. Everything we do will focus on holding the federal government bureaucrats accountable for how they spend taxpayers' hard-earned money.

In order to execute the Committee's robust legislative and oversight workload the Committee must be properly staffed. We need to recruit, hire, and retain staff in order to enhance the Committee's institutional knowledge and productivity. Many of these new staffers will need to have previous legislative or oversight experience and the committee must be able to compete in the marketplace for such robust talent.

To enhance the Committee's legislative and oversight efforts, we will pursue a strong schedule of hearings in Washington, D.C., regional field hearings, and relevant site visits to hear directly from affected parties and see firsthand the challenges facing our schools and workplaces.

The American people expect us to ensure that federal policies support and do not undermine their ability to pursue a lifetime of success and prosperity. Personally, my reputation for frugality is well-deserved, which is why we commit to spending each dollar we are allocated efficiently and effectively as we do the work the American people sent us to do.

We respectfully ask the committee to take these factors into account as you consider our budget request. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I appreciate your time and would be happy to answer any questions.