

**Testimony for Committee on House Administration  
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
Ranking Member James A. Himes  
February 27, 2023**

Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's (HPSCI) budget request for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

I am pleased to join Chairman Turner in this budget request. Chairman Turner and his staff have taken a collaborative and bipartisan approach as the Committee's work has gotten underway in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. The request we have jointly made to the Committee on House Administration would put HPSCI on strong footing to accomplish the critical priorities we have set out for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

HPSCI is a unique committee in many respects, not least because the agencies we oversee operate nearly entirely in secret. Unlike other committees which can benefit from the expertise and research of outside experts, journalists, and others, we cannot turn to those sources. Meanwhile, the task before the committee is vast and growing. The Committee oversees 18 IC agencies and tens of billions of dollars authorized each year, a herculean task that is done with a staff smaller than many other committees that oversee smaller agencies that are far less opaque. Additionally, the committee has grown from 22 members in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress to 25 members in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, which necessitates additional staff resources to support member engagements, briefings, travel, and more.

To perform the functions that the House and the American people expect us from us, the Committee requires a particularly specialized and experienced group of staff members. As the Committee's budget submission reflects, additional resources for professional staff members would ensure the committee's ability to bring on highly qualified and specialized staff, including those with technical backgrounds in high demand in the private sector and elsewhere. An increase in budget resources as well as an accompanying increase in FTEs is more than justified.

The additional resources requested by the Committee are also justified by the unique requirements of the committee to protect highly classified information. That includes the maintenance and security of an air-gapped classified system, along with other sizable expenses that support and secure the Committee's IT infrastructure. The Committee also incurs additional costs to acquire relevant IT products from a secure supply chain, which is especially critical given the counterintelligence threats we face.

Once again, I'd like to thank Chairman Turner for the strong partnership we have established. I urge the House Administration Committee to support this request. Thank you.