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Testimony Before the Committee on House Administration
Ranking Member James P. McGovern
February 28, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and Members of the Committee on House Administration. I'm pleased to be joining Chairman Cole today in presenting our request for funding for the Committee on Rules for the 118th Congress.

Our Committee is unique—our primary mission is not to write laws nor conduct direct oversight, but rather to facilitate the work of all other House committees and of the House itself. That means that we don't typically hire experts on one specific policy: our staff tracks every policy question that comes to the House floor and are seasoned experts on House procedures and precedents.

And as Ranking Member Morelle and Congresswoman Torres know from personal experience, our work does not run on a schedule limited by business hours: we know late nights better than anyone else in these halls. Further, our workload has only grown in recent years. For example, as recently as the 114th Congress, our Committee received under 4,000 amendment submissions for our consideration. Last Congress, we received over 8,500 submissions.

We take the responsibility of keeping this institution functioning very seriously and I believe that we have succeeded in being a resource for all members and staff serving here. A big part of that success has been our ability to hire and retain our extraordinary staff on both sides of the aisle.

We have also succeeded by keeping our disagreements where they belong: on matters of substance. When it comes to the logistics of running the committee and working within the budget allocated to us I could not ask for a better partner than my good friend from Oklahoma. Over the last two Congresses we worked closely as Chair and Ranking Member and I look forward to continuing that relationship with our roles reversed. I am also grateful that Chairman Cole is continuing our Committee's long tradition of providing the minority full control over one-third of our overall budget.

I support the request of this Committee from my Chairman: that we be provided the same amount of funding for each of the next two years as we were provided for last year. These funds will allow us to continue supporting this institution from its leadership to its committees to the staffs of every member office.

I thank each of you for your time and attention and am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.