

Remarks for Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA-03)

House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Testifying before the House Administration Committee

1309 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 | 12:20PM

Good afternoon, Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and members of the Committee. I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, as Ranking Member, with Chairwoman Foxx to speak in support of our bipartisan budget for the House Education and the Workforce.

I also want to thank Chairwoman Foxx for developing our Committee budget and support the request for the 118th Congress which represents no more than a seven percent increase over the last Congress. Although I believe our Committee deserves more than a seven percent increase, I think it is at least a sufficient enough increase to still carry out the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities. Moreover, Dr. Foxx and I want to continue to be a role model for our colleagues, and work in a productive, bipartisan manner. In short, we can disagree without being disagreeable.

Per the past practice, one-third of the budget will be allocated to the Minority. It has been the practice of the Committee to provide the Minority the autonomy over its budget allocation. I look forward to Chairwoman Foxx continuing to honor this Committee's tradition.

Moreover, the budget allocation will allow the Minority to continue its work with the highest level of professionalism and expertise. As you know, the Committee has jurisdiction over matters that impact all walks of life –children, students, workers and older Americans. As such, it is imperative that we attract, develop and retain a diverse, highly talented and credentialed staff who can develop evidence-based policy to improve the lives of the American people.

During the 117th Congress, this robust staff worked to present 60 Committee hearings, report out 25 bills from the Committee, pass 23 bills through the House, and had ultimately seven bills signed by the President. Simply put, when Americans were struggling, the Committee and staff delivered. As a result, we

- Added over 10.5 million jobs to the economy;
- Recovered 100 percent of the jobs lost during the pandemic;
- Saved the pensions of over one million workers and protect hundreds of businesses from closing;
- Delivered the largest, one-time federal investment in K-12 education in U.S. history; and,
- Brought the number of Americans without health insurance down to the lowest level ever.

Moving forward in the Minority, Committee Democrats and my staff will not rest. We pledge to work with Dr. Foxx to find areas of commonality – specifically in the area of workforce development, juvenile justice, protecting consumers from surprising billing, and hopefully many other areas.

We will also press for the protection of the right of workers to organize, earn livable wages that honors the dignity of their work in a safe workplace environment free of harassment and discrimination.

We will continue to promote equity in education so that students learn in a safe, welcoming environment; and, students can access and afford an education that will prepare them for the modern economy.

And, we will promote food security policies and the expansion of affordable health care.

In sum, the Minority on Education and the Workforce remains committed to our legislative responsibility to put people over politics.

I join Chairwoman Foxx in asking the House Administration Committee to support our request. I thank you for the opportunity to testify and am happy to answer any questions.