

**HOUSE ADMINISTRATION FULL COMMITTEE HEARING  
COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

**TESTIMONY OF CHAIRMAN MICHAEL R. TURNER  
ON FUNDING FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS FOR  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

CHAIRMAN STEIL AND RANKING MEMBER MORELLE, GOOD AFTERNOON AND THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF THE BUDGET REQUEST OF THE HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR THE 118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS. I'M JOINED BY MY RANKING MEMBER, CONGRESSMAN JIM HIMES.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN DISTRACTED BY PARTISAN POLITICS, BUT AT HPSCI'S ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE COMMITTEE WAS ADDRESSED BY SPEAKER MCCARTHY AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFERIES TO DELIVER, IN UNISON, ONE DIRECTIVE:

RETURN THE COMMITTEE'S WORK EXCLUSIVELY TOWARD NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE OVERSIGHT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND DO SO IN A BIPARTISAN MANNER.

RANKING MEMBER HIMES AND I HAVE ACCEPTED THIS CHARGE AND WE HAVE ECHOED THESE EXPECTATIONS WITH THE MEMBERSHIP OF OUR COMMITTEE.

TO ACCOMPLISH OUR REQUIREMENTS, WE ARE REQUESTING \$17.2 MILLION FOR THE 118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS, INCLUDING \$8.2 MILLION FOR THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION AND \$9.0 MILLION FOR THE SECOND SESSION. THIS REQUEST REPRESENTS A 13.9% INCREASE IN 2023 AND AN ADDITIONAL INCREASE OF 10.0% OVER THAT FOR 2024. IF SUPPORTED, THE REQUEST WILL FUND HPSCI'S PAYROLL, OPERATIONS, AND INVESTMENTS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT), WHICH ARE UNIQUE TO OUR COMMITTEE AND LONG OVERDUE.

WITH THESE MONIES, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS INVESTING IN A RENEWED INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE THAT WILL NOT ONLY CONDUCT OUR OVERSIGHT AND LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES BUT WILL OFFER SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED SUPPORT TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE. THIS IS AN INITIATIVE DRIVEN BY THE SPEAKER'S DESIRE TO ENSURE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY OF THE HOUSE IS FULLY INFORMED, INCLUDING—WHEN APPROPRIATE—BY CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

IN PRESENTING HPSCI'S BUDGET, I WANT TO PROVIDE YOU SOME CONTEXT RELATED TO THE CHALLENGES WE FACE. AS WE MEET TODAY, THE UNITED STATES FACES UNPRECEDENTED STRATEGIC THREATS FROM ADVERSARIES INCLUDING CHINA, RUSSIA, NORTH KOREA AND IRAN. OUR ADVERSARIES ARE INVESTING HEAVILY IN MODERNIZED CAPABILITIES AND HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY AGGRESSIVE. THEY ARE TESTING OUR RESOLVE, PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF INTERNATIONAL NORMS, AND USING ALL

ELEMENTS OF THEIR NATIONAL POWER TO DIVIDE AND DOMINATE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES AND TO CONTEST ALL DOMAINS.

HPSCI HAS A DUTY TO UNDERSTAND THESE THREATS, OUR COLLECTION POSTURE AGAINST THEM—AND JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, HOW THREAT INFORMATION IS SHARED TO IMPROVE OUR COLLECTIVE SECURITY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COLLEAGUES, TIMELY INDICATIONS AND WARNINGS ARE CRITICAL TO SOUND DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY. AND DESPITE THE ENORMOUS POTENTIAL OF OPEN-SOURCE INFORMATION, THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHAT WE NEED TO DEFEND OURSELVES MUST BE GAINED THROUGH CLANDESTINE AND COVERT MEANS. IF THE IC FAILS IN THIS MISSION, THE MILITARY WON'T BE ABLE TO DEVELOP COUNTERMEASURES TO NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS; ESPIONAGE IN THE U.S. WILL GO UNCHECKED; THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL BE UNABLE TO EXPOSE DANGEROUS PLOTS BY CHINA, RUSSIA, AND OTHERS; AND OUR NATION WILL BE FUNDAMENTALLY WEAKER WHEN CONFRONTING ANY FUTURE CRISIS.

IN ADDITION, IT IS THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITY—THE REASON FOR ITS FOUNDING IN 1977—TO GUARD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FROM ABUSE ORIGINATING FROM OUR NATION'S SPY AGENCIES. SINCE OUR FOUNDING, WE HAVE ENACTED LAWS TO PREVENT INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES FROM TARGETING AMERICANS BUT THESE LAWS, AND THE IC'S

COMPLIANCE, REQUIRE INTENSIVE OVERSIGHT. WE INTEND TO REDOUBLE OUR WORK IN THIS AREA.

MR. CHAIRMAN, HPSCI WILL BECOME A BETTER RESOURCE FOR THE HOUSE. AS YOU KNOW, AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF OUR WORK IS THAT IT MUST BE DONE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, IN A SCIF, AND WITH STRICT SECURITY CONTROLS. TIGHT SECURITY IS NEEDED BECAUSE HPSCI MAINTAINS INFORMATION RELATED TO THE NATION'S MOST SENSITIVE CLASSIFIED ACTIVITIES—ACTIVITIES THAT RISK LIVES AND COME AT GREAT COST.

AT THE SAME TIME, STRINGENT SECURITY AND COMPARTMENTATION FROM THE REST OF THE HOUSE HAS LIMITED OUR ABILITY TO SERVE THE INSTITUTION.

I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB SERVING THE INSTITUTION WHILE PROTECTING SOURCES AND METHODS. I HAVE THEREFORE COMMITTED TO THE SPEAKER THAT HPSCI WILL MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO CONNECT CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN THE HOUSE.

IN FACT, MY MISSION STATEMENT IS TO CONNECT INTELLIGENCE TO POLICYMAKERS AND DECISION MAKERS IN CONGRESS.

WE HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THE VALUE PROPOSITION OF OUR NEW RULES—UPDATED EARLIER THIS MONTH—AND SHARED INTELLIGENCE WITH THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

RELATED TO CHINA'S SURVEILLANCE BALLOON THAT TRAVERSED THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE 118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS, I EXPECT HPSCI TO UTILIZE ALL LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGETARY TOOLS AVAILABLE WITHIN OUR AUTHORITY, INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL PIECES OF LEGISLATION, TO BOTH SUPPORT AND HOLD THE IC ACCOUNTABLE. AND WE WILL DO SO IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR FELLOW COMMITTEES.

OUR FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS WILL ENABLE THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF HIGHLY TRAINED STAFF. DUE TO THE TECHNICAL NATURE OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK, MOST OF THE COMMITTEE'S VACANCIES WILL NEED TO BE FILLED BY STAFF WHO HAVE VERY SPECIFIC SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE.

ADDITIONALLY, ALL COMMITTEE STAFF ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE AND MAINTAIN A TOP SECRET CLEARANCE WITH SCI ACCESSES. NO OTHER COMMITTEE HAS SUCH A REQUIREMENT. THIS MEANS THAT, COMPARED TO THE HOUSE IN GENERAL, IT IS HARDER FOR HPSCI TO FILL JOBS AND RECRUITMENT TO FILL VACANCIES TAKES LONGER. IN SHORT, TURNOVER IS MORE COSTLY AND RETENTION IS CRITICAL. PAY MUST BE COMPETITIVE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO ATTRACT GS-14 AND GS-15 EXPERTS FROM THE IC TO HELP US IN OUR WORK. THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SKILLSETS THESE INDIVIDUALS BRING TO IMPROVE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.

FUNDING WILL ALSO SUPPORT THE INCREASE IN STAFF AT HPSCI BY 6 POSITIONS, WHICH IS COMMENSURATE WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE IC—THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPACE FORCE INTELLIGENCE—AND THE COMMITTEE’S MEMBERSHIP, WHICH HAS GROWN FROM 22 IN THE 116TH CONGRESS TO 25 PERMANENT MEMBERS IN THE 118<sup>TH</sup>.

ADDITIONALLY, I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT HOW OUR FUNDING REQUEST REFLECTS HPSCI’S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NEEDS—WHICH ARE UNIQUE IN THE HOUSE. AS A SCENE SETTER, I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THAT—BECAUSE OF THE CLASSIFIED NATURE OF OUR WORK—MEMBERS AND STAFF CAN ONLY PERFORM THEIR OVERSIGHT WORK IN THE COMMITTEE’S OFFICE, WHICH IS A SECURE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION FACILITY, OR SCIF.

THE COMMITTEE’S UNCLASSIFIED NETWORK IS CONNECTED TO THE HOUSE DOMAIN. THIS NETWORK AND ITS RELATED DEVICES OPERATE LARGELY IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER COMMITTEES. HPSCI BENEFITS FROM THE COMMON SERVICES OF THE HOUSE AND LEVERAGES SHARED RESOURCES. HOWEVER, HPSCI TAKES ADDITIONAL SECURITY-RELATED STEPS IN RECOGNITION OF THE ESCALATED COUNTERINTELLIGENCE THREATS TO OUR OPERATIONS. THIS INCLUDES THE MAINTENANCE OF A SEPARATE ENCLAVE AND FIREWALL WITHIN THE HOUSE NETWORK. ADDITIONALLY, DEVICES USED IN COMMITTEE SPACES OFTEN REQUIRE MODIFICATION FOR USE IN A SCIF. THIS RESULTS IN HIGHER COST, INCLUDING FOR

EQUIPMENT USED ON THE UNCLASSIFIED NETWORK. WE REFLECT THOSE HIGHER COSTS IN OUR BUDGET REQUEST.

ADDITIONALLY, THE COMMITTEE OPERATES AN AIR-GAPPED INTERNAL CLASSIFIED NETWORK THAT IS MAINTAINED EXCLUSIVELY BY HPSCI. THE BULK OF OUR OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES ARE CONDUCTED ON THIS NETWORK, AND ITS RELIABILITY AND SECURITY ARE CRITICAL TO THE LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE. HPSCI SEEKS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO ADDRESS TECHNOLOGY DEFICIENCIES AND TO ADDRESS SECURITY ISSUES FOR THIS NETWORK, WHICH—LIKE ALL NETWORKS—MUST BE SECURED AGAINST KNOWN VULNERABILITIES AND MAINTAINED TO APPROPRIATE STANDARDS. GIVEN THE INFORMATION MAINTAINED ON THE NETWORK, AND THE SOPHISTICATION OF OUR FOREIGN ADVERSARIES, IT IS THE COMMITTEE’S COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE SECURITY OF THIS NETWORK MEETS OR EXCEEDS ALL RELEVANT FEDERAL STANDARDS, INCLUDING CURRENT STANDARDS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS OBJECTIVE, WE MUST SEEK CONTRACTUAL SUPPORT FROM INFORMATION SYSTEM SECURITY PROFESSIONALS WITH APPROPRIATE SECURITY CLEARANCES. CONTRACTED SUPPORT WILL COMPLETE A SURVEY OF ALL NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE, DEVICES, AND SOFTWARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTERNAL NETWORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE RESULTING REPORT, WHICH WILL INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF OUR SECURITY

POSTURE, WILL INFORM ANY NECESSARY RECAPITALIZATION EFFORTS. THE COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE A DETAILED TIMELINE AND COST ESTIMATES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT WHEN AVAILABLE AND ON REQUEST.

I CANNOT OVERSTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS WORK AND APPRECIATE ANY CONSIDERATION THAT CAN BE PROVIDED TO HPSCI TO ADDRESS THIS MATTER.

LASTLY, THE COMMITTEE REQUESTS ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ITS BASE-INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BUDGET IN ORDER TO SUPPORT A DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY APPROVED SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY PROGRAM FOR NETWORK EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES PURCHASED FOR USE BY THE COMMITTEE. THE INCREASE IN ESTIMATED COSTS IS REFLECTIVE OF A PREMIUM ASSOCIATED WITH THE SECURE ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND IS BUILT INTO THE MATERIAL HANDLING COSTS FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASED THROUGH TRUSTED SUPPLIERS.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COLLEAGUES, THIS FINAL REASON FOR ADDITIONAL IT FUNDING RECOGNIZES THAT THE RISK OF A SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATION AGAINST HPSCI HAS GROWN SUBSTANTIALLY, AS DOCUMENTED IN BOTH OPEN AND CLASSIFIED REPORTING. SECURE IT PROCUREMENT EFFORTS WILL RESULT IN HIGHER ACQUISITION COSTS OF APPROXIMATELY 5% FOR NETWORK EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE, AND DEVICES. HOWEVER, THIS INVESTMENT IS



NECESSARY AND THE COMMITTEE REQUESTS THAT ANY INCREASE FOR THIS PURPOSE BE SUSTAINED FOR THE ENTIRE 118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE FINAL BUDGET AREA WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS IS EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT. LIKE OUR PLAN FOR IMPROVED SUPPORT TO THE HOUSE, THIS IS AN AREA WHERE THE SPEAKER HAS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED HPSCI TO EXPAND. WITH THESE FUNDS, THE COMMITTEE WILL UNDERTAKE AN INCREASED EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM. THIS MEANS THAT WE WILL HOLD COMMITTEE EVENTS OFF OF THE CAPITOL CAMPUS AND OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

BIPARTISAN EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT WILL INCLUDE A FULL COMMITTEE RETREAT IN EARLY SPRING 2023 AND A FULL COMMITTEE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN LATE SPRING 2023. WE WILL ALSO HAVE NUMEROUS OFF-SITE MEETINGS IN FALL 2023 AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND LINCOLN LABS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICABILITY TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION OF OUR BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE 118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS AND I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR QUESTIONS.