

**Ranking Member Gregory W. Meeks**  
**Testimony Before the Committee on House Administration**  
**Committee Funding for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**Wednesday, March 1, 2023**

**[REMARKS]**

Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and members of the Committee on House Administration, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee with Chairman McCaul in support of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs budget request for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

In the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Foreign Affairs Committee conducted unprecedented oversight and pushed an ambitious legislative agenda, including moving a State Authorization bill that was enacted for the first time in nearly two decades. Chairman McCaul has expressed through the Committee oversight plan and the budget request an intention to pursue a State Authorization this Congress and an oversight agenda that includes adding a seventh subcommittee, as well as robust plans for field hearings. I look forward to this work and believe an increased budget would enable the staffing and supporting resources to maximize the quality and output of our efforts.

Our nation's national security interests are squarely at the center of the Committee's jurisdiction at a time when global challenges will continue to require our most skilled staff and innovative thinking to reinforce our alliances and tackle issues like Russia's illegal war in Ukraine, strategic competition with China, and deepening our diplomatic engagement in our hemisphere and on the continent of Africa.

The minority in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, and by past practice, controls one third of the Committee budget. I appreciate that Chairman McCaul intends to honor that practice and allow me the autonomy to use the minority budget to best meet the unique needs that come with being in the minority. Unfortunately, because of a smaller budget and staff allotments in the minority, I was unable to retain many of the very talented staff that served so exceptionally in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. That reality has also meant that my remaining staff have taken on more responsibilities without the increased compensation that they deserve. They are highly skilled policy staff and lawyers with the technical skills required to meet the demands that come with the work of the committee. This budget increase would allow me to compensate the staff for their work, hire additional staff to cover the issues, and importantly, retain talented employees.

In the post 9/11 era, diplomacy and development have regrettably not received the attention and resources they deserve. That must change. That is why, as Chairman, I worked to elevate the visibility and importance of the Foreign Affairs Committee. If we are to avoid wars, counter global threats, expand our soft power, and increase America's competitiveness and global standing, there is no committee of greater importance than HFAC. Having the resources to do the important work the American people expect us to do requires a budget that can support the high expectations we have set.