

**Testimony at House Administration Committee**  
**House Ways & Means Committee Funding for 118<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
Chairman Jason Smith (MO-08)  
*March 1, 2023*

Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle – thank you for the opportunity to appear before the House Administration Committee today to testify on the committee funding request for the House Ways and Means Committee for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Americans watching this hearing should know: The Ways and Means Committee will be fighting to help workers, seniors, job creators, and others struggling with the various challenges facing the American people today.

Our committee will be focused on protecting American taxpayers and restoring transparency and accountability in their government – whether that be shedding more light on the IRS and its history of targeting taxpayers for political purposes; the Department of Health and Human Services and concerns over its plans to restrict Medicare coverage for innovative medications; the Treasury Department and its ongoing negotiations of an international tax agreement without congressional approval; the absence of a more robust trade policy at USTR that is needed to protect the interests of American workers.

Oversight over the IRS – an agency that has chronically damaged its own integrity and abused the trust of the American people – alone will consume a substantial amount of time and resources.

The Ways and Means Committee also has a broad jurisdiction over the health and retirement security of America’s seniors, including Medicare and Social Security. These programs need to be protected.

These issues and others will mean this committee will need to spend substantial time executing on our oversight responsibility.

Congress must serve as a check and balance against unrestrained executive power so that there is accountability and scrutiny of policies coming out of the White House.

Last November, the American people elected a Republican Majority in the House to hold government accountable and to address the many crises that families and small businesses are facing. The new House Republican majority has made it our commitment to act boldly on their behalf, and our committees, particularly the Ways and Means Committee, are the tip of the spear.

We will combat today’s inflation crisis and looming debt crisis, secure our nation’s supply chains, and promote greater economic, financial, health, and energy security for American families.

When it comes to developing these solutions, we must humbly admit that we do not have all the answers here in Washington. As chairman, I have made it a priority to take

the Ways and Means Committee's work outside the halls of Congress, away from the politically connected voices of Washington lobbyists, and into the communities of the American people whose voices have for too long been ignored. We will hold field hearings across the country, and already held the first at the beginning of February in Petersburg, West Virginia. We heard from small business owners about their struggles as well as their solutions. We will be in Oklahoma City next week to learn more about how to provide relief and deliver results for working families.

More funding will be needed to ensure these voices – the voices of regular Americans – get heard, and so we can turn their ideas into policies that will make their lives better.

Additionally, the committee will need to recruit and hire staff with experience and expertise needed to both carry out our Constitutionally required Oversight duties and also help legally craft the ideas brought back from our field hearings. New pay orders in the House give us a competing shot at attracting some of the top minds, but now we need the resources to be able to meet that moment.

For all these reasons, the Committee requests a 17 percent increase in our budget for 2023. And because today's inflation crisis appears to be continuing to rage as economists like Larry Summers and Jason Furman have warned, we request an additional 10 percent increase for 2024, in order to build on this year's work.

We will look out for the American taxpayer. And our committee will respect the resources they give us to carry out our duties.

Thank you for your time.