

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

House Administration Committee Hearing

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

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 | 10:20 am

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 Chairman Walberg to speak in support of our bipartisan budget for the House Education and Workforce.

I want to thank Chairman Walberg for developing our Committee budget and supporting the request for the 119th Congress, which represents an increase over the last Congress. Although I believe our Committee deserves more, I think this increase is sufficient to still carry out the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities. Moreover, I support Mr. Walberg's desire to hold more remote hearings in Member's districts where our issues have an acute impact.

Mr. Walberg and I want to continue to be role models 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 Chairman Walberg 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 118th Congress, this robust staff worked to present 62 Committee hearings, report out 54 bills from the Committee, pass 32 bills through the House, and ultimately had five bills signed by the President.

Moving forward in the Minority, Committee Democrats and my staff will not rest. We pledge to work with Mr. Walberg to find areas of commonality, specifically in workforce development, juvenile justice, promoting transparency in health care billing, and hopefully, many other areas.

We will press for the protection of workers' right to organize, earn livable wages, and work in safe environments free of harassment and discrimination.

We will continue to promote equity in education so that students can learn in a safe, welcoming environment and access a high-quality public education that prepares them for the modern economy.

We will also promote food security policies and the expansion of affordable health care.

In sum, the Minority on Education and Workforce remains committed to our legislative responsibility to build an economy where everyone can succeed.

I join Chairman Walberg in asking the House Administration Committee to support our request. Thank you for the opportunity to testify; I am happy to answer any questions.