

Committee on House Administration: Committee Funding for the 119th Congress

Chairman James Comer Opening Statement

Thank you, Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle, for holding this committee funding hearing today.

Ranking Member Connolly and I are pleased to submit the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's budget request for the 119th Congress.

Our budget request seeks an appropriate amount to facilitate the Oversight Committee's important mission of rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse in federal government programs. The Committee also has key legislative jurisdiction over items such as the federal civil service. If accepted, our request is only for a modest increase of less than 10 percent, not adjusting for inflation, compared to the budget in the 118th Congress.

This budget will operate the full committee and its seven subcommittees, including the recently formed Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency. Ranking Member Connolly and the minority will receive 33 percent of the budget and staff positions to use at his discretion.

As I mentioned earlier, our Committee's purpose is to protect taxpayer dollars from fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, and to ensure the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the federal government. This budget request is an investment in oversight. It is an investment in skilled staff and a commitment to travel as needed to conduct oversight and follow investigative leads.

To conduct fulsome oversight and meaningful, credible investigations, the Committee needs skilled and experienced staff. The Committee has recruited and continues to recruit staff with oversight expertise and diverse skillsets. Our proposed budget will allow the Committee to not only recruit, but retain, experienced legal and investigative staff to do our important oversight work. Our budget request anticipates 133 total staff positions for the Committee, both majority and minority, which maintains the total staff slots from the 118th Congress.

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In addition to a robust hearing schedule, working with whistleblowers, and conducting investigations out of our congressional offices here in D.C., the Committee plans to hold field hearings, perform site visits, and conduct investigative work in our states. To understand Americans' needs, priorities, and concerns, we must hear directly from them. Committee travel is a necessary expense and will allow us to conduct robust oversight on behalf of the American people.

In closing, Ranking Member Connolly and I appreciate your consideration for our budget request. We also appreciate your commitment to our Committee's oversight mission. We are looking forward to fulfilling this important mission during the 119th Congress. Thank you.