

Prepared Statement

Committee on House Administration

Committee on Rules Ranking Member James P. McGovern

February 12, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and Members of the Committee on House Administration. I'm pleased to be joining Chairwoman Foxx today in presenting our request for funding for the Committee on Rules for the 119th Congress.

Our Committee is unique—our primary mission is not to write laws nor conduct direct oversight, but rather to facilitate the work of all other House committees and of the House itself. We take the responsibility of keeping this institution functioning very seriously and I believe that we have succeeded in being a resource for all members and staff serving here. A big part of that success has been our ability to hire and retain our extraordinary staff on both sides of the aisle.

We have also succeeded by keeping our disagreements where they belong: on matters of substance. When it comes to the logistics of running the committee and working within the budget allocated to us, I look forward to continuing our long tradition of being good partners across the aisle.

I am also grateful that Chairwoman Foxx is continuing our Committee's long tradition of providing the minority full control over one-third of our overall budget.

I strongly support the request of this Committee from the Chairwoman: that we be allocated 2.5 percent more funding for each of the next two years as we were provided in each of the last three years. These funds are vital to allow us to continue supporting this institution—from its leadership to its committees to the staffs of every Member office.

While that may sound like a sizable increase, it really isn't because of how small our budget is to start with. Our budget is less than half of the average committee budget. The committee with the highest budget has a budget nearly four times ours.

We requested—and received—flat funding for each of the past two years because we crunched the numbers and did not actually need more to do our work. Now we do.

Since we last received an increase, other committees have had their budgets increased by an average of \$925,000 each. We're now asking for about a tenth of the increase that other committees have already received over the past three years.

As Ranking Member Morelle and Congresswoman Torres know from personal experience—and as Representative Griffith will now get to see up close—our work does not run on a schedule limited by business hours: we know long days and late nights better than anyone else in these halls. Further, our workload has grown significantly in recent years and looks to continue growing.

In just the last Congress, we saw a 62% increase in amendment submissions. What's even more striking to me is that prior to that increase, the rate of submissions had already doubled since I first became ranking member.

Our Committee has made major modernization and efficiency improvements over the past few years to be able to handle the incredible amendment volume on a clerical level, but we still need adequate professional staff to be able to actually review all of these ideas and make quality recommendations to our members about how each should be treated.

Last Congress, we used every dollar of our minority allotment. If we are flat funded, our inflation-adjusted budget will be 7% less than it was three years ago. We simply can't recruit and retain the staff we need to support the legislative functions of the entire House at that level.

With the vital functions we perform for the House, and every other committee depending on our fast and accurate work, this is a very modest and reasonable request—and a necessary one.