Rep. Darrell Issa – Statement for the Record Committee on House Administration Member Day Hearing

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your strong leadership during the 118th Congress and so far in the 119th Congress. As you and your colleagues consider changes to House policy to modernize its internal management and operations, I write with four proposals for your consideration.

First, I request a change to House policy regarding personal office security clearances. As detailed in previous communications, the current policy limits the ability of personal offices to adequately support member needs and prevents the recruitment and retention of highly qualified staff. As you consider ways to ensure all Members have the support needed to consider, advance, and vote on accurate and detailed policy measures, the adjustments I have laid out to the current limitations are essential to support that end.

Second, I request the modernization of Members' identification cards to serve as a singular card for multiple required purposes. Currently, Members must carry three different devices – an identification card, voting card, and elevator card – to be used in the Capitol complex. A single card with the capability for all three tasks would be a more efficient practice to adopt.

Similarly, Congressional staff identification cards should also be modernized. Staff identification cards already utilize integrated circuit chips to access critical Capitol locations including offices and parking lots. With network security concerns on the rise, employing this technology as a key to accessing the House network would protect secure information and systems. The military implements similar card access technology to enter secure networks and view mission-critical files. Utilizing staff identification cards as a key to access the House network would enhance protection of sensitive documents.

Lastly, I request an adjustment to future legislation governing Workplace Rights and Responsibilities training. I understand that H. Res 435's directs Members, officers, and employees of the House of Representatives to complete annual training. Because the training's substance remains substantially similar each year, I propose that new legislation dictates the training be completed once per Congress rather than on an annual basis. Limiting this requirement to once per Congress would maintain the high standards of conduct expected within the House of Representatives while also optimizing resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

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