

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216
One Hundred Sixteenth Congress

November 30, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler:


On Wednesday, December 4, 2019, the House Judiciary Committee (the “Committee”) is scheduled to hear testimony on the constitutional grounds for presidential impeachment from four scholars. To ensure fairness and restore integrity to the ongoing impeachment process, I request an expanded panel and a balanced composition of academic witnesses to opine on the subject matter at issue during the hearing.

Historically, the Committee has called upon a robust slate of academics—representing a spectrum of scholastic and political viewpoints—to expound upon the somber subject of removing a duly-elected president. For example, during the impeachment inquiry of President William J. Clinton, the Committee assembled *two* panels of ten and nine academics, respectively, to help the Committee grapple with impeachment.¹

On December 4, the Committee will hear from only four academic witnesses during its consideration of the question of impeachment. This is less than a quarter of those called to testify during the Clinton impeachment. In light of this, I request that you expand the number of witnesses called upon to testify on December 4 to give the American people a wider array of perspectives regarding impeachment. I further request that you equally allocate those witnesses to the majority and minority’s choosing.

The Committee must ensure it maintains its credibility and its historically preeminent role in the impeachment of presidents by not rushing to articles of impeachment or hearing only from scholars with demonstrated animosity towards the President.² Throughout this hurried and partisan impeachment process, I have consistently requested mere fairness from members of the majority. An equal distribution of experts for the December 4 hearing would be a small concession to demonstrate to the American people this impeachment inquiry is not merely political theater.

Sincerely,



Doug Collins
Ranking Member

¹ Background and History of Impeachment: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on the Constitution, 105th Cong. (1998).

² See, e.g., Laurence Tribe, *Trump Must Be Impeached. Here’s Why: A Look at President Trump’s First Year in Office, So Far*, WASH. POST (May 13, 2017).