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Thank you Chairman Nugent and Ranking Member McGovern, and members of the Subcommittee for giving me the opportunity to testify today as you consider updates to the rules governing the House of Representatives for the 114th Congress.

I am proposing a simple, common sense change to the House Rules to require all Members to undergo mandatory annual ethics training offered by the House Ethics Committee, as our staffs, Senate staff, and members of the Senate are required to do.

It seems like an obvious requirement that every member of this body should have a clear and complete understanding of the rules and regulations that govern the House of Representatives. While we often rely on our staff to know the ins and outs of House Ethics rules, we should have a full understanding of ethics rules and be willing to accept responsibility to become familiar with these rules.

This oversight in the House Rules only perpetuates the perception that Congress believes the rules don't apply to us and it only increases the public's distrust of Congress. Updating the House Rules to require members undergo annual ethics training is a simple step we can take to help restore the public's faith and confidence in Congress.

I recently introduced legislation with Congressman Scott Rigell, to require annual ethics training for all House Members after we discovered that the 2007 Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, which required Senators and their staff to undergo annual ethics training did not apply to House members. Our bill has received widespread support from our colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

A recent article in the Washington Post indicated that since 2009 the number of actions taken by the House Ethics Committee has doubled from the previous decade. According to Public Citizen, much of this can be attributed to the fact that most House Members are often not aware of what House ethics rules have to say on a particular issue.

For example, members who use social media are often confused about what type of information they can share on their official page and what information they should share on their campaign page. A lack of understanding of the House ethics rules can make it easy for members to violate the rules without even realizing it.

In its most recent report, the Office of Congressional Ethics, the independent board charged with investigating ethics complaints against the Members of the House of Representatives, said that nearly half of the complaints it has reviewed since 2009 have been campaign related. Ensuring members are provided with clarification of rules separating campaign and official activity will help to reduce those instances.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, I hope that my testimony today has presented a strong case to amend the House Rules. Thank you for your time and consideration.