



Chairman Kevin Yoder

*Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations*

April 17th at 10:00 am
Member Day and Outside Witnesses
Legislative Branch Appropriations
Opening Statement (as prepared)

We are here this morning to hear testimony from fellow Members of Congress, as well as outside witnesses that submitted testimony relating to items within the jurisdiction of the Legislative Branch subcommittee. This year's response was significantly larger than last years which I am pleased to see and I speculate is due in part, to the fact that Ranking Member Ryan and I listened to the testimony we heard last year with an open mind and were able to move forward with several of ideas we heard. Making Congressional Research Service reports available to the public for the first time is something I am proud was accomplished under my chairmanship, I am also glad the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission which does incredible work now has dedicated funding to help further expand their bandwidth. I look forward to hearing from this year's witnesses and welcome all of you here this morning.

Due to the number of witnesses we have today there will be four panels of outside witnesses, additionally we will fit in Members of Congress that wish to testify as they arrive. In an effort to be respectful of everyone's time and to ensure that we hear from all of today's witnesses I ask those testifying to keep their remarks under five minutes, as your full written testimony will be entered as part of the record.

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