



Chairman Kevin Yoder

*Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations*

**Opening Statement (as prepared)
FY2019 Budget - U.S. House of Representatives
April 25, 2018 – 3:00 p.m.**

This afternoon we will hear testimony from the officers of the House on the fiscal year 2019 budget justification for the House of Representatives. This is our 9th and final hearing on FY2019 budget justifications and I want to take a minute to thank Ranking Member Ryan, members of the subcommittee and the staff for the hard work that goes into preparing for these hearings. Going into this appropriation season I felt it was important to expand the number of hearings this subcommittee held in an effort to hear directly from more agency heads, as well as other Members of Congress and outside witnesses. Although demanding on our schedules I do think the additional hearings were valuable and were important towards our oversight responsibilities.

The fiscal year 2019 budget request for the House agencies is \$1.257 billion which is a \$57 million above currently enacted levels.

Much of the work each of your offices do on a daily basis is behind the scenes and when done seamlessly often goes unnoticed. Collectively you are responsible for the services that truly keep this place running; the IT network that allows all of us to communicate, the financial systems that pays our bills and meets our payroll, the voting system that helps authenticate the legislative process, the issuance of IDs and more recently several initiatives to keep our district offices safer just to name a few. Without the services of the House officers we could not carry out our Constitutional duties as Members of Congress. Although, the three of you probably like the fact that most of your operations are behind the scenes and go unnoticed I want to take a moment to recognize the amazing work your organizations do and to thank the dedicated staff in each of your organizations.

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