



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Washington, DC 20515

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS PRICE, M.D. CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET February 4, 2015

Thank you, Chairman Miller and Congressman Brady, for the opportunity to testify this afternoon concerning the Budget Committee's funding resolution.

The Budget Committee has continued to spend within the levels approved by this committee for the 113th Congress. Therefore, we are requesting that our annual funding for the 114th congress remain frozen at the level set in 2014. The allocation the Committee was given in 2014 was slightly more than \$5.1 million and we are requesting the exact same amount for 2015 and 2016.

I intend to continue the Budget Committee's past practice of carefully managing our funding allocations with respect to the Committee's operation. For example, I am committed to keeping our staffing levels considerably below our current limit --- in fact, the Committee currently has 46 staff members while our staff ceiling is 66 positions. In addition, we will watch our expenditures closely to ensure that we use these resources wisely and efficiently.

We also have enjoyed a respectful bipartisan relationship regarding the allocation of resources between the Majority and Minority, and I will maintain this tradition. Under the 2014 spending allocation, the Committee was able to provide the Minority with one-third of the

personnel budget. This personnel funding level ensures that both the Majority and the Minority have sufficient resources to fulfill the Committee's many responsibilities and maintain a highly professional staff.

Nonetheless, personnel costs remain the largest area of spending for the Committee, while subscriptions and equipment costs are respectfully the second and third most expensive items in the Committee's budget.

I believe our request of a frozen funding level is both responsible and disciplined, as well as providing needed flexibility to meet the Committee's potential needs in the future. Further, it is my understanding Mr. Van Hollen supports our budget request and our plans for the management of the committee's funds.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.