

Statement of Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-VA)
Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and the Workforce
Committee on House Administration Hearing on the
“Committee Budget Request for the 114th Congress”
February 4, 2015

Chairman Miller, Ranking Member Brady and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee with Chairman Kline to discuss the budget of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

I appreciate Chairman Kline’s leadership and cooperation on this budget. I also appreciate the Chairman’s commitment to continuing the Committee’s custom of allocating one-third of the

budget to the Minority, and providing us with autonomy over the use of those resources.

I support the Chairman's request to maintain funding at the current 2014 levels. I believe this represents a responsible approach that balances our commitment to the taxpayers and with our obligation to do the important work within our Committee's jurisdiction.

We take our work very seriously and we are committed to doing our job with a high level of professionalism. To do this, we must be able to attract, train, and retain talented staff who are

capable of providing effective assistance on a wide array of issues. We are determined to staff our Committee with highly educated and credentialed individuals who can do the kind of work that the American taxpayers deserve.

Our Committee has a robust agenda and broad jurisdiction. We work on issues that have a profound effect on the quality of life for the American people throughout their lives – from childcare, through their education (kindergarten through post graduate school), through their time in the workforce and into their retirement. Our work is

critically important and we are committed to doing everything we can to make our policies the best that they can be.

This Congress we will have to deal with a number of important reauthorizations, including both the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Act. Having both of these reauthorizations at the same time is a tall order.

This is in addition to the work we do to provide workers with safe workplaces, fair wages, a voice in the workplace and a secure retirement. We also

have important work to do on child nutrition programs, juvenile justice programs, as well as our comprehensive oversight responsibilities.

I urge the Committee to support our request and provide the Committee on Education and the Workforce with sufficient funding to do the kind of work the American people deserve.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.