

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DIANE BLACK  
INTERIM CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

February 16, 2017

Thank you, Chairman Harper and Ranking Member Brady, for the opportunity to testify this afternoon regarding the Budget Committee's funding resolution for the 115th Congress.

I am pleased to report that during the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress the Budget Committee stayed within the spending levels approved by this committee. Therefore, we are requesting that our annual funding level for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress remain frozen at the 2016 level of approximately \$5.1 million. This requested allocation will provide the Committee the necessary resources to adequately fulfill our current and future priorities.

I intend to continue the Budget Committee's past practice of carefully managing our funding allocations with respect to the Committee's operations. For example, I am committed to keeping our staffing levels considerably below our current limit of 66. The Committee currently has 43 staff members and we expect to continue near or at that staffing level over the course of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Additionally, we will continue to monitor our expenditures closely to ensure 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 intend to maintain this tradition. Under the 2016 spending allocation, the Committee was able to provide the Minority with one-third of the Committee's budget. This division of financial resources ensures that

both the Majority and the Minority have sufficient resources to properly fulfill the Committee's many responsibilities and maintain a highly professional staff.

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

I would like to point out, however, that in support of the Cannon Renewal project, the Committee obligated \$300,000 in both 2015 and 2016 to pay for additional renovations of the Budget Committee's hearing room in 210 Cannon. This renovation will allow our hearing room to be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act while also improving space efficiency for Members and staff. No further obligations for these renovations will be required.

Our request for a frozen funding level is both responsible and disciplined, and provides flexibility to meet the Committee's potential future needs. Further, it is my understanding Mr. Yarmuth supports this budget request and our plans for the management of the Committee's funds.

In closing, I would also like to express the Budget Committee's appreciation and thanks to the staff of the House Administration Committee, especially Staff Director Sean Moran, and the staff of the Architect of the Capital for the wonderful assistance provided to the Budget Committee during the move of Majority staff from Cannon to Longworth last year. Moving offices is never easy, but with the professionalism exhibited by both staffs, the move was seamless and

trouble free. I would also like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their support in finding additional office space for the Majority staff within Longworth earlier this year. The additional space has benefited both Members and staff of the Budget Committee.

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