

**Testimony Before the Committee on House Administration  
Committee on Ethics  
Remarks by Ranking Member Ted Deutch  
February 15, 2017**

Thank you Chairman Harper and Ranking Member Brady for the opportunity to be here today. We appreciate the opportunity to speak to your committee about the vital work of the Committee on Ethics.

I am pleased to be here with Chairwoman Susan Brooks. Chairwoman Brooks and I are new to our roles as Chair and Ranking Member, but we have previously served together on the Ethics Committee, and I am looking forward to continuing our work together.

The Chairwoman and I both joined the Committee on Ethics in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. During the last two Congresses, the Committee was led first by Chairman Michael Conaway and Ranking Member Linda Sánchez, and then by Chairman Charlie Dent and Ranking Member Sánchez. Together, they set a tone of bipartisanship and collegiality that all of us who served on the Committee appreciated, and the Chairwoman and I plan to follow that model.

The Chairwoman described some of the ways that the Ethics Committee is unique. We know that something that Chairman Harper, a former Member of the Committee, and our colleague Representative Lofgren, a former Chair of the Ethics Committee, know firsthand.

And I think it is fair to say that all of us know that ethics in government and the integrity of our nation's elected officials remains a great concern of the public. In the House, the Committee on Ethics has the responsibility for administering and interpreting the various standards of conduct that apply to Members and staff, and helping them understand and comply with those standards. When it is alleged that a Member or staff person has violated one of those standards, the Committee is charged with determining whether a violation occurred and, if so, recommending an appropriate sanction or other remedial action.

You have invited us to talk about the Committee's budget needs. The overwhelming majority of the Committee's modest budget is spent on salaries for our nonpartisan professional staff, so we are focusing today on providing you with more information about how our staff serves the House.

The Chairwoman noted some statistics about the scope of the Committee's work in the last Congress providing advice, education, and training to Members and staff of the House. All of those statistics and a detailed overview of the Committee's work are available in a 210-page report the Committee filed with the House in early January. That report is available to the House and the public on the Committee's web site, [ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov).

Although the Committee is probably best known for its important investigative work, just as important is the significant work our talented nonpartisan staff do providing advice and education to House Members and staff.

This is particularly important with respect to new Members. This Congress, 55 Members are serving their first term in the House. Another 55 Members are beginning their second term.

As in prior years, our Committee was pleased to partner with House Administration to provide ethics training to incoming freshman Members during the orientation session you organized in November. We will continue to look for opportunities to educate all Members about the rules and standards of conduct that apply to them as public servants in the House.

All of the Committee's work we have summarized for you is made possible by our terrific nonpartisan professional staff. As you consider funding for the Committee, please keep in mind that modest investments in recruiting and retaining the highest caliber ethics professionals for the Committee can return great dividends for the House and the public.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before your committee today. We look forward to answering any questions you may have for us.

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