

**Testimony of Rep. Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman, Committee on Education and the Workforce
before the Committee on House Administration
on “Committee Funding for the 115th Congress”
February 15, 2017**

Chairman Harper, Ranking Member Brady, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear with my colleague Ranking Member Bobby Scott to testify about our budget request for the 115th Congress. In my experience, when it comes to opening statements, “less is more,” so hopefully I can live up to my own standards of brevity, here.

The work of the Committee on Education and the Workforce touches practically every aspect of American life. In that light, we have proposed a fiscally prudent budget that will allow the Committee to advance bold legislative and oversight agendas, while continuing to serve as trusted stewards of the resources we have been given by the American public.

The Committee respectfully requests a modest 2.9 percent budget increase for the 115th Congress. The request will allow the Committee to improve access to high quality education for students and provide Americans safe and productive workplaces, as well as ensure the policies and programs under the Committee’s jurisdiction are effective and efficient.

The Committee will help advance a significant number of legislative priorities this Congress, including delivering a stable, patient-centered Obamacare alternative; reauthorizing the *Higher Education Act*; addressing the needs of at-risk youth and juvenile offenders; reining in the runaway Department of Labor and National Labor Relations Board; protecting small businesses and the men and women they employ from flawed rules and regulations; and strengthening retirement security, to name a few.

The Committee also will conduct vigorous oversight, ensuring the federal bureaucracy administers laws responsibly and as Congress intended. The Committee will work on examining

the nearly two dozen laws within our jurisdiction with authorizations that have expired or will soon expire. Everything we do will focus on holding the federal government accountable for how it spends taxpayers' hard earned money.

Additionally, Committee activities will support and compliment a number of relevant priorities of the new administration.

To enhance the Committee's legislative and oversight efforts, we will pursue a robust schedule of hearings in Washington, D.C., regional field hearings, and relevant site visits to hear directly from affected parties and see firsthand the challenges facing our schools and workplaces.

In order to execute the Committee's robust legislative and oversight workload, as well as a renewed focus on member services and coalitions outreach, the Committee must be properly staffed. In previous years, we have maintained lean staffing levels. However, it is evident that additional staff, as well as staff retention, are needed to enhance the Committee's institutional knowledge and productivity.

The American people expect us to ensure that federal policies support and do not undermine their ability to pursue a lifetime of success and prosperity. Personally, my reputation for frugality is well-deserved, which is why we commit to spending each dollar we are allocated efficiently and effectively as we do the work the American people sent us to do.

We respectfully ask the committee to take these factors into account as you consider our budget request. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I appreciate your time and would be happy to answer any questions.