

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for constituting this committee. It's fun to listen to Bill Foster because he is so incredibly thoughtful. Thanks for inviting me to speak today.

I love serving the U.S. house, but I am often dismayed by the chaos of the schedule. Enormous amounts of time are wasted every day because we don't know when the various vote series are going to start, when they are going to end, and sometimes what we are going to be voting on. I had the great privilege of presiding over the Virginia Senate for eight years, down the hall from the oldest continuously meeting legislative body on the planet, and we were extraordinarily productive and efficient, but we also had the most orderly process for considering legislation.

I won't debate the wisdom or necessity of approaching every controversial piece of legislation with the rule because with 435 independent voices necessitates some limits on amendments on the House floor and to the best of our knowledge there's no such limiting committee. However, I believe the house would be well served by establishing a specific start time every day and focusing all of our energy on one series of votes. In this way, committee and subcommittee hearings, office meetings, even off-campus activities can be planned much more logically and predictably.

The Virginia way would suggest starting at 10:00 a.m. as today for the official call to order, the prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, the appropriate number of five-minute, one-minute speeches and then the house would be in recess until 12:00 noon. And at noon, almost every House member would be in the chamber for the first and only vote series. Amendments made in order by the Rules committee would be the first priority. Followed by vote on final passage of the legislation that was debated the previous day, followed by requested votes on suspension bills, and finally, the consideration of rules for bills to be considered on the following day.

So instead of running back and fourth and back and fourth and back and fourth, we would come, we would focus, we would work, we would do our job, then we get back to the many many other priorities that go into being a successful legislator. After the final votes, the House would immediately move to debate the rule for legislation to be considered two days from them, the rule the next day, the legislation in two days, and then the House would hear debate on the legislation to be considered the next day on the rule that was just adopted earlier that day. And then after this suspension bill is considered again with requested yeas and nays to be held the next day. So now with two vote series at least per day and each opening vote consuming 35 to 45 minutes and every member wasted at least an hour, probably much more, just hanging around, trying to find some way to be productive.

While I'm at it, and recognizing that I have the shortest commute of any member, I might also recommend that we consider longer weeks but fewer of them. Everything in life has three parts. Beginning, a middle and an end. And the beginnings and the endings contribute little but they take a lot of time. So effective management, pick up any Harvard Business Review book, says you want to maximize the time in the middle. That's when all the work gets done. So why not schedule five day work weeks, maybe two weeks at a time and then a week or two off? Actually, fly in on Sundays, start Monday morning at 10:00, work through Friday, assume maybe folks

stay for the weekend. You do the same number of days of work now, but just with much more time at home, and much less time on airplanes that are in airports, and a lot more work getting done.

So, thank you for listening to me. There has to be a much more sensible way and I suspect most of our state legislatures to figure this out. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.