

# Union Calendar No. 40

115th Congress, 1st Session - - - - - House Report 115-69

## AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLANS

FOR ALL

## HOUSE COMMITTEES

---

BY THE

## COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Required by House Rule X, Clause 2)



MARCH 29, 2017—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on  
the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

---

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

69-006

WASHINGTON : 2017

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

JASON CHAFFETZ, Utah, *Chairman*

JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., Tennessee  
DARRELL E. ISSA, California  
JIM JORDAN, Ohio  
MARK SANFORD, South Carolina  
JUSTIN AMASH, Michigan  
PAUL A. GOSAR, Arizona  
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, Tennessee  
TREY GOWDY, South Carolina  
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, Texas  
VIRGINIA FOXX, North Carolina  
THOMAS MASSIE, Kentucky  
MARK MEADOWS, North Carolina  
RON DeSANTIS, Florida  
DENNIS A. ROSS, Florida  
MARK WALKER, North Carolina  
ROD BLUM, Iowa  
JODY B. HICE, Georgia  
STEVE RUSSELL, Oklahoma  
GLENN GROTHMAN, Wisconsin  
WILL HURD, Texas  
GARY J. PALMER, Alabama  
JAMES COMER, Kentucky  
PAUL MITCHELL, Michigan

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, Maryland, *Ranking  
Minority Member*  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, New York  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, District of  
Columbia  
WM. LACY CLAY, Missouri  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, Massachusetts  
JIM COOPER, Tennessee  
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, Virginia  
ROBIN L. KELLY, Illinois  
BRENDA L. LAWRENCE, Michigan  
BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, New Jersey  
STACEY E. PLASKETT, Virgin Islands  
VAL BUTLER DEMINGS, Florida  
RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY, Illinois  
JAMIE RASKIN, Maryland  
PETER WELCH, Vermont  
MATT CARTWRIGHT, Pennsylvania  
MARK DeSAULNIER, California  
JOHN P. SARBANES, Maryland

JON SKLADANY, *Staff Director*  
REBECCA EDGAR, *Deputy Staff Director*  
WILLIAM MCKENNA, *General Counsel*  
LAURA RUSH, *Chief Clerk*  
DAVID RAPALLO, *Minority Staff Director*

## CONTENTS

---

	Page
Agriculture .....	3
Armed Services .....	15
Budget .....	55
Education and the Workforce .....	61
Energy and Commerce .....	67
Financial Services .....	81
Foreign Affairs .....	91
Homeland Security .....	103
House Administration .....	117
Judiciary .....	125
Natural Resources .....	145
Oversight and Government Reform .....	155
Science, Space, and Technology .....	177
Small Business .....	191
Transportation and Infrastructure .....	199
Veterans' Affairs .....	217
Ways and Means .....	231



## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

---

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, March 29, 2017.*

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with Rule X(2) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the authorization and oversight plans of each committee. Each of these plans was adopted by the respective standing committees, and it is recommended that the work outlined is pursued accordingly.

JASON CHAFFETZ,  
*Chairman.*



## Union Calendar No. 40

115TH CONGRESS <i>1st Session</i>	}	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	{	REPORT 115-69
--------------------------------------	---	--------------------------	---	------------------

---

---

### AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLANS FOR ALL HOUSE COMMITTEES

---

MARCH 29, 2017.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

---

Mr. JASON CHAFFETZ, from the Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform, submitted the following

### R E P O R T

### AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLANS FOR ALL HOUSE COMMITTEES IN THE 115TH CONGRESS

[The authorization and oversight plans of all House committees  
follow:]



## **COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

TO: The Honorable Jason Chaffetz, Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and The Honorable Gregg Harper, Chairman, Committee on House Administration  
FROM: The Honorable K. Michael Conaway, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture

DATE:

SUBJECT: Oversight Plan for the House Committee on Agriculture for the 115th Congress

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 115th Congress. This plan was prepared in consultation with the Ranking Member and was presented to the full Committee for its consideration.

The Committee and its Subcommittees expect to exercise appropriate oversight activity with regard to the issues listed below. In general, the Committee intends to identify programs that are inefficient, duplicative, outdated or more appropriately administered by State or local governments for possible cuts or elimination. In addition to the list below, the Committee will conduct any other general oversight as appropriate and necessary. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other Committees of the House that may share subject matter interest.

### **OVERSIGHT PLAN**

The Committee expects to exercise appropriate oversight activity with regard to the following issues:

#### **2014 FARM BILL AND CURRENT AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS**

- Review the current state of the U.S. farm economy;
- Review the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review programs for waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement;
- Review the state of credit conditions and availability in rural America;
- Review the effect of weather conditions on crop production;
- Review USDA's implementation of the U.S. Warehouse Act;
- Review of market situation, including effect of crop reports and projections;
- Review USDA's implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act;
- Review how Administrative Pay-Go is affecting Department actions; and

- Review discretionary actions by USDA that are not directly authorized by legislation.

## **ENERGY**

- Assess energy programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review administration of the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP);
- Review activities funded by the Biomass Research and Development Act (BRDA) and input from the external BRDA Advisory Board;
- Review availability of agriculture and forestry feedstocks for renewable energy production;
- Review current status of research on energy crops and feedstocks;
- Review the Rural Utility Service (RUS) electric loan program;
- Review electricity reliability in rural America;
- Review current provisions in existing law that support agriculture-based energy production and use;
- Review USDA's use of Commodity Credit Corporation funds for the Green Fleet Initiative;
- Review implementation of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS); and
- Review renewable fuel programs and their effect on agriculture.

## **CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

- Review the effect of regulatory activities by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its effect on agriculture productivity;
- Review EPA grant program activities that impact agriculture;
- Review the effect of regulatory activities carried out pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), or any proposed legislative changes to such Act, on agricultural producers;
- Review the effect of the Administration's regulatory activity relative to methyl bromide and glyphosate on production of agriculture in the U.S.;
- Review budget and program activities of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- Review implementation of all of USDA's conservation programs;
- Review USDA's implementation of the conservation compliance provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review EPA's jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its effect on U.S. agriculture;
- Review of potential effects of EPA's Clean Air Act (CAA) regulatory program on U.S. agriculture;
- Review ongoing discussions and potential consequences for American agriculture under the United Nations Climate Change Conference;
- Review EPA's implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act (PRIA III);

- Review the effect of litigation and rulemaking concerning FIFRA, ESA, CAA, CWA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) to evaluate these statutes' effects on agricultural operations;
- Review the EPA's regulatory actions in regard to pesticide evaluations;
- Review EPA's regulation of Animal Feeding Operations; and
- Review Total Maximum Daily Load strategies and effects on production agriculture.

#### **FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

- Review USDA's implementation of crop insurance provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review the role and effectiveness of Federal crop insurance;
- Review USDA's and the Risk Management Agency's (RMA) administration and oversight of Federal crop insurance;
- Review the availability of crop insurance as a risk management tool;
- Review the adequacy and availability of risk management tools for the livestock and dairy industries;
- Review USDA's activities established to identify and reduce crop insurance waste, fraud, and abuse;
- Review USDA's crop insurance rating methodology and management of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) process;
- Review RMA's yield and revenue protection crop insurance products; and
- Review RMA's progress in approving crop insurance products for underserved commodities.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF TITLE VII OF THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**

- In its review of rulemakings required by Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111-203)(Dodd-Frank Act), the Committee will continue to ensure:
  - (1) The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) rulemaking processes are transparent and that meaningful comments are accepted and appropriately reviewed;
  - (2) An adequate cost-benefit analysis is performed by the CFTC in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Commodity Exchange Act for proposed or final rules;
  - (3) The CFTC properly coordinates with both domestic and international financial regulators;
  - (4) Past exemptive relief orders, also referred to as "no action letters," issued by the CFTC provide the proper relief for market participants; and
  - (5) Any final or proposed regulations will not harm or adversely affect the U.S. economy or financial markets, including the effect on jobs and competitiveness;
- Examine how Title VII rulemakings have affected U.S. market structure;
  - Examine the developing effect of CFTC, SEC, and Prudential Regulator regulations, such as the imposition of new margin and

capital requirements, and how they affect the ability of many “end-users” to utilize swaps to hedge against legitimate business risks;

- Examine the level of coordination between U.S. and international regulators for potential effects on U.S. financial institutions compared to their foreign counterparts; and
- Examine the feasibility of timetables established by the Dodd-Frank Act in building the data, technology and connectivity necessary to meet regulatory objectives.

#### **THE U.S. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION AND THE DERIVATIVES MARKETS**

- Review the operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC);
- Review the growing consolidation and internationalization of futures exchange trading;
- Review market machinations for exchange traded energy and agricultural futures products;
- Review enforcement and oversight capabilities of the CFTC both domestically and internationally;
- Continue to examine how the CFTC and futures industry as a whole has addressed the MF Global and PFGBest bankruptcies from both an enforcement and regulatory reform standpoint to ensure that proper remedial action is taken to prevent future losses to segregated funds of customers;
- Continue to examine all sectors of the U.S. derivatives and futures markets, including, but not limited to: exchange or swap execution facility trading; the roles of dealers, inter-dealer brokers, data repositories, and clearinghouses; trade and price reporting; and proposals aimed at protecting the segregated funds of futures customers, especially in light of the Commodity Exchange Act statutory authorization of the CFTC which expired at the end of FY2013;
- Continue to examine the ongoing investigation and enforcement action by the CFTC and other federal regulators with respect to the manipulation of international financial benchmarks; and
- Review all operations of the CFTC, including, but not limited to: a continued examination of whether the cost-benefit analysis required by section 15a of the CEA is adequate with respect to proposed and finalized rules; the efficiency of internal Commission actions; the Commission’s use of its independent leasing authority; stewardship of the Customer Protection Fund.

#### **AGRICULTURE TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID**

- Review tariff and non-tariff trade barriers—including domestic subsidies—currently applied by agricultural product producing countries around the world;
- Review ongoing multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations (including World Trade Organization (WTO) accession agreements) to assess their potential effect on U.S. agriculture;
- Review implementation of existing trade agreements and commitments as well as proposed trade agreements and commitments to determine:

- (1) whether they are consistent with current U.S. law;

(2) whether they will promote economic development in rural areas of the U.S.;

(3) their effect or potential effect on current production of import sensitive agricultural commodities, and on exports of U.S. agricultural products;

(4) their effect or potential effect on the overall competitiveness of the U.S. agricultural sector, including the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products; and

(5) whether the agreements provide adequate, enforceable provisions to minimize non-tariff barriers to U.S. exports;

- Monitor existing trade agreements to ensure trading partners are meeting obligations and enforcing trade commitments;
- Review agricultural export programs to determine how well they are promoting the interests of U.S. agriculture and examine proposals to improve, modify or expand such programs;
- Review U.S. food aid programs to determine their effect or potential effect on the reduction of world hunger—particularly the potential effect of trade negotiations on the effectiveness of U.S. food aid programs;
- Review USDA and USAID’s implementation of the Global Food Security Act (GFSA);
- Review the market assessments USDA and USAID use to evaluate the potential impact of U.S. food aid on recipient countries;
- Review USAID’s increasing use of cash-based food aid, including financial controls;
- Review monitoring and evaluation activities carried out by USDA and USAID; and
- Review sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers and other technical barriers to U.S. agricultural exports and examine efforts to eliminate such barriers.

## **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION**

- Review implementation of biosecurity protocols at USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) laboratories;
- Review USDA’s implementation of research, education and extension programs authorized in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review the administration of the ARS research stations and worksites;
- Review USDA’s continuing ability to conduct foreign animal disease research, training and diagnostic programs at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility following the transfer of the center to the Department of Homeland Security;
- Assess federal efforts to facilitate research and development of aquacultural enterprises, specifically focusing on the activities of the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture;
- Review USDA’s regulation of organic standards;
- Review USDA’s collection of organic production and market data;
- Review administration of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA);
- Review the administration of the Agricultural Food Research Initiative and other competitive research, extension and education grants programs;

- Review efforts to leverage Federal research investment with state, local, and private sources of funding, including a review of the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR);
- Review coordination between ARS, the Economic Research Service (ERS), NIFA and action agencies in USDA—such as NRCS and FSA—in order to prevent duplicative research;
- Review operation of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board;
- Review USDA’s efforts to expand research and development of pathogen reduction technologies;
- Evaluate the current mix of research funding mechanisms to ensure maximum benefits from these investments to producers, processors and consumers;
- Review administration of USDA’s agricultural marketing and promotion programs;
- Review coordination between USDA and the Department of Energy on energy research programs;
- Review the sufficiency of research funding under ARS, ERS, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and NIFA;
- Review ARS, ERS, NASS and NIFA national program priorities;
- Conduct oversight of the research grant process, generally, and more specifically to coordinate and prevent overlapping research; and
- Review the potential for research and technology transfer to address the needs of both the biofuels and livestock industries.

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

- Review current regulations and research regarding animal and plant biotechnology;
- Review FDA’s regulatory activities regarding genetically engineered animals;
- Assess USDA’s efforts to develop and promote benefits of biotechnology for increasing agricultural productivity and combating hunger globally;
- Review USDA’s management and controls over biotechnology-derived material;
- Review the effect of litigation on USDA’s timeliness in resolving petitions to deregulate products of biotechnology;
- Review effects of state, county, and municipal regulation of biotechnology on the free-flow of agricultural products in interstate commerce; and
- Review USDA’s implementation of biotech labeling standard.

## **U.S. FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATION**

- Review the U.S. Forest Service’s (USFS) strategy for dealing with wildfire, including the effect of hazardous fuels management, forest health efforts and fire preparedness;
- Continue to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the USFS fire management program;
- Review the effect of fire expenses on other USFS program delivery;
- Assess the USFS strategy for timber harvesting on federal lands;

- Review effects of environmental regulations on National Forest land management;
- Review economic effects of National Forest land management on rural communities;
- Review USFS efforts to promote utilization of National Forest timber for renewable energy purposes; and
- Review USFS's management tools contained in the Farm Bill.

#### **DAIRY**

- Review USDA's implementation of the dairy risk management provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dairy programs; and
- Review efficiency of federal milk marketing order system.

#### **OUTREACH AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

- Review the operations of the Office of Advocacy and Outreach;
- Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to beginning, small, and minority farmers/ranchers;
- Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to military veterans interested in careers in agriculture;
- Review of the operations of the office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights;
- Review USDA's implementation of the receipt for service provisions in the Agricultural Act of 2014;
- Review USDA's process for settling discrimination claims and evaluating individual claims submitted pursuant to such settlements;
- Review the delivery of USDA services and outreach efforts on Indian reservations and tribal lands;
- Review the current status of the Agricultural Census and efforts to reach undercounted farmers and ranchers; and
- Review participation of minority farmers in FSA County/Local Committees as well as outreach to increase participation in County Committee elections.

#### **USDA GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

- Review confidentiality of information provided to USDA by agricultural producers;
- Review USDA's implementation of field office consolidation for the purpose of effectively and efficiently delivering commodity, conservation, energy and rural development programs;
- Review USDA's efforts to modernize its Information Technology (IT) systems; and
- Review the administrative structure of USDA for effectiveness and efficiency.

#### **FARM CREDIT, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE RURAL ECONOMY**

- Review the Farm Credit Administration's (FCA) regulatory program and activities regarding the Farm Credit System (FCS) to assure its safety and soundness;
- Review the activities and programs of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (also referred to as Farmer Mac);

- Review FSA's direct and guaranteed loan programs and graduation efforts;
- Review the Rural Electrification Act (REA);
- Review the farm economy and access to credit;
- Review implementation of rural development policies and authorities contained in the Agricultural Act of 2014 and the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act;
- Conduct oversight of the USDA's Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program;
- Review USDA Rural Development's application processes and internal controls related to the Farm Bill;
- Review the administration of the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program;
- Conduct oversight of the implementation of USDA's telecommunications programs;
- Review the status of the Rural Telephone Bank;
- Assess the state of rural water systems and effectiveness of federal funding to build and upgrade those systems;
- Assess the effectiveness of USDA programs targeted toward rural infrastructure and business needs;
- Review agricultural lending practices;
- Review public-private partnerships in lending through guaranteed loans;
- Review the definition of "rural" under rural development programs;
- Review rural development loan programs and default rates; and
- Review the success of rural development programs in persistent poverty areas.

#### **USDA FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

- Review food and nutrition programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), fruit and vegetable initiatives, the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) program and other commodity distribution programs;
- Review participant eligibility criteria for SNAP;
- Review the interaction between SNAP and other low-income assistance programs such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and provisions in the Affordable Care Act;
- Review SNAP work pilots and the efficiency and accountability of the SNAP Employment & Training program;
- Review educative initiatives such as SNAP-Ed and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP);
- Review efforts by USDA and the states to combat waste, fraud, and abuse within nutrition programs;
- Review efforts by state SNAP administrators to modernize and streamline their programs; and
- Review the Community Food Project Program to ensure cooperative grants are working.

## **SPECIALTY CROPS**

- Review implementation of the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act;
- Review the Specialty Crop Block Grant program to ensure that the grants awarded are enhancing the specialty crop industry;
- Review farmers market programs;
- Review implementation and effectiveness of cooperative plant health programs, including Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention and the Clean Plant Network; and
- Review the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

## **FOOD SAFETY**

- Review implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act;
- Review implementation of the FDA Egg Safety Rule;
- Review USDA's administration of meat and poultry inspection laws and the FDA's food inspection activities to ensure the development of scientifically sound systems for food safety assurance;
- Review USDA's implementation of the catfish inspection program;
- Review USDA's efforts to educate consumers regarding safe food handling practices and streamline the assessment and approval of food safety technologies;
- Review implementation of new protocols for meat, poultry, eggs, or seafood safety inspection;
- Review USDA's enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and humane handling regulations; and
- Review the mechanisms to establish scientifically based international food safety standards.

## **PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH**

- Review enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act;
- Assess federal efforts to reduce threats to human, animal, and plant health due to predatory and invasive species;
- Review efforts of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to manage wildlife conflicts in order to protect public health and safety;
- Assess USDA's Animal Disease Traceability Plan;
- Review implementation of Sec. 10201 (of the 2008 farm bill) regarding plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention;
- Review USDA's regulation on horse protection; and
- Review USDA's regulation on organic livestock and poultry practices.

## **LIVESTOCK MARKETING**

- Assess the effectiveness of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) in determining market manipulation in the livestock industry;
- Review structural changes in agribusiness and the potential cost and benefits for agricultural producers; and
- Review the USDA's mandatory livestock price reporting system.

## **HOMELAND AND AGRICULTURAL SECURITY**

- Examine USDA's preparedness against terrorist threats to production agriculture;
- Review cooperative efforts between the Department of Homeland Security and USDA to prevent against foreign animal disease; and
- Review agricultural inspection activities under the Department of Homeland Security.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Review the effects of sequestration on USDA operations and programs; and
- Review the effect of transportation infrastructure issues on agriculture and forestry;

## **CONSULTATION WITH OTHER COMMITTEES TO REDUCE DUPLICATION**

- With Natural Resources on forestry issues, ESA issues and other public land issues;
- With Science on research;
- With Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce on nutrition programs;
- With Ways and Means on tax and trade issues;
- With Homeland Security on importation of animal and plant material and on research related to agroterrorism;
- With Armed Services on global food security;
- With Judiciary on immigrant agricultural labor;
- With Energy and Commerce on food safety and biomass energy programs both existing and new;
- With Transportation and Infrastructure on certain CWA compliance issues and food aid delivery;
- With Financial Services on Dodd-Frank Act issues;
- With Foreign Affairs on food aid and trade issues;
- With Small Business on addressing economic opportunities for rural America; and
- Any other committee as appropriate.

## **AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

In the 115th Congress, the House Committee on Agriculture intends to continue to reauthorize all expiring authorities within its jurisdiction. In the 114th Congress, the Committee passed legislation to reauthorize all of the expired or expiring programs and authorities within its jurisdiction. At the end of the last Congress, only the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) remained to be reauthorized. On May 29, 2015, the Committee passed H.R. 2289, the Commodity End-User Relief Act, which would have reauthorized the CFTC. H.R. 2289 was subsequently passed by the House on June 9, 2015, but the bill was not taken up by the full Senate.

On January 12, 2017, the House once again passed legislation that reauthorizes the CFTC—H.R. 238, the Commodity End-User Relief Act. H.R. 238 currently awaits action in the Senate.

There are three items within the Committee's jurisdiction that are set to expire in the 115th Congress—the programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill), the National Forest Foundation Act, and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA).

The Committee plans to spend considerable time examining the programs that were last authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. The current Farm Bill expires on September 30, 2018. Farm Bill preparation will begin with hearings, both in Washington and in the field, to hear from producers and USDA about how the programs are working. Although dependent on timing in the Senate, it is the Committee's goal to reauthorize the Farm Bill before it expires.

The National Forest Foundation was a lapsed authorization in the Committee's jurisdiction identified at the beginning of the 114th Congress. While the program was successfully reauthorized last Congress, its authority will again expire on September 30, 2018, and will most likely be reauthorized during the farm bill process.

In addition to reauthorizing farm bill programs, during the first session of the 115th Congress, the Committee will reauthorize PRIA before it expires on September 30, 2017. This will be the fourth iteration of the pesticide registration bill. The Committee anticipates a hearing and markup for consideration of the bill. However, the Committee does not expect the need for a conference with the Senate.

#### **AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE 116TH CONGRESS**

Going forward, the Committee intends to continue the effort to avoid lapsed authorizations. Accordingly, the Committee has identified two authorities set to expire in the 116th Congress—Livestock Mandatory Price Reporting and the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Both of these authorities were reauthorized in the 114th Congress and the Committee plans to reauthorize them during the course of the 116th Congress.



# COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

## OVERSIGHT PLAN

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives that requires that, not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee of the House shall adopt its oversight plan for that Congress.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION .....	16
OVERSIGHT AGENDA .....	17
POLICY ISSUES .....	20
National Defense Strategy, National Military Strategy, and Related Defense ..	20
Readiness and Posture of the Force .....	21
Russian Federation .....	21
People's Republic of China .....	22
Democratic People's Republic of Korea .....	23
Islamic Republic of Iran .....	23
Countering Terrorism, At Risk and Failing States, Countering Violent Extremism and Illicit Trafficking .....	24
<i>Operation Freedom's Sentinel</i> .....	25
<i>Islamic Republic of Pakistan</i> .....	25
<i>Operation Inherent Resolve</i> .....	26
<i>Republic of Yemen</i> .....	26
<i>Africa</i> .....	27
<i>Central and South America</i> .....	28
<i>Detainee Policy and Related Matters</i> .....	28
Cyberwarfare .....	28
Technology Erosion, Technological Superiority, and the Third Offset Strategy .....	29
Addressing Emerging Threats .....	29
<i>Intelligence</i> .....	30
<i>Security Cooperation</i> .....	30
AGILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY .....	31
Overview .....	31
Organization and Management of the Department of Defense .....	31
Acquisition and Regulatory Reform .....	32
Financial Management .....	33
Civilian Personnel .....	33
READINESS .....	33
Manpower Sufficient in Quantity and Quality to Meet Global Commitments ...	33
Force Readiness .....	34
<i>Maintenance and Training</i> .....	34
Weapon Systems Life-Cycle Sustainment and Reset .....	35
Depot, Shipyard, and Arsenal Capability .....	35
National Guard and Reserves .....	36
Energy and Environment .....	37
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE .....	37
Basing .....	37
Military Construction Programming and Facilities Sustainment .....	37
Real Property Acquisition, Maintenance, and Disposal .....	38
MILITARY PERSONNEL AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES .....	38
Military Manpower and Force Structure .....	38
<i>Medical Accession Standards</i> .....	38

<i>Gender Integration</i> .....	38
Military Benefits and Compensation .....	39
Military Health System .....	39
<i>Mental Health Services for Members of the Armed Forces</i> .....	39
<i>Wounded Warrior Care</i> .....	39
Military Personnel Policy .....	40
Uniform Code of Military Justice to Include Sexual Assault .....	40
Military Family Readiness .....	40
Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs and Military Resale Programs .....	41
Prisoner of War and Missing in Action .....	41
MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES .....	41
Overview .....	41
Army and Marine Corps Armored Vehicle Modernization .....	42
Army and Marine Corps Tactical Wheeled Vehicles .....	42
Army and Marine Corps Rotorcraft Programs .....	43
Army Communications and Network Programs .....	43
Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment .....	44
Tactical Aircraft Force Structure .....	44
F-35 Joint Strike Fighter .....	45
Bomber Force Structure .....	45
Aerial Refueling Aircraft .....	46
Intertheater and Intratheater Airlift .....	46
Surface Warfare Programs .....	47
Undersea Warfare Programs .....	47
Military Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Programs .....	48
Emerging Advanced Weapons Capabilities .....	48
Nuclear Deterrence .....	49
Missile Defense .....	50
National Security Space .....	51
EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES .....	51
Investment in Future Capabilities Science and Technology .....	51
Cyber Operations Capabilities .....	52
Information Operations .....	52
Compromises of National Security Information and Insider Threats .....	53
Use of Force in Counterterrorism Operations Outside the United States and Areas of Active Hostilities .....	53

## INTRODUCTION

The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on Armed Services are conducted throughout the calendar year. They are instrumental in the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill, which covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense as well as the national security functions of the Department of Energy and other related areas. The annual national defense budget involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The complexity of the current threat environment will continue to expand the range of topics requiring committee oversight including strategic, operational, and budgetary issues of great scope and complexity.

The committee has jurisdiction over laws, programs, and agencies under permanent authority in numerous titles of the United States Code, including title 10 (Armed Forces), title 32 (National Guard), title 37 (Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services), title 41 (Public Contracts), title 42 (Atomic Energy), title 46 (Shipping), and title 50 (War and National Defense).

The jurisdiction of the committee, pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives is as follows:

1. Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy, and Air Force reservations and establishments.

2. Common defense generally.
3. Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves.
4. The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally.
5. Interoceanic canals generally, including measures relating to the maintenance, operation, and administration of interoceanic canals.
6. Merchant Marine Academy, and State Merchant Marine Academies.
7. Military applications of nuclear energy.
8. Tactical intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Department of Defense.
9. National security aspects of merchant marine, including financial assistance for the construction and operation of vessels, the maintenance of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair industrial base, cabotage, cargo preference, and merchant marine officers and seamen as these matters relate to national security.
10. Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed services.
11. Scientific research and development in support of the armed services.
12. Selective service.
13. Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.
14. Soldiers' and sailors' homes.
15. Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.
16. Cemeteries administered by the Department of Defense.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction and general oversight function, the committee has special oversight functions with respect to international arms control and disarmament and the education of military dependents in schools pursuant to clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### OVERSIGHT AGENDA

The committee will continue its oversight and assessment of threats to U.S. national security as it considers the fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 defense budget requests. This effort will involve appropriate oversight hearings with the Secretary of Defense; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the individual service secretaries and chiefs of staff; combatant commanders; other officials of the Department of Defense and the military departments; officials from the Intelligence Community; and the Secretary of Energy, the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, and other officials of the Department of Energy. In addition, the committee will invite the views and perspectives of outside experts in academia, industry, associations and advocacy organizations, and those in private life with expertise on these matters. Finally, the committee will continue its aggressive outreach program to seek the views and perspectives of service members and their families to include Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members across the United States and at deployed locations overseas.

The committee carries out its oversight of the Department of Defense and its subordinate departments and agencies as well as portions of the Department of Energy through activities involving the full committee and its standing subcommittees. Each subcommittee with assigned topical or programmatic responsibilities conducts oversight of the programs within its jurisdiction as specified in the committee's rules. Certain issues and activities requiring more extensive, lengthy, and in-depth review are assigned to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. This subcommittee works with the relevant subcommittees (and/or full committee) in a coordinated manner to undertake the necessary oversight.

The oversight agenda below, unless otherwise noted, is designed to support the consideration by the committee and, ultimately, the House of Representatives of the annual defense authorization bill, as well as the committee's broader oversight responsibilities. The issues identified are expected to be ongoing areas of oversight activity throughout the 115th Congress. In addition, the committee will continue to pay particular attention to the mandates placed on executive departments and agencies. In this context, pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will continue to emphasize the examination of relevant rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy for their effects on efficiency and good management practices.

Given the unique nature of national security issues and related oversight of the Armed Forces, the committee believes that a qualifier is once again necessary with regard to the ability to plan comprehensively and predict all oversight activities. Much of the committee's most demanding oversight will be, by definition, event-driven and not subject to prior planning. Such events significantly complicate the ability to prescribe with great accuracy or specificity the committee's entire oversight agenda. For instance, the oversight of defense activities by the committee has historically involved in-depth assessments of military operations and other major events that are generally difficult to predict in advance, such as the recent operations in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and responses to catastrophic events. These reviews can dominate committee and staff resources, sometimes at the expense of other planned activities. The committee fully expects that this type of event-driven oversight will continue to be required.

The committee has a long tradition of translating oversight activities into legislative action as reflected in past comprehensive efforts such as: providing for concurrent receipt of retirement and disability benefits for veterans with qualifying combat-related disabilities; the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-433); the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510); the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-355); the establishment of the National Nuclear Security Administration and related reform of the management of the national security programs of the Department of Energy; the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-366); the Wounded Warrior As-

sistance Act of 2007 included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181); the Weapon System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–23); the Implementing Management for Performance and Related Reforms to Obtain Value in Every Acquisition Act of 2010 (IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010), as included in the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383); the Small Business Innovative Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Reauthorization Act of 2011, as included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81); and the application of additional sanctions against the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as included in both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–39). In the 113th Congress, the committee’s focused oversight of the sensitive military operations of the Department of Defense led to the introduction of the bipartisan bill H.R. 1904, the Oversight of Sensitive Military Operations Act, in May 2013, much of which was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–76).

In the 114th Congress, the committee undertook a significant defense reform effort aimed at improving agility within the Department of Defense, increasing the quality of care and support for service members, and getting more defense for the dollar. Across both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92) and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328), six major defense reform packages were enacted into law: compensation and benefits, military healthcare, commissaries, Uniform Code of Military Justice, acquisition, and organization and management of the Department. The committee will continue to emphasize defense reform in the 115th Congress. In general, the committee will continue to maintain a strong linkage between formal oversight efforts and legislative initiatives.

As previously noted, the committee has dedicated significant oversight to the examination of the implications of the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 (Public Law 112–25) for national defense and defense sequestration. The committee will continue to assess the effects of declining defense resources and sequestration on the readiness of the force and the risk associated with executing the national defense strategy. While the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–67) and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–74) provided some relief to defense by increasing the BCA discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2014 through 2017, fiscal year 2018 will see a return to the BCA caps and defense sequestration. The committee shares the concern of the National Defense Panel that the BCA, on top of previous cuts to defense dating back to 2009, will “lead to a high risk force in the near future,” have “caused significant shortfalls in U.S. military readiness and both present and future capabilities,” and have prompted allies and adversaries alike “to question our commitment and resolve.” The committee continues to oppose the sequester of national defense funding, and will continue to conduct oversight in the 115th Congress to highlight the consequences for the military, the defense in-

dustrial base, and national security. While the committee will work to ensure that the damage to U.S. national security is mitigated to the greatest extent possible, it will also engage the Administration on opportunities to revisit Public Law 112–25.

## POLICY ISSUES

### NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY, NATIONAL MILITARY STRATEGY, AND RELATED DEFENSE

In the 115th Congress, the committee plans to continue its focus on the readiness, capability, and capacity of the U.S. Armed Forces to defend national interests, on supporting the authorities and resources necessary for ongoing military operations, and on improving the agility and efficiency of the Department of Defense. The committee will continue to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities through a robust and comprehensive oversight program and through the development and passage of the annual defense authorization act.

The committee recognizes that the current threat environment, as characterized by Dr. Henry Kissinger in January 2015, is “more diverse and complex” that at any point since the end of the Second World War. Terrorism, including the spread of violent extremism by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, instability in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, regional aggression by the Russian Federation, destabilizing actions by the People’s Republic of China in the South and East China Seas, developments in nuclear and missile capabilities by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the continued spread of lethal and disruptive technologies, will continue to threaten U.S. national security interests. These events and other security developments across the globe also serve to highlight the continued need for the U.S. military to be postured and ready to defend national interests and address security challenges, wherever and whenever they may arise.

The committee expects that the Administration will conduct a series of national security and defense reviews to inform its development of a new National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy, consistent with the requirements contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328). These new strategies may also lead to changes in the National Military Strategy, which was last updated by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2016. The committee will review these strategies; evaluate the alignment of the strategies to the security environment; examine the assumptions underpinning them, including the force sizing construct; and assess the force posture, capabilities, and resources necessary to execute the strategies. The committee will also evaluate the risk associated with executing the strategies at current resource levels, to specifically include evaluating the impact that defense cuts and sequestration may have on strategy execution.

The committee also plans to continue its oversight of: ongoing military operations where U.S. forces are in harm’s way, including ongoing global counterterrorism operations; strategic reassurance and deterrence activities in Europe and the Indo-Asia-Pacific; and

Department of Defense investments in readiness, capabilities, and infrastructure to ensure the U.S. Armed Forces remain capable of addressing current and emerging conventional and unconventional challenges. The committee intends to accomplish this oversight through the conduct of hearings and briefings; engagements with defense leaders, military commanders, diplomats, academics, and private sector experts; and congressional delegation visits to military installations and U.S. forces serving abroad.

#### READINESS AND POSTURE OF THE FORCE

The committee believes that, as a matter of principal, the military should be fully ready, trained, and equipped for the missions it is asked to do. These missions range from conducting counterterrorism and low intensity operations across the globe to possessing a credible conventional and nuclear deterrent against near-peer challengers. Yet, as the committee found through its oversight in the 114th Congress, full spectrum military readiness has suffered because of a continued high operational mission tempo and cuts in defense spending, which have led to a force that is too small and is being asked to do more with less.

In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to prioritize its oversight of the readiness and posture of the U.S. Armed Forces. The committee expects the Department of Defense, under the new Administration, to update the National Defense Strategy and adjust resource levels and allocations to fulfill the strategy. The committee will evaluate the strategy-resource alignment, and assess whether the U.S. military is sized, shaped, and postured to execute the strategy. Building upon its oversight in the 114th Congress, the committee will also seek to improve full spectrum readiness by focusing on specific areas such as training, equipment maintenance and modernization, end strength, and infrastructure.

The committee also recognizes that, over the past 15 years of conducting counterterrorism operations, the U.S. military has largely operated uncontested in the air, sea, space, and cyberspace domains. However, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, all possess varying degrees of anti-access and area denial capabilities in those domains. Therefore, the committee's oversight will also include examination of U.S. military power projection abilities, operational concepts, joint training and exercises, and command structures, necessary to deter conflict and compete with potential adversaries that possess advanced military forces.

#### RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The committee recognizes the security challenges posed by the Russian Federation in Europe, the Middle East, and across the globe. Russia possesses sufficient military and nuclear weapons capabilities to pose an existential threat to the United States. It has undertaken cyber and other unconventional actions against the United States and European nations. Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia has violated long-standing international rules and the preservation of territorial integrity and sovereignty. Russia's continued aggression towards Ukraine began in 2014 with the ille-

gal annexation of Crimea, and it has maintained ongoing support to separatists in the Donbas region and shown a willingness and capability to engage in unacknowledged hybrid warfare there and elsewhere in Europe. In the greater Middle East, Russia has increased its influence, intervening militarily in the civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic to bolster the regime of President Bashar Assad and to conduct missions against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant located in Syria. Russia has also begun to engage with the Taliban in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Collectively, these examples demonstrate the global influence Russia seeks to wield and the threat it presents to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and other European partners, and to the wider global community.

The committee will continue to examine Russia's global influence campaign as well as its conventional, nuclear, and unconventional military capabilities and capacities. In particular, the committee will pay close attention to Russian use of information operations, cyber attacks, propaganda, and intimidation measures against the United States and its allies and partners. The committee will continue to assess U.S. defense policy and military investments in posture, capabilities, and readiness to maintain a credible deterrent against Russia and to reassure European allies and partners. The committee will also examine NATO military capabilities, and the contribution that NATO countries make, to deter and defend against Russian aggression.

The committee also recognizes that Russia has failed to comply with several arms control treaties important to European stability and security. Since December 2007, Russia has ceased implementing its obligations to the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, which included annual notifications and data on military forces and basing. In 2014, the Administration formally declared Russia in violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The committee will consider the implications for U.S. defense policy, planning, and investments resulting from this violation and from Russia's changes to its military doctrine.

#### PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The People's Republic of China continues its unilateral efforts to assert regional influence, particularly in the South and East China Seas, while also continuing its military modernization in areas such as anti-access and area denial capabilities, power projection, nuclear forces, space, cyber, and other advanced technology areas. The committee will continue to oversee the Department of Defense's strategy, force posture, capability needs, and readiness in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, to ensure that U.S. forces are properly resourced and postured to protect U.S. national security interests and are prepared to keep pace with advancing threats, including China's military modernization effort.

As the stability and security of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region remains a core U.S. national interest, the committee will continue to oversee the Department of Defense's efforts to implement a range of posture, force structure, and engagement initiatives in the region, including naval, air, and land-based assets; forward pre-positioning; infrastructure realignments; and training and exercises.

The United States has many allies and partners in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, and the committee will continue to focus on strengthening important international relationships and cooperative efforts in the region.

#### DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains a threat to stability on the Korean peninsula and to the United States. North Korea continues to advance its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, to include firing a submarine-launched ballistic missile and taking steps towards fielding its road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile that poses a direct threat to the United States, and expanding its asymmetric capabilities, as exemplified by its destructive cyber attack on Sony Pictures. The committee will continue to monitor and oversee the Department of Defense's strategy, force posture, capability needs, and readiness in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, to ensure that U.S. forces are properly resourced and postured to protect U.S. national security interests, particularly against North Korea's increasing threat.

As the stability and security of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region remains a core U.S. national interest, the committee will continue to closely oversee the Department of Defense's efforts to implement a range of posture, force structure, and engagement initiatives in the region, including forward pre-positioning; infrastructure realignments; and training and exercises. Specific examples include: the realignment of U.S. forces based in Japan; key operational control transition and realignment initiatives between U.S. Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea; the U.S. deployment of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense anti-ballistic missile system in South Korea; and trilateral defense cooperation efforts between the United States, South Korea, and Japan. The United States has many allies and partners in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, and the committee will continue to focus on strengthening important international relationships and cooperative efforts in the region.

#### ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

The committee will examine the military-related capabilities, policies, and actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including those of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps and Iran's Quds Force. Particular focus will be given to any Iranian military-related actions directed against the United States and U.S. forces, as well as against its allies and partners in the region. The committee will continue to examine Iran's malign activities, including its support to terrorist organizations, its use of proxies and Shia militant groups, and its facilitation of lethal aid to these groups.

The committee will also continue to monitor Iran's nuclear program. Such monitoring includes close oversight of Iran's development of ballistic missiles, nuclear capabilities and any such capabilities with applicability to a nuclear weapons program, and any proliferation of missile and nuclear technology. The committee intends to continue to monitor the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the P5+1 (the United States, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the French

Republic, and the Federal Republic of Germany) and Iran, including Iran's compliance with the commitments agreed to under the JCPOA.

The committee's continued assessment of Iran's military-related capabilities, intent, and strategic orientation will shape its oversight of U.S. defense policies, posture, planning, and operations in the greater Middle East, and support its investment decisions regarding the capabilities and force structure necessary to support U.S. military requirements in the greater Middle East.

#### COUNTERING TERRORISM, AT RISK AND FAILING STATES, COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Since the September 11, 2001 attacks, countering terrorism has been a central focus and mission of the Department of Defense. At great sacrifice, U.S. Armed Forces have deployed to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Yemen, the Horn of Africa, and elsewhere around the globe to deal repeated and significant blows to Al Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and other terrorist groups. While these terrorist groups have been degraded, they have not been destroyed. They remain potent, ruthless, and continue to spread a radical jihadist ideology that has inspired deadly attacks in the United States and across Europe. The committee recognizes that ISIL, Al Qaeda, and their affiliates and associates will continue to pose a direct threat to American lives and American interests, and that U.S. forces will be conducting counterterrorism operations at varying levels of intensity, for the foreseeable future.

The committee will conduct extensive oversight, often in classified form, over terrorism issues. The committee will continue to monitor terrorism threats and examine counterterrorism policies, strategies, and operations, including any changes made by the new Administration. It will also pay particular attention to the military force posture; special operations capabilities; intelligence, information operations, and cyber capabilities; role of allies and partners; and resources necessary to carry out an effective counterterrorism strategy.

The committee also recognizes the need to counter the violent extremist ideology spread by ISIL and other terrorist groups, and that such a challenge requires an interagency and international approach. The committee plans to examine the role of the Department of Defense in addressing this challenge and how the Department engages with other U.S. departments and agencies and foreign partners.

The committee also recognizes that these terrorist groups leverage at risk and failing states, particularly in the greater Middle East and Africa, to expand their presence, to conduct operational planning, and to serve as launch points for attacks against the United States, its allies and partners, and U.S. interests. The committee will therefore also continue to focus on efforts to build partner nation counterterrorism and conventional warfare capabilities to counter these threats at the regional and local level. Improving security and stability in volatile regions that cannot adequately

govern themselves or secure their own territory will remain a top priority for the committee.

Lastly, the committee will continue to examine the legal basis for the President's military actions against ISIL. To date, President Obama has cited his Article II authority under the U.S. Constitution as well as certain statutory authorities, including the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40) and the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243). The committee will examine those aspects of the AUMF relevant to its jurisdiction to be well postured should the 115th Congress consider any new authorization for the use of military force against ISIL.

#### *Operation Freedom's Sentinel*

The committee will conduct robust oversight of the U.S. military effort in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, to specifically include oversight of the three U.S. military missions associated with Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS): conducting counterterrorism operations against Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups including the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL); training, advising, and assisting the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF); and providing force protection of U.S. personnel and facilities. The committee will continue to assess the authorities, resources, equipment, basing, and personnel to support the OFS missions and policy objectives. Additionally, the committee will examine the regional security environment, including efforts by the Government of Afghanistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to deny safe havens to Al Qaeda, the Haqqani Network, and other jihadist organizations. The committee will also monitor other critical efforts in Afghanistan, such as the effectiveness of the ANDSF, and its ability to sustain operations and institutional requirements. Finally, the committee recognizes that the Administration is likely to review current U.S. policy on Afghanistan and the committee will be prepared to assess any changes to Department of Defense efforts that the Administration might make.

#### *Islamic Republic of Pakistan*

The committee will continue its oversight of the broad range of security issues involving the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, including review of the use of Coalition Support Funds, which are provided to reimburse Pakistan for its support to U.S. military operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee will monitor the security and stability of Pakistan, including the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons, Pakistan's on-going and future nuclear weapon projects, and its willingness and operational capacity to combat key terrorist groups, such as Al Qaeda, the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban, the Haqqani network, and other terrorist organizations. Moreover, the committee will evaluate the terrorist activity emanating from the border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and will conduct oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to combat that threat.

### *Operation Inherent Resolve*

The U.S. and coalition forces continue to conduct operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) as part of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). Presently, U.S. and coalition operations include: an air campaign that is focused against ISIL in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic; training, equipping, advising, and assisting Iraqi Security Forces and, in a more limited role, partnered forces on the ground in Syria; and force protection of U.S. forces and facilities deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The committee will continue to assess the sufficiency of authorities, resources, equipment, basing, and personnel to support the Operation Inherent Resolve missions and policy objectives. The committee will maintain congressional oversight of the Iraq Train and Equip and the Syria Train and Equip programs, particularly given past concerns about their effectiveness.

The committee recognizes that the security landscape in Iraq and Syria has become more complex and that the humanitarian crisis in those countries more dire. The committee will examine the presence and influence exerted by other actors in Syria, particularly the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Republic of Turkey, and the implications for U.S. objectives regarding ISIL and regional security and stability. Furthermore, the committee will continue to examine the flow of foreign fighters to and from the region, and the linkages between ISIL and actors who conduct directed or inspired terrorist attacks in the U.S. and elsewhere. Additionally, the committee will monitor the political and sectarian dynamics in both Iraq and Syria, which have, in part, fostered the context and political climate for ISIL to expand and grow. It will also closely monitor the stability of the countries in the region of Iraq and Syria and any growth or expansion of ISIL in the region, and continue to oversee the security assistance authorities and resources provided through the annual defense authorization act to address these challenges.

Finally, the committee recognizes that the Administration is undertaking a review of the current U.S. policy on defeating ISIL in Iraq and Syria, and the committee will be prepared to assess any changes to Department of Defense efforts that the Administration might make.

### *Republic of Yemen*

The security situation in the Republic of Yemen will continue to be a significant focus for the committee. The committee will maintain its oversight of the U.S. military's counterterrorism activities in Yemen and the status of coalition efforts to counter Houthi rebels in Yemen, including U.S. support to the coalition and compliance with the laws of armed conflict and other related international norms. Additionally, the committee will monitor any provocative actions by the Houthis against U.S. naval vessels in the region and oversee any required changes in U.S. military posture, capabilities, and resources to address such threats. The committee will also monitor the capability, capacity, and strategy of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to conduct transnational terrorist attacks and oversee the associated U.S. counterterrorism efforts against AQAP.

*Africa*

The committee will maintain its oversight of Department of Defense activities in Africa. Additionally, the committee will continue to examine the Department's coordination within the interagency to ensure the range of the Department's activities occurring in Africa contribute to U.S. national security objectives. As the Department's efforts to train and equip African partners to provide regional security continue, the committee will increase its focus on the Department's execution of the programs, the development of defense institutions in African nations, and the ability of African partner nations to absorb and sustain the assistance provided. The committee will pay particular attention to the effect that security cooperation reform measures adopted in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) will have on the Department's programs and activities in Africa. Further, the committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts, in coordination with other U.S. Government agencies, to develop the security conditions necessary to advance governance and stability on the continent.

In North Africa, the committee will continue to conduct oversight of the evolving security situation caused primarily by the tenuous political environment in the State of Libya and the effect of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, the Islamic State, and other jihadist groups in this region. The committee will pay particular attention to the relationship between the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Iraq and Syria and the terrorist organization's presence in the region.

In East Africa, the committee will continue to provide oversight of the Department's efforts to counter threats and to prevent transnational attacks on the United States, its allies and partners, or its interests. In particular, the committee will remain focused on the security situation in Somalia, U.S. support to African Union Mission in Somalia forces, and the development of Somali forces to provide security. Moreover, the committee will continue to monitor the ideological, strategic, and operational coordination and conflict between Horn of Africa groups, such as Al Shabaab, and other terrorist organizations.

In West Africa, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department's efforts to counter threats throughout the region. In particular, the committee will focus on threats emanating from the Republic of Mali and in the Lake Chad Basin region. The committee will also pay attention to the continuing ideological, strategic, and operational evolution of organizations such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, and the Islamic State West Africa Province, and also will explore the geographic overlap and operational interaction with other terrorist groups on the continent.

In Central Africa, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's activities to transition its support of the Uganda Peoples' Defense Force and other national militaries to counter the Lord's Resistance Army and apprehend or remove Joseph Kony.

### *Central and South America*

The committee will examine the issues affecting U.S. security in Central and South America, including illicit trafficking, transnational organized crime, political turmoil, and instability that pose a potential threat to the U.S. homeland. The committee is particularly concerned about instability in Central America.

The committee will oversee the execution of Department of Defense security assistance programs throughout the hemisphere, specifically in the Republic of Colombia, as it continues to improve its national security and begins implementation of the peace accords signed in 2016. Additionally, the committee will focus on the growing economies in the region, such as the Federative Republic of Brazil, which is the region's largest and fastest-growing economy, and will examine their influence both in the Western Hemisphere and across the globe. The committee will monitor any changes to U.S. policy regarding the relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of Cuba, and any potential impacts on Department of Defense policies and operations. The committee will also continue to monitor potential threats from global terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps, who have increasing influence in the region.

The committee recognizes the importance of the United States' relationship with its Central and South American neighbors and the ability of these partners to bring safety and security to the hemisphere.

### *Detainee Policy and Related Matters*

The Department of Defense continues to be the custodian of law-of-war detainees held at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The committee will continue to monitor transfer and release policies and practices pertaining to those detainees, as well as proceedings pursuant to the Military Commissions Act (Public Law 109-366; Public Law 111-84), which established the legal framework governing military tribunals to try certain detainees for alleged war crimes. The committee will also conduct oversight of detention policy for future captures and related issues.

### CYBERWARFARE

As cyberspace becomes increasingly important as a domain of warfare, the Department of Defense will need to mature its policies, doctrine, and capabilities to execute offensive operations. The committee will continue to oversee the changing policy and authority framework to ensure that cyberwarfare capabilities can be executed as a standalone capability, or fully integrated into an operational plan in concert with other conventional capabilities. That will include ensuring that there is a clear understanding of rules of engagement, as well as how international legal frameworks, like the laws of war, apply in these instances. In addition to developing proper funding authorities that may be required for offensive operations, the committee will also oversee interagency coordination and deconflicting areas of overlap. The committee will increase its oversight on evolving deterrence concepts and the ways in which cyber may be changing the traditional understanding of the esca-

lation ladder. The committee will also monitor the development of international norms of behavior and international regulatory regimes.

#### TECHNOLOGY EROSION, TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY, AND THE THIRD OFFSET STRATEGY

In the 115th Congress, the committee plans to continue its examination of technology trends by nation-states and non-state actors, and the diffusion of technology, to assess the impact and risk to U.S. superiority in key warfare domains. The committee recognizes that U.S. military technological superiority is no longer assumed, and that investments in new and advanced capabilities, development of new operating concepts, and improvements in the agility and adaptability of the Department of Defense, will be required to maintain this superiority.

Through its oversight at the full committee level, and within the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, the committee will continue to evaluate the Department's technology initiatives and investments, including those within the Strategic Capabilities Office and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The committee also intends to continue monitoring the Department's Third Offset Strategy development efforts, and sees it as a useful vehicle for focusing the Department on how to deter and counter the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China. Additionally, the committee will continue to make legislative improvements to the defense acquisition process and to the organization of the Department, as discussed elsewhere in this plan, to get new capabilities deployed to the warfighter that better match the speed of technological change.

The committee will also seek opportunities to participate in wargames to understand the technological and operational challenges facing the military, and is encouraged by the Department's increased emphasis on wargaming and on strategic initiatives to better understand Russian and Chinese military thinking.

#### ADDRESSING EMERGING THREATS

Terrorism, unconventional warfare, insurgency, adversarial use of technology, and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) proliferation are some of the emerging threats that challenge national security and global peace and stability. These threats require the Department of Defense to work effectively and efficiently with other Federal agencies and the governments of other nations. The committee will conduct oversight of numerous cross-cutting Department of Defense activities central to addressing these emerging and unforeseen threats, including the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, security force assistance, and building partnership capacity (BPC).

The committee will focus attention on how the Department of Defense addresses these broad threats in its strategic planning processes, how resources are arrayed to meet these threats, and how existing authorities are consistent with operational requirements. As discussed below, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) contained comprehensive re-

form of security assistance and BPC authorities; the committee, therefore, expects to closely monitor and evaluate the implementation of these reforms to ensure they are consistent with emerging threats and national security objectives.

The committee will also focus attention on the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) activities. The CTR program has changed since authorized in the Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-228; also known as the Nunn-Lugar Act). Originally focused on securing and dismantling weapons of mass destruction and their associated infrastructure in former Soviet Union states, the CTR mission has expanded to a global focus on protecting against WMD, including an increased emphasis on chemical and biological weapons, and improving detection capabilities.

The committee, as well as the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities (given the key role special operations forces play in this area), will continue its oversight of the full range of emerging threats to national security and U.S. military forces, the capabilities, and the authorities needed to respond. Additionally, the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces will continue to review and assess the effectiveness of NNSA DNN's strategy and activities to counter the threat of the global proliferation of nuclear weapons.

#### *Intelligence*

In the 115th Congress, the committee will examine the organization, functions, operations, intelligence collection, and analysis output of the defense intelligence community to ensure the highest possible quality intelligence support to the warfighter. The committee will consider the organization and management of the elements of the Department of Defense that are part of the intelligence community and their roles in the defense and national intelligence enterprise. In the course of examining defense intelligence plans, programs and policies, the committee will balance current threats with the need to rebuild intelligence capabilities to address potential threats, reform the defense intelligence enterprise organization to better meet current and future warfighter requirements, and restore the decisive advantage defense intelligence provides to commanders and the policy community.

The committee will continue to coordinate when appropriate with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on intelligence and counterintelligence matters of the Department of Defense, and intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the Department of Energy in the course of oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.

#### *Security Cooperation*

The committee will conduct thorough oversight of security cooperation and building partner capacity (BPC) in the 115th Congress. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) contained comprehensive reform of the authorities, funding, programs, and oversight of security cooperation.

The committee will monitor and evaluate the implementation of these security cooperation provisions, including during the development of guidance through the initial congressional notification process and while the programs are in progress, to ensure that they are properly executed and consistent with national security objectives.

## AGILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

### OVERVIEW

In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to place a high priority on defense reform to create greater agility, accountability, and responsiveness within the Department of Defense, and to get more value for the tax payer dollar. The committee will continue to take legislative action to improve the defense acquisition system. It will also oversee the implementation of the significant body of legislation contained in both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92) and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) covering: acquisition; compensation and benefits (including healthcare and commissaries); the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and personnel, organization and management.

Throughout the 115th Congress, the committee expects to conduct numerous hearings and briefings; engage experts from across defense, academia, and the private sector; travel to military installations, industry facilities, and other relevant sites; and conduct independent research and analysis to inform additional legislative reforms.

### ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

As part of the committee’s emphasis on defense reform, it undertook significant oversight and legislative action in the 114th Congress to improve the organization and management of the Department of Defense in order to ensure that it is properly postured to meet the complex and evolving security threats of the 21st century and to maintain U.S. technological superiority.

In the 115th Congress, the committee plans to continue its oversight and legislative action in this area. A key priority will be monitoring the implementation of legislation contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92) requiring the Department to streamline its management headquarters and reduce headquarters activities and personnel, and in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) requiring a reduction in military general and flag officers and in senior executive service personnel. Additionally, the committee plans to oversee the implementation of organizational changes to the Office of the Secretary of Defense contained in Public Law 114–328 to elevate research and engineering, better focus acquisition and sustainment activities, and improve oversight and management of the Department’s “fourth estate.” This may include taking further legislative action to clarify authorities, organizational structure, and provide additional policy guidance. The committee will also seek opportunities to build upon the reforms to the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of

1986 (Public Law 99-433) that it undertook in the 114th Congress to provide further organization and management agility and adaptability necessary to address longer-term national security challenges.

#### ACQUISITION AND REGULATORY REFORM

The committee will continue its ongoing effort to improve the agility of the Department of Defense acquisition system and the environment (i.e., human resources, culture, statutes, regulations, and processes) driving acquisition choices in the Department, industry, and Congress. In undertaking this effort, the committee solicited input from industry, academia, the Department, and others during the 113th Congress, and continued to engage these stakeholders during the 114th Congress. The committee also continued with a series of hearings, briefings, and roundtable discussions in the 114th Congress to receive testimony from key acquisition leaders and experts. The committee addressed many of the identified shortcomings in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).

The committee remains concerned that the Department's conventional acquisition system is not sufficiently agile to support warfighter demands. On average, major defense acquisition programs operate for 9 years before yielding new capabilities. Requirements determination, budgeting, and contracting can each take another 2 years or more before programs begin. Meanwhile, technological change has been rapidly generating new, and often unforeseeable, innovations. Global threats are evolving even more quickly, with adversaries leveraging new technologies to exploit gaps in our military capabilities. The conventional acquisition system simply does not enable capabilities to be delivered to warfighters fast enough. The committee has concluded that the current acquisition system costs too much, takes too long, and the troops simply do not get enough out of it.

The committee notes that this persistent lack of agility derives in part from the basic incentives embedded in the requirements, acquisition, budget, and oversight processes. Weapon system requirements must be set anticipating technology that will be available after years of development, so requirements are naturally optimistic. Optimism carries with it substantial technical risk, which leads the acquisition system to make short-term, cost-savings decisions that reduce flexibility and increase long-term costs. Budget timelines and oversight committees require the military services to provide detailed budget justifications, even though such details then limit the military services' ability to pursue new technological innovations after funds are appropriated. Then in response to acquisition shortcomings, both Congress and the Department have imposed new layers of bureaucratic management and special authorities to circumvent the conventional acquisition process.

While the committee recognizes that there are no "silver bullet" reform packages that can immediately fix the current acquisition system in a holistic manner, the committee intends to take the inputs it has received to facilitate its efforts in this area in the 115th Congress. The committee recognizes this effort will be an iterative

process that will result in direct oversight and will be embedded in the committee's regular work throughout the 115th Congress.

#### FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The committee will continue to oversee military effectiveness in this era of declining budgets. Funding levels have been stagnant for national defense over the last 5 fiscal years, and under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25), base funding for fiscal year 2018 will be \$2.0 billion lower than levels provided for in fiscal year 2017 in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–74).

The Comptroller General of the United States has consistently identified the Department of Defense's financial management as a high-risk area since 1995. The Department's inability to track and account for billions of dollars in funding and tangible assets continues to undermine its financial management systems. It also creates a lack of transparency that significantly limits congressional oversight.

The Department's inability to produce auditable financial statements undermines its efforts to reform defense acquisition processes and to realize efficiencies. Without these objective tools, neither the Department nor Congress can verify that greater value is being created.

The committee will continue to review efforts to implement the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) plan as the Department moves to accomplish auditable financial statements by September 30, 2017, as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84). The committee will monitor the interdependencies between the FIAR plan and the funds being spent on business systems modernization programs as the Department works to correct the weaknesses in its financial statements.

#### CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

The committee will continue to oversee the development of the Department of Defense's workforce strategy for its civilian personnel and other initiatives aimed at ensuring that the Department has the human capital required both now and in the future to expertly, capably, and cost-effectively achieve its national security missions. In particular, the committee will monitor the impact of several new but temporary authorities in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) designed to provide the Department with increased agility and flexibility in hiring and managing its workforce. Finally, the committee will focus extensive oversight on workforce sourcing decisions, transparency, and personnel system reform efforts.

#### READINESS

##### MANPOWER SUFFICIENT IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY TO MEET GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to assess the basic question: What does the Nation need in terms of the quantity of manpower and the quality of that manpower to meet

its current and future global military commitments, without undue risk to the Nation? In this context, the fiscal year 2017 budget request proposed to continue the reductions to the end strengths of the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. At the same time the committee is concerned that the military services remain fully engaged in stability operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, advisory and training missions in the Republic of Iraq, engaged with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and in numerous smaller engagements throughout the world. Reflecting that concern, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) stopped the personnel reductions and sets the stage to reverse the trend. The committee will continue to provide aggressive oversight of military manpower levels and force structure to ensure they meet the National Military Strategy. This oversight will seek to provide the Active, Guard, and Reserve Forces sufficient manpower levels to sustain varying scales of activation, while maintaining deployment ratios at or above Department of Defense objectives. Within this focus, the committee will examine trends in overall total force structure requirements, end strength, recruiting, retention, morale, benefits and compensation.

#### FORCE READINESS

The committee will hold force readiness as one of its highest priorities and will continue its oversight in this area, focusing not only on the readiness of deployed personnel supporting ongoing operations worldwide, but also on the ability of the military services to generate ready and trained forces for unforeseen contingencies, including full-spectrum combat missions, should the need arise. The continued drawdown of force strength in all of the military services, the ongoing conflict in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and regional aggression by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China exacerbated already acute readiness challenges. For the military services, this meant continuous overseas deployments and little opportunity to conduct deferred maintenance on major end-items or undergo long-neglected training for high-end threats. Therefore, the committee will closely monitor the impact of end strength reductions on force readiness as well as the progress the military services make in training for full-spectrum operations. In particular, the committee will monitor aircraft accidents and availability, as emerging issues in this category of equipment could be the first indicators of a larger readiness crisis. This oversight will include identified shortages in critical specialties such as pilots, aircraft maintainers, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel, among others. Further, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to restore readiness in key combat support areas such as logistics, prepositioned stocks, and contracted service support.

#### *Maintenance and Training*

The committee notes that continuous high operational tempo for current operations, as well as a lack of stable and adequate funding resulting from the Budget Control Act (Public Law 112–25), leave insufficient time and resources to adequately repair and refit ships,

aircraft, and combat vehicles. The shift in training from primarily counterinsurgency missions to full-spectrum combat operations adds more requirements to already stressed units. Therefore, the committee will closely monitor the military services' training and maintenance recovery plans to ensure that they are realistic, adequately manned and resourced, and improve the Department of Defense's ability to achieve its mission requirements. In particular, the committee will oversee the readiness of just-deployed and next-to-deploy units, whose readiness was often sacrificed in order for deploying units to be properly manned, equipped, and trained. Finally, the committee will closely watch the recovery of the military services' aircraft maintenance and training plans.

#### WEAPON SYSTEMS LIFE-CYCLE SUSTAINMENT AND RESET

The committee will focus on reducing the total-ownership costs of weapons systems and equipment by ensuring the Department of Defense is developing, procuring, and modernizing weapons systems and equipment with consideration of life-cycle support and sustainment requirements and cost. The committee will also hold the Department accountable for improving its estimations of total weapon system life-cycle costs to better inform sustainment strategies, such as the cost effectiveness of acquiring technical data from original equipment manufacturers to allow future changes in sustainment path. Furthermore, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department's corrosion control efforts and will monitor resourcing of corrosion prediction and prevention efforts with a focus on increasing the service life of weapons systems while reducing long-term sustainment costs. Finally, the committee will continue to monitor the military services' reset strategies to repair, recapitalize, and replace equipment used in ongoing operations, and will also monitor progress toward complete reconstitution of prepositioned stocks.

#### DEPOT, SHIPYARD, AND ARSENAL CAPABILITY

A vital component to maintaining warfighting readiness across multiple domains is our Nation's organic industrial base. The arsenals, depots, air logistics complexes, and shipyards provide long-term sustainment through programmed maintenance as well as the critical capability to conduct repair and modernization upgrades as necessary. These facilities and associated skilled workforce provide a national-level insurance policy against the unknown strategic operating environment. The committee is concerned about the future health of the organic industrial base during a period of fiscal uncertainty and increasing maintenance and sustainment requirements. After 15 years of sustained combat operations and subsequent equipment reset that resulted in peak workload years, the organic industrial base is beginning to see trends of increasing workload following steady declines since 2010. As the organic industrial base works to achieve workload stability, the committee will provide oversight into their process improvement initiatives to ensure ships, aircraft, and ground equipment return to the warfighter on-schedule. The committee is concerned that the Department of Defense lacks a comprehensive and integrated strategy to ensure U.S. military depots and arsenals are viably positioned for long-term

sustainability and have the workforce, equipment, and facilities for efficient operations to meet the Nation's current requirements, as well as those through the next set of challenges. This includes, but is not limited to, oversight of how the workforce is matching capabilities and skills to emerging requirements as well as how they are recruiting, training, and preparing to retain the future workforce. The committee will conduct oversight into the use of new technologies such as additive manufacturing, robotics, and artificial intelligence as pathways to improve management of spares inventory and supply chain operations. The committee will continue oversight of depot, arsenal, and shipyard operations and management, the use of performance-based logistics, the role of public-private partnerships, and the military services' logistics enterprise resource planning systems. Inconsistent and unpredictable funding associated with the industrial base and their readiness efforts only exacerbate workload challenges and reduce workforce performance. The committee will continue its work to oversee carryover management at the depots and arsenals, to include the review of what levels should be acceptable for sufficient continuation of operations on an annual basis. The committee will continue working to ensure capital investment continues at the depots, arsenals, and shipyards in order to maintain a level of modern capability sufficient to meet the needs of the warfighter. Furthermore, the committee will examine how previous efficiency initiatives and workforce optimization continue to impact depot, shipyard, and arsenal capability, how more recent steps to increase arsenal and depot visibility among program managers and program offices are working, and how well programs and plans designed to assure the availability of critical organic manufacturing capabilities are being executed.

#### NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES

The debate about the force structure mix of Active and Reserve Components, the proper roles and missions of the Reserve Components, be they an operational or strategic reserve, and the affordability of the required force to meet national security requirements, will continue again in the 115th Congress. Competition among the Active and Reserve Components for resources will serve as a catalyst for that debate.

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to review the various recommendations and proposals regarding the National Guard and Reserves and monitor proposed changes to ensure the recommendations will meet the National Military Strategy requirements, as well as homeland security and disaster requirements. The committee is especially interested in the Department of Defense's plan to reform the Reserve Component duty statuses and will scrutinize this plan. In addition, the oversight of military technicians will continue. Given the uncertainty of the current and projected fiscal environment, the availability of equipment needed to sustain and modernize the National Guard and Reserve Components as an operational reserve and for their domestic support missions, to include legacy aircraft as part of the Aerospace Control Alert mission, remains a concern. The committee will also focus oversight efforts on current equipment investment strategies for the National Guard and Reserve Components with particular em-

phasis on affordability and modernization of critical dual-use equipment platforms that are essential to the National Guard's Title 32 mission and defense support to civil authorities. Furthermore, the committee will continue to monitor and evaluate the obligation and execution rates of funds provided as part of a separate procurement account, entitled the "National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account," that would be used to address equipment shortfalls for the National Guard and Reserve Components.

#### ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The committee will review the energy strategies promulgated by the Department of Defense and will monitor the Department's energy use on military installations. While reduction of energy demand through cost-effective investments remains a priority, the committee will review proposed investments that may demonstrate a simple return on investment but fail to materially enhance mission assurance, readiness, or combat capability.

The committee will also continue its oversight of the Department of Defense and military services' environmental programs and will monitor Department of Defense funding and adherence to Federal, state, and local requirements for cleanup, compliance, and pollution prevention. Specifically, the committee will continue oversight to protect Department of Defense training, testing, and operations from encroachment, support outreach with respect to emergent issues such as the drinking water quality, and review progress of hazard remediation and mitigation across the Department in mission areas such as indoor firing ranges as well as maintenance and depot facilities.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

##### BASING

The Department of Defense is undergoing a significant change in force structure both in the United States and overseas. The committee will continue to review all significant domestic and overseas basing and stationing proposals to ensure that these proposals include adequate construction funding and long-term sustainment resources.

The committee will continue discussions with the Department of Defense and military departments on excess infrastructure capacity associated with military installations, but will expect proposed courses of action for consolidation to be justified and informed by the force structure required to fulfill the national military strategy versus current or legacy unit sizes, locations, and configurations.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMMING AND FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT

The committee will review the Department of Defense's military construction program to manage the overall capacity of the Department's infrastructure and to ensure prudent long-term military construction investments are provided. The committee will also oversee the Department's investments in facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization, as well as the Department's utilization of new authorities recently provided by Congress related to the

conversion of existing facilities and investments in infrastructure supporting research, development, test, and evaluation activities. Finally, recognizing the rapid change in weapon systems and missions in comparison to the timeline to plan, program, and execute new military construction, the committee will engage with the Department to seek more opportunities to construct flexible facilities rather than traditional purpose-built (i.e., single mission) facilities when practical and cost-effective.

#### REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION, MAINTENANCE, AND DISPOSAL

The real property management process requires extensive oversight to maintain almost \$879.0 billion in infrastructure at an annual cost of nearly \$37.0 billion. The committee is concerned that inadequate asset visibility, poor requirements development, and project planning inefficiencies result in poorly coordinated investment decisions and sub-optimal facility construction. The committee will seek to apply best practices across the Department of Defense in order to efficiently develop and maintain the military services' ranges, facilities, and infrastructure.

#### MILITARY PERSONNEL AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

##### MILITARY MANPOWER AND FORCE STRUCTURE

##### *Medical Accession Standards*

The committee will provide robust oversight of military medical and behavioral health accession standards, an issue which directly impacts the readiness of the force. The Department of Defense is currently conducting an extensive review and re-drafting of the medical and behavioral health accession standards. These standards apply to all individuals applying for military service, and address a broad range of medical and mental health conditions that disqualify individuals from serving. The Department conducts this periodic review to ensure the latest medical research, analysis and treatments are used to inform any changes to qualifying and disqualifying conditions. This particular review also coincided with the Secretary of Defense's decision that, by July 2017, the military services must have policies in place to allow transgender individuals to enter the military. The committee will oversee any potential changes to the medical and behavioral health accession standards to ensure they are rooted in sound medical analysis and that the changes do not compromise force readiness.

##### *Gender Integration*

The Department of Defense and the military services have recently opened all military occupations to women. The committee will continue to provide close oversight as the military services implement new gender neutral occupational standards and begin to populate previously closed military occupations with women. The committee will also focus on the policies implemented to ensure proper support, training, assignment, and career advancement for women entering these career fields.

## MILITARY BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

During the 115th Congress, the committee will give close scrutiny to any proposals from the Department of Defense or other organizations, both governmental and private sector, calling for any funding reductions or changes to military compensation and other benefit programs in order to ensure any proposed changes assess the impact to the All-Volunteer Force. To that end, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92) authorized a major change to a service member’s retirement compensation. The new Blended Retirement System takes effect in January 2018, and the committee’s oversight in this area will concentrate on the proper implementation of the new plan.

## MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM

The committee is committed to maintaining a robust Military Health System whose primary responsibility is readiness of the force. To that end, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) included comprehensive reform of the Military Health System to ensure the availability of trained and ready health care providers to support the readiness of the force and provide a sustainable, quality health care benefit that is valued by its beneficiaries. The reform is focused in three areas: medical readiness, the Military Health System structure, and the TRICARE benefit. During the 115th Congress, the committee will oversee the Department of Defense’s progress towards implementing the elements of the health care reform beginning January 1, 2018.

*Mental Health Services for Members of the Armed Forces*

A continued principal focus of the committee during the 115th Congress will be to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of mental health services provided to members of the Armed Forces and their families. These efforts will include a review of the research related to mental health conditions undertaken or funded by the Department of Defense that have resulted in improved clinical interventions and outcomes. Particular attention will be given, but not limited to, the suicide prevention efforts undertaken by each military service and the consistency and comprehensiveness of the Department of Defense policy on prevention of suicide among members of the Armed Forces and their families, including methods of collecting and assessing suicide data. An additional focus will be the adequacy of suicide prevention programs for members of the special operational forces and their families.

*Wounded Warrior Care*

The committee will continue its efforts to assess the adequacy of the Department of Defense policies and programs for wounded and disabled service members and their families. In this regard, the committee will continue to evaluate the Department of Defense’s ability to integrate and coordinate the multitude of services and resources available to assist the wounded and disabled, not only from other Federal agencies, but also from the private sector. The committee will continue to monitor the military services’ selection proc-

ess for identifying individuals to work within wounded warrior programs and the quality of the services provided by such programs. Additionally, the committee will continue to monitor translational research and treatment advances in traumatic brain injury. Particular attention will be focused on the Integrated Disability Evaluation System with a view to ensuring the fairness, effectiveness, timeliness, and efficiency of the program and to simplify the process for service members.

#### MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

During the 115th Congress, the personnel policies of the Department of Defense will remain under considerable scrutiny as the Department competes to recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women. The committee will give close examination to proposals from the Department of Defense and other organizations calling for any major changes to personnel policies including recruiting, promotions, career paths or changes to military retention and other policy programs in order to assess the impact of any proposed changes on the viability of the All-Volunteer Force.

#### UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE TO INCLUDE SEXUAL ASSAULT

The committee will continue to provide oversight of military justice, with a particular emphasis on sexual assault. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) contained the most comprehensive overhaul of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) in over 30 years. The committee will provide substantial oversight as the Department of Defense drafts the implementing rules for these changes. The committee will also continue its robust oversight of the Department of Defense's sexual assault prevention and response programs. Specifically, the committee will focus on the Department's recent improvements to the policy addressing retaliation, and the implementation of the recent National Defense Authorization Act provision that establishes retaliation as a specific UCMJ violation.

#### MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to focus on the support provided to families of the members of the Armed Forces, particularly during deployments. In this regard, the committee will assess the methods utilized by the military services to identify the needs of military families and to identify the programs and policies that can be implemented or modified to improve their lives. As end strengths of the Armed Forces once again increase, after years of decline, the committee will closely examine the Department of Defense and military service family support programs to ensure the programs are adequately resourced to support an increase in family members. In addition, the committee will continue close oversight on the quality and availability of services at Department of Defense child development centers.

#### MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND MILITARY RESALE PROGRAMS

The committee believes the cost efficient sustainment of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and military resale programs (commissaries and exchanges) is required to protect quality of life in military communities and maintain the combat readiness of the force. The committee will provide oversight efforts directed toward that end in conjunction with major reforms, begun in the 114th Congress, to maintain the viability of these programs.

Additionally, the committee believes that MWR and military resale programs must remain competitive with private sector entities to ensure that service members and their families benefit fully from these programs. The committee must monitor current practices and policies to ensure that MWR and military resale programs are employing the full range of strategies available to private sector competitors to inform authorized patrons about the benefits associated with these programs and attract them to participate. This is especially true for commissaries that are restricted from using pricing, product, and advertising strategies that are common in the private sector because of legislative and policy barriers. These barriers will be addressed during the 115th Congress. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) requires the Department of Defense to reform management, food and pricing options for the Defense Commissary System to assist in maintaining a competitive and effective commissary system in the future that requires less appropriated funding. During the 115th Congress, the committee will monitor and oversee the changes required by the commissary reform plan with a focus on the beneficiaries of the system maintaining their benefit uninterrupted.

#### PRISONER OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the Department of Defense’s Prisoner of War/Missing in Action activities, as the committee of jurisdiction. Specifically, the committee will focus on the operations of the Defense Personnel Accounting Agency, established by the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291). In addition, the committee will continue to assess the progress towards meeting the requirement that the accounting effort achieve at least 200 identifications annually.

#### MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

##### OVERVIEW

During the 115th Congress, the committee will devote particular attention to the examination of military equipment modernization strategies and their ability to mitigate threats from near-peer and peer competitors, and retain technology superiority and overmatch, both in the near-term and long-term. The committee’s efforts will continue to focus on “restoring readiness” through near-term incremental modernization efforts that utilize acquisition reform initiatives to better streamline the development and fielding of solutions

to the warfighter in a timely manner. The committee will continue to consider ways to accelerate modernization efforts for the military services and encourage increased investment for modernization programs. The committee, through rigorous oversight and legislative action, will develop strategies to help mitigate cost growth and schedule delays among all categories of modernization programs. The committee will also assess the need for legislative action by examining causes of these problems, including: late determination of requirements, requirements growth, and failure to properly control requirements changes; inadequate analyses of alternatives; concurrency in test and evaluation; military services proceeding prematurely with development of immature technology; poor cost estimating; inadequate funding profiles; over-estimation of potential production rates; and program instability. In particular, the committee will also seek to ensure the military services have the appropriate authorities, capabilities, force structure, and modernization strategies in place to defeat any potential challenges posed by advanced anti-access capabilities from near-peer or peer adversaries.

#### ARMY AND MARINE CORPS ARMORED VEHICLE MODERNIZATION

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps' evolving plans to recapitalize, improve, and modernize their existing fleets of heavy and medium-weight armored combat vehicles over the next two decades, as well as focus on force structure requirements for Armor Brigade Combat Teams and Marine Infantry Battalions. As part of this oversight effort, the committee will focus particular attention on Army and Marine Corps efforts to continue to field combat vehicles that stay ahead of the evolving anti-vehicle threat posed by improvised explosive devices, advances in anti-tank guided missiles, and rocket propelled grenades. With respect to combat vehicle modernization programs, the committee will continue to focus efforts on, but not be limited to, the acceleration of engineering change proposals for the M1 Abrams tank and M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, improving the survivability and lethality of the family of Stryker Combat Vehicles, the development and procurement of the family of Amphibious Combat Vehicles, specifically the Amphibious Combat Vehicle Increment 1.1 and Increment 1.2 programs, continued survivability and performance upgrades for Light Armored Vehicles, the Paladin Integrated Management program's transition to full rate production, the Armored Multipurpose Vehicle (AMPV) program's transition from research and development to procurement, and the Army's mobile protected firepower program. During the 115th Congress, the committee will also continue to assess the viability and fragility of the armored combat vehicle industrial base, to include assessing critical sub-tier supplier base for items such as transmissions and forward looking infrared radars.

#### ARMY AND MARINE CORPS TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLES

The committee will focus oversight efforts on the Army and Marine Corps' tactical wheeled vehicle (TWV) modernization strategies for their families of light, medium, and heavy TWVs, the family of mine resistant ambush protected vehicles, line haul tractor trailers,

and construction equipment. The committee will monitor TWV fleet size and composition, and focus on developing acquisition strategies to help maintain competition, capacity, and capability in the TWV industrial base given significant decreases in overall requirements, as well as focus on the importance of continuing to modernize the current TWV fleet given the growing complex security environment.

Of particular interest to the committee will be the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program. The committee will monitor the JLTV budget, cost, schedule, and performance as the program transitions from development into production. Additionally, the committee will conduct oversight on the Army's efforts to improve the lethality of the JLTV. The committee will also monitor the Army's acquisition strategies in the development and procurement of the Ground Mobility Vehicle and Light Reconnaissance Vehicle programs that would "enhance the tactical mobility and lethality of Infantry Brigade Combat Teams." Finally, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Government Accountability Office regarding the Department of Defense's efforts in the long-term management and sustainment of the TWV fleet and its associated industrial base.

#### ARMY AND MARINE CORPS ROTORCRAFT PROGRAMS

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to focus oversight efforts on Army and Marine Corps rotorcraft modernization programs, force structure, and rotorcraft readiness challenges. Program areas of interest for the committee will focus on, but not be limited to, the following rotorcraft acquisition programs: UH-60 Black Hawk utility rotorcraft, AH-64 Apache Attack rotorcraft, CH-47 Chinook heavy lift rotorcraft, V-22 tiltrotor platforms, UH-1 Huey utility helicopters, AH-1 attack rotorcraft, the CH-53K heavy lift rotorcraft program, and the future vertical lift development program. Legacy rotorcraft platforms will likely continue to be operated at high operational tempos in very challenging environments. These high operational tempos will require continued upgrade and reset efforts to ensure these platforms have the necessary performance capability required to perform their missions. The committee will provide oversight on the requirements to upgrade and reset these critical equipment platforms for both the Active and Reserve Components through formal activities and legislative action, and continue oversight on the need to grow additional combat aviation brigades in the Army. In addition to its oversight of rotorcraft requirements for, and performance in, combat operations, the committee will conduct oversight of the critical need for advanced aircraft survivability equipment upgrades to provide warning and protection against evolving surface-to-air missile threats, as well as look for ways to accelerate the fielding of degraded visual environment technology on legacy platforms.

#### ARMY COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORK PROGRAMS

Given the growing importance of tactical battlefield communications networks in global combat operations, the committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Army's plans for its future battlefield network and the supporting research and development pro-

grams now in place, to include oversight of the Army's Tactical Network Modernization roadmap. In particular, the committee will focus oversight efforts on the incremental development and fielding of the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical and other tactical radio programs. The committee will continue to engage with the Army to ensure that future tactical battlefield network capabilities result in a network-enabled, rather than a network-dependent Army. The committee, in coordination with the Department of Defense, aims to empower soldiers to accomplish their missions, rather than create an Army that is dependent on its communications network, so much so that it is not able to function without it. As such, the committee will also help direct the Army's limited modernization resources to investments that will have the greatest short-, mid-, and long-term impact for the end user.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

The committee will continue to devote substantial attention to the oversight of the research, development, and procurement of organizational clothing and individual equipment, as well as other complementary personal protective equipment (PPE) programs. Consistent with previous committee oversight activity, the committee will continue to focus on the importance of modernizing PPE, and encourage the military services to manage PPE acquisition as a weapon system, rather than a commodity. Focus areas will continue to include, but are not limited to: advances in weight reduction ("lightening the load") in clothing and individual equipment; continued investment in advances of next generation material development, and development and procurement of specific PPE systems designed for military servicewomen; small arms and small caliber ammunition modernization with particular emphasis on the Army's modular handgun program, and procurement and fielding of enhanced performance small caliber rounds; improved combat helmets to help mitigate traumatic brain injury; improved combat uniforms; and the overall management of these associated niche, but highly critical industrial bases.

#### TACTICAL AIRCRAFT FORCE STRUCTURE

The committee will continue to focus its oversight efforts on the size, composition, and capability of the Department of Defense's tactical aircraft force structure. The committee will continue efforts from the 114th Congress regarding aviation readiness challenges, and work with the Department to develop ways to accelerate procurement of 5th generation tactical aircraft to improve overall capability and capacity of Air Force and Navy tactical aircraft. The committee will continue to explore ways to improve capabilities of the legacy fleet, and continue to monitor the Navy's plans for mitigating certain physiological episodes being experienced by pilots operating certain tactical aircraft.

With an operational requirement of 1,056 strike fighters, the Department of the Navy projects it can manage a strike fighter shortfall of 35 aircraft in 2023. The committee will focus on inventory objectives of F/A-18E/F and EA-18G procurement, and if necessary work to support additional funding for the procurement of F/A-18E/F aircraft across the Future Years Defense Program to help

mitigate potential inventory shortfalls, the effect of delays in the procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, F/A-18 A through D service life limits, and mission capability rates of the AV-8B aircraft.

The Air Force has stated a strike fighter operational requirement of 1,900 aircraft, and, under current procurement and retirement plans, the Air Force projects its inventory to fall below that requirement as older aircraft are retired. In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue its oversight of: aircraft retirement plans; the F-22 and F-35 aircraft programs; and life extension and modernization programs for the F-15, F-16, and A-10 aircraft. The committee will engage with the Air Force and develop strategies to mitigate any potential tactical aircraft inventory shortfall that would impact the Department's ability to meet the objectives of the National Military Strategy. In addition to the above, the committee will have a particular interest in acquisition strategies for future, next generation strike fighter development.

#### F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

During the 115th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, particularly with regard to issues related to program cost, schedule, and performance. The committee will also focus efforts on the F-35 follow-on modernization program. With the JSF approximately 90 percent through a 16-year development process, the committee's primary focus areas will include but not be limited to software development and testing, addressing F135 engine problems, the autonomic logistics information system development and integration, and accelerating the ramp-up in production planned for 2018 and beyond. In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to receive JSF annual reports and receive testimony and briefings from both the Department of Defense and an independent review from the Government Accountability Office.

#### BOMBER FORCE STRUCTURE

During the 115th Congress, the committee anticipates that the Air Force will continue investments of significant fiscal resources for engineering, manufacturing, and development of the B-21A Raider long-range strike bomber aircraft. While many details regarding the specific requirements and capabilities of the new bomber remain classified, the committee will maintain oversight of the new bomber acquisition program to ensure that the Air Force develops an affordable aircraft to timely meet future requirements and recapitalize the long-range strike bomber fleet.

During the engineering, manufacturing, and development phase of the new bomber aircraft, it will be imperative that the Air Force continues to maintain, modernize, and upgrade the existing fleet of bomber aircraft in order to preserve effective capabilities needed to meet current and future threat target sets. Furthermore, the committee will assess impacts associated with the bomber fleet's inability to comply with the Federal Aviation Administration's January 1, 2020, Next Generation Air Space Control mandate.

The committee will continue to maintain oversight of current bomber aircraft inventory requirements and modernization efforts

to ensure that the Air Force maintains a sufficient, credible, and lethal fixed-wing aircraft with conventional and strategic weapons delivery capability to support all aspects of the National Military Strategy.

#### AERIAL REFUELING AIRCRAFT

During the 115th Congress, the committee will review the Air Force aerial refueling aircraft modernization and recapitalization programs, and the Navy's nascent refueling capability associated with the MQ-25 program. The committee notes that the Nation's ability to meet its air-refueling requirements must not be placed at increased risk while the Department of Defense executes its strategic aerial refueling recapitalization strategy.

Currently, the Air Force requires 479 air refueling tankers to meet the National Military Strategy but only possesses 395 KC-135 and 59 KC-10 tankers for a total of 454 tankers. KC-46A deliveries will grow the tanker force to 479 aircraft in fiscal year 2018. Subsequently, the Air Force plans to replace its older tankers one-for-one with 179 KC-46A aircraft. The remaining 300 KC-135 aircraft from the Eisenhower era will need to be modernized until such time they can be replaced. Therefore, timely and efficient recapitalization of the Air Force's KC-135 tanker fleet with new KC-46A aerial refueling aircraft is critical.

The committee will also review the MQ-25 program as the Navy seeks to develop an unmanned aerial vehicle that provides air-refueling and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. The committee is concerned about limiting the scope of the MQ-25 to relieve the tanking burden borne by the F-18 fleet and to provide a modest level of additional ISR capability. The committee will assess options for the Department of the Navy's ability to ensure that precision strike is also a requirement of any follow-on platform to increase the Navy's strike capability. The committee will ensure that the Navy has completed a robust requirement process that ensures the fleet receives the necessary capabilities from this new platform.

#### INTERTHEATER AND INTRATHEATER AIRLIFT

The committee will continue to assess the risk in the Air Force's current plan to reduce the intertheater airlift aircraft inventory to 300 total aircraft. As such, the committee will assess the force structure results of the Mobility Capability Requirements Study—Next by the end of 2017. While pleased with Air Force efforts to modernize Air National Guard and Reserve C-130H aircraft with Avionics Modernization Program increment 1 and increment 2 and engine upgrades, the committee will continue to review the C-130H modernization program to ensure it is capable of meeting inter-theater airlift requirements.

Regarding intratheater airlift aircraft capabilities, the committee will continue to provide oversight of the C-5 and C-17 modernization programs. With regard to the C-5, the committee is pleased with the progress of the Reliability Enhancement and Re-engine Program, but remains concerned that the Air Force may not meet the Federal Aviation Administration's January 1, 2020, Next Generation Air Space Control mandate.

The committee will continue oversight of Air Force intertheater and intratheater airlift aircraft inventories and capabilities during the 115th Congress to ensure that a robust and effective fleet of airlift aircraft is maintained to meet mobility airlift requirements of the Department of Defense. Finally, the committee will maintain vigilant oversight associated with all intertheater- and intratheater-airlift-assets, to meet the Federal Aviation Administration's mandate.

#### SURFACE WARFARE PROGRAMS

The Department of the Navy must rapidly expand the core capabilities of U.S. seapower to achieve a blend of peacetime engagement and major combat operations capabilities as part of the Navy's 355-ship requirement. In pursuing this goal, the committee will provide oversight of the composition, capacity, and capabilities of the surface fleet. Specifically, the committee will assess the President's budget request to ensure compliance with the aircraft carrier force structure requirements associated with section 5062 of title 10, United States Code. The committee will also assess the large and small surface combatant requirements to ensure oversight of the force structure and the associated weapons and sensors employed on the surface force with a specific emphasis on Frigate capabilities. As part of the weapons and sensors oversight, the committee will review the requirements associated with the Littoral Combat Ship mission modules and the anti-ship missile capabilities. Further oversight of the amphibious forces will also be pursued to include amphibious assault in a contested environment, integration of advanced data capabilities and the amphibious assault connectors. The committee will continue its oversight of the DDG-51 Arleigh Burke class Destroyer program and will closely follow the transition to the Flight III variant that will incorporate the new Air and Missile Defense Radar. Finally, the committee will review the combat logistics forces and the Maritime Security Program to ensure sufficient capacity is available to support national security objectives.

As part of this oversight, the committee will continue to place a significant emphasis on improving affordability in shipbuilding programs through: ensuring stable requirements; the use of acquisition best practices; stability within the overall program; increased reliance on common systems and open architecture; and industrial base capacity, process, and facility improvements at the shipyards.

#### UNDERSEA WARFARE PROGRAMS

The ability to operate freely at sea is one of the most important enablers of joint and interagency operations, and sea control requires capabilities in all aspects of the maritime domain. There are many challenges to our ability to exercise sea control, perhaps none as significant as the growing number of nations operating submarines, both advanced diesel-electric and nuclear propelled. Exercising sea control in the undersea domain is essential to maintaining the freedom of navigation in support of U.S. maritime interests. The committee will continue to review the undersea domain to ensure warfare dominance. Specifically, the committee will review short- and long-term options to reverse the decline in the attack

submarine force structure. The committee will also assess whether sufficient resources and technological maturity are available for the recapitalization of the ballistic missile submarine forces. Finally, the committee will assess the weapons and sensors employed in the undersea domain to retain maritime dominance, to include the capacity and capabilities of unmanned undersea vehicles.

As part of this oversight, the committee will place specific emphasis on the efficacy of multi-year procurements, rigorous assessment of requirements, and management of an expanding undersea industrial base capacity.

#### MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, AND RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMS

Manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) system programs have come to constitute a significant component of the overall Department of Defense force structure. The capability provided by these assets is critical to sustaining deterrence and warfighting capability of U.S. forces.

The committee will focus on the budget, cost, schedule, and performance outcomes of major ISR manned and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) programs, and examine the entire ISR enterprise for balance in inventory, collection, and analysis capabilities. Also, close examination of the Office of the Secretary of Defense ISR policy formulation and oversight has been, and will continue to be, of interest to the committee. Long-standing concerns of the committee remain: lack of an adequate long-term ISR architecture and acquisition strategy; lack of supporting analysis for programmatic decisions; and the failure to balance collection programs data output with adequate resources to process, exploit, and disseminate data and analysis. The committee expects the Joint Staff and Joint Requirements Oversight Council to take a more active role in coordinating ISR system acquisition and coordinating employment with the combatant commanders.

In particular, the committee will place emphasis on, but not be limited to, the cost, schedule, performance, and procurement objectives of the following ISR programs: RQ-4 Global Hawk UAS Block 30 and Block 40, MQ-9 Reaper UAS, MQ-1C Gray Eagle UAS, MQ-4C Triton UAS, MQ-8 Fire Scout, MQ-25 Stingray, Marine Air Ground Task Force UAS Expeditionary, and sustainment of U-2 aircraft.

#### EMERGING ADVANCED WEAPONS CAPABILITIES

Department of Defense investment in science and technology often leads to the development of new advanced weapons capabilities or weapons concepts that contribute to the technological superiority of U.S. military forces. Maintaining technological overmatch of current and potential adversaries is a significant part of the qualitative advantage of U.S. forces, but is increasingly difficult in an environment of globalized technologies and asymmetric combinations of high-tech and low-tech capabilities. The committee will continue to monitor technological developments, from both Government funded labs, as well as commercially developed sources, and support transition of the most promising technological systems or concepts.

In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to examine doctrine, concepts of employment, and other organizing concepts being pursued by the military services and the Office of Secretary of Defense, and when matured, develop acquisition plans in support of fielding new advanced capabilities, such as directed energy capabilities, hypersonics, and autonomous systems. Not only will the committee oversee the development, but it will be equally important to monitor policies or trends impeding or supporting the development of new, innovative capabilities, as well as monitoring scientific developments internationally to better understand how state-of-the-art advancements can contribute to foreign military developments.

Advancements in areas like directed energy, hypersonics, autonomy, and synthetic biology may prove to be double-edged swords, benefiting U.S. national security, but also exploiting U.S. security weaknesses when adopted by potential future adversaries. Additionally, the committee has expanded its focus to take a similar look at other emerging advanced weapons capabilities, such as hypersonics and autonomy, to see how they can contribute to new security strategies, and to ensure that they are supported by rigorous technical analysis and relevant concepts of employment.

#### NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

The committee oversees the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and nuclear policies and programs of the Department of Defense to ensure the safety, security, reliability, and credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent. The committee will place particular emphasis on oversight of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense's nuclear modernization plans, including but not limited to infrastructure investments, warhead life extension programs, stockpile stewardship programs, stockpile management programs, stockpile responsiveness programs, delivery system modernization, nuclear command and control, cost savings and efficiency initiatives, and security.

The committee will oversee funding levels for the nuclear deterrence mission and nuclear enterprise to ensure sufficient resources are provided and allocated effectively and efficiently across Department of Energy and Department of Defense requirements. The committee will emphasize oversight of major acquisition programs that will recapitalize the U.S. nuclear deterrent for decades into the future, including the Ohio-class replacement submarine, the Ground-based Strategic Deterrent system, the B-21 Raider bomber, the Long-range Standoff cruise missile, and their associated nuclear warheads. Alongside overseeing and authorizing U.S. nuclear deterrence programs, the committee will also monitor foreign nuclear weapon development and modernization programs as well as arms control commitments around the world. The committee will ensure U.S. nuclear deterrence programs are postured, planned, and funded to address pertinent current and future threats. The committee will also continue oversight of implementation of corrective actions resulting from the Department of Defense's Nuclear Enterprise Review to ensure such actions result in meaningful and long-lasting change.

In addition to programs, the committee will also provide oversight of the United States' nuclear policy and posture, extended deterrence policy, arms control activities, nuclear nonproliferation activities, and nuclear force structure requirements. Particular emphasis will be placed on oversight of nuclear weapon employment and declaratory policies, force structure, arms control agreements, and modernization plans. The committee will also review the effectiveness of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense's organization and management of the nuclear enterprise, including coordination of plans and policies through the joint Nuclear Weapons Council and alignment of the Naval Reactors program with Department of Defense requirements. Finally, the committee will conduct oversight of, and seek continuous improvement in, performance, efficiency, governance, and management of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, laboratory and production site management and operations, workforce sustainment efforts, and defense nuclear cleanup activities.

#### MISSILE DEFENSE

The committee oversees the Department of Defense's efforts to develop, test, and field layered missile defense capabilities to protect the United States, its deployed forces, and its friends and allies against ballistic and cruise missile threats.

The committee will continue to place a particular emphasis on U.S. homeland missile defense capabilities (including the Missile Defense Agency's proposal and strategy for acquiring a Redesigned Kill Vehicle and the statutory deadline to develop and flight test the Multi-Object Kill Vehicle). The committee will also continue to oversee the European Phased Adaptive Approach implementation, developmental and operational testing, force structure and inventory requirements, continued development of so-called "left-of-launch" capabilities and exercises, and science and technology investments in areas such as directed energy.

The committee will also monitor the development and subsequent execution and implementation by the Department of Defense of a missile defeat posture review as directed in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).

The committee will continue to monitor foreign ballistic missile threats and identify opportunities to strengthen international missile defense cooperation with allies and partners such as the State of Israel, Japan, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Republic of Korea, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and its member states.

Department of Defense oversight and management of missile defense activities, including the roles, responsibilities, and acquisition policies and procedures of the Missile Defense Agency and military services will also be reviewed.

The committee also intends to continue to oversee the Army's Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense System modernization efforts. The Army's plans call for significant investment over a long-term and the committee will ensure these plans are cost-effective, based on proven technology, support continued Foreign Military Sales, and provide maximum deployable capability to combatant commanders and the warfighter. Additionally, the committee will en-

sure interoperability of Army and Ballistic Missile Defense System capabilities.

Additionally, the committee will oversee the effort to develop and deploy a cruise missile defense capability to protect the National Capital Region and other high-value potential targets.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE

The committee oversees the national security space programs of the Department of Defense, including combat support agencies and elements of the Department of Defense that are also part of the intelligence community. The committee will place particular attention on current and projected foreign space threats and will carefully assess the Department's space security and defense program to include space situational awareness, space protection, space control, and operationally responsive space activities. The committee will also focus on improving the organization and management of the Department's space program to posture the military to maintain our space advantage.

The committee will continue oversight of national security space activities in support of warfighter operations and plans; space acquisition strategies that provide necessary warfighter capability, while reducing cost and technical risk and supporting the industrial base; maintaining assured access to space; efforts to address gaps in space capabilities for key warfighter needs; investments in science and technology to improve the capabilities of space systems; efforts to appropriately leverage commercial satellite services; exploitation of space sensor data to maximize effectiveness and efficiency; improvements of the synchronization between satellite, ground, and terminal acquisition programs; and efforts that develop and sustain an expert space workforce.

#### EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

##### INVESTMENT IN FUTURE CAPABILITIES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Department of Defense continues to face difficult choices as it balances the competing needs of capabilities for current operations and those projected for future conflicts. In order to address the latter, investments need to be made in the Department's Science and Technology (S&T) programs, and aligned appropriately with continued development and procurement programs to position the Department to meet future challenges. S&T investments should also be leveraged to support broader acquisition improvements or defense industrial base sustainment activities by creatively utilizing competitive or operational prototyping, technical transition or integration, or requirements maturation.

The committee will continue to oversee the Department's S&T activities to ensure the planning and execution of a balanced S&T program that reflects the national security priorities of the military, as expressed in strategy documents and congressional guidance. The committee will also continue to examine how S&T investments are integrated into strategic and operational plans to ensure that the investments being made, including in people and infrastructure, are properly aligned. The committee will focus on better understanding how S&T programs integrate intelligence analyses

into the S&T planning cycle, as well as better cognizance of global developments and industry-based independent research and development.

#### CYBER OPERATIONS CAPABILITIES

Cyber operations have taken on an increasingly important role in military operations, as well as overall in national security. Including both offensive and defensive operations, they offer new means for exercising military power, as well as new vulnerabilities to critical information systems and data. Recent reporting on Russian cyber intrusions to influence U.S. domestic politics illustrate the former, while the breach of data within the Office of Personnel Management that resulted in the loss of millions of records from military and civilian personnel and their families is an example of the latter.

The committee will continue to closely scrutinize the Department of Defense's cyber operations, organization, manning, and funding to ensure that the military has the freedom of maneuver to conduct the range of missions in the Nation's defense, and when called upon, to support other interagency and international partners. The maturation of the U.S. Cyber Command as a full unified command, as well as the achievement of full operational capability for the cyber mission teams, including their readiness and participation in ongoing operations, will be a primary point of focus for the committee's oversight.

An important oversight role for Congress regarding the conduct of cyber operations has been to ensure that the proper legal and policy frameworks are in place and followed. The committee has also continued to scrutinize military cyber operations to ensure that they are properly integrated into the combatant commander's operational plans, include appropriate rules of engagement, and ensure that adequate capabilities exist or are in development to employ these cyberspace operational tools with rigor and discretion to support a full range of options for the Nation's decision makers. As the policy framework and mission forces mature, the committee will also need to focus oversight on the development of training, exercises, doctrine, tactics, and procedures for operating in the cyber domain, as well as workforce development and retention for civilian and military personnel. Additionally, the committee will continue to oversee the implementation and utilization of the limited acquisition authority granted in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92).

In the course of monitoring the cybersecurity posture of the military, the committee will need to continue its oversight of the security of the global supply chain system, including its ability to monitor, regulate, and manage risk as a result of the effects of globalization on the assured integrity of microelectronics and software.

#### INFORMATION OPERATIONS

Being able to operate effectively in the information environment, especially one saturated by official news channels, informal social media feeds, and other internet-fueled sources, has demonstrated to be a challenge for the U.S. Government. Recent examples have

been especially poignant in illustrating that engagement with foreign audiences, and nuanced understanding of the information environment, will increasingly be pivotal in navigating the 21st century security environment. Whether one is trying to influence nation-state actors or potential allies, counter violent extremist groups, or identify and counter efforts at deception or misinformation, strategic communication and information operations are key elements to success on the battlefield of the future.

From an oversight perspective, this will require the committee to continue to scrutinize the programs, authorities, funding, and training for traditional military information support operations, as well as ensuring such capabilities are integrated into contingency planning and theater security cooperation plans. Additionally, emerging technologies like social media and big data analytics are forcing the Department of Defense to be more agile and adaptable in how it uses emerging technology, including flexible and agile policies for their employment, and concept exploration and development to determine new ways of operationalizing information influence. The committee will also monitor how developments in the defense space can be adapted and synchronized with broader inter-agency and international activities in order to exert influence from tactical effect to strategic effect.

#### COMPROMISES OF NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION AND INSIDER THREATS

In the 115th Congress, the committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to identify and mitigate the threats to military programs, plans, operations, and personnel stemming from the compromise of a large amount of classified information through unauthorized disclosures. The committee will monitor efforts to mitigate future compromises by overseeing the implementation of insider threat programs and other security clearance reform efforts within the executive branch, and the Department of Defense's compliance with the requirements of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) regarding the Department's security practices, audit capabilities, and information-sharing policies.

#### USE OF FORCE IN COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES AND AREAS OF ACTIVE HOSTILITIES

The committee will continue to conduct extensive oversight, often in classified form, over the use of force in counterterrorism operations outside of the United States and areas of active hostilities. While the use of force in this area will be overseen in all aspects, the committee will pay particular attention to special operations and activities and the interagency coordination that occurs with the U.S. intelligence community. In conducting this oversight, the committee will also review and consider presidential policy guidance documents and similar executive branch directives, and ensure that counterterrorism operations conducted outside of the United States and areas of active hostilities are in line with broader national security objectives, strategies, and resources. Finally, the committee will continue to coordinate with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on intelligence matters of

the Department of Defense in the course of its annual oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.

## **COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET**

### **OVERSIGHT PLAN**

*Resolved:* That the Committee on the Budget, pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X, adopts as the Oversight Plan of the Committee on the Budget for the 115th Congress the following:

### **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERSIGHT**

Clause 2(d) of Rule X of the Rules of the House requires each Committee to adopt and submit to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, and Appropriations an oversight plan by February 15 of the first session of each Congress. The Budget Committee's oversight responsibilities include both the breadth of the Federal budget and its legislative jurisdiction.

Under clause 1(d)(1) of House Rule X, the primary responsibility of the Budget Committee is to develop a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year. This concurrent resolution sets spending and revenue levels in aggregate, across 21 budget functions, and provides allocations of spending levels for each Committee of Congress.

Although the subject matter of the budget is inherently broad, in addition to oversight of the budget and the economy, the Committee's formal oversight responsibility includes laws governing the budget process and the agencies responsible for administering elements of those laws. Under clauses 1(d)(1)–(3) of House Rule X, the major laws falling within its oversight include the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, the Budget Control Act of 2011, and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. The two agencies with primary responsibility for administering elements of these laws, and hence which fall under the Committee's jurisdiction, are the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

In addition to these general oversight responsibilities, the Budget Committee has the special oversight responsibility under clause 3(c) of House Rule X to study the effect of budget outlays of existing and proposed legislation and to regularly report the results of such studies to the House.

## **OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS**

### **Budget Priorities**

In the process of developing the annual concurrent budget resolution, the Committee will hold hearings and receive testimony from Members of Congress, Cabinet-level and other Federal officials, State and local officials, and expert witnesses to review the budget and economic outlook, the President's budget submissions and other budget proposals.

The Committee will review and pursue budget process reform legislation and will continue its budget process reform initiative from the 114th Congress, which culminated in the release of the Committee's Discussion Draft on the "Proposed Rewrite of the Congressional Budget Process." In continuing its efforts to restructure the congressional budget process, the Committee will focus on six main areas through hearings and legislation: enhancing constitutional authority, strengthening budget enforcement, reversing the bias toward higher spending, controlling automatic spending, increasing transparency, and ensuring fiscal sustainability.

The Committee will assess the performance of Federal agencies in both administration and service delivery by reviewing performance data in the President's budget submissions and the relevant reports and audits of the Government Accountability Office and the Offices of the Inspectors General.

The Committee will study the budgetary effects of existing law and proposed legislation, as well as government regulation on government spending, and explore ways of reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in government agencies.

The Committee will draw on the authorizing Committees' Views and Estimates on the President's Budget, which are submitted to it pursuant to section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, to coordinate its oversight activities with other Committees.

The Committee will continue to review the budgetary treatment of assistance to, and ongoing operations of, the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac).

### **Budget Enforcement**

The Committee will provide ongoing oversight of OMB's implementation of budget submission, control, execution, and enforcement procedures under the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, the Budget Control Act of 2011, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 and other applicable laws.

The Committee will assess the extent to which both the President's budget submissions and the budget resolutions for fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019 comply with applicable budget laws.

The Committee will also work to ensure compliance of the budget-related provisions of H. Res. 5.<sup>1</sup>

As part of these responsibilities, the Chair may provide authoritative guidance concerning the impact of a legislative proposition on the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority and revenues.<sup>2</sup>

The Committee will enforce spending limitations and improve accountability under the Cut-Go Rule, prohibiting consideration of a bill, joint resolution, amendment or conference report if the provisions of such measure have the net effect of increasing direct spending outlays.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, the Committee will monitor reclassifications of budget accounts, reestimates of the subsidies of credit programs, consistency in cost estimates for direct spending and tax bills, compliance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and other relevant laws, in the development of budget projections, and changes in spend-out rates for discretionary programs, and implementation of performance plans.

The Committee will work with the Appropriations Committee and the authorizing Committees to ensure that spending and tax legislation do not breach the levels provided for in the budget resolution, as required under sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 or violate the budget provisions of the Rules of the House.

### **Direct Spending and Tax Expenditures**

The Committee will request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures and direct spending by the Federal Government, and whether they are the most appropriate and efficient means to achieve specified public policy goals.

### **Economic Policy**

The Committee will study how economic policies affect the Federal budget. The Committee will also study monetary policy and its effects on the Federal budget. The Committee plans to take testimony from the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Janet L. Yellen, to review economic conditions, fiscal conditions, and monetary policy.

### **Exercise of Article I Authority**

The Committee, in keeping with its duties and powers under Article I of the Constitution of the United States, will also exercise authority over the executive branch of the Federal Government. During the transition of any new Administration, Agency accountability is an important component of congressional oversight; the Committee will maintain these oversight responsibilities irrespective of election results and governing party.

<sup>1</sup> H. Res. 5 (115th Congress) extended and revised the Rules of the House for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress. Section 3 (Separate Orders) of H. Res. 5 also set forth additional budgetary controls.

<sup>2</sup> This authority may be found in clause 4 of rule XXIX of the Rules of the House.

<sup>3</sup> Cutgo may be found in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House.

### **Oversight of the Congressional Budget Office**

CBO was created under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 in order to provide Congress with economic and budgetary analysis and cost estimates for proposed legislation. CBO has not been reauthorized since the enactment of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. It operates under a permanent indefinite authorization. In keeping with House rules and protocols, the Committee will consider reauthorizing CBO at a fixed amount for a limited period of time. The Committee also plans to exercise its oversight responsibility over CBO through hearings and other activities.

### **OVERSIGHT SCHEDULE**

The following are the Committee's initial plans for hearings and other oversight activities.

#### *First Session (2017)*

Winter 2017—Hearing on the Failures of Obamacare: Harmful Effects and Broken Promises.

Winter 2017—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook: Director of CBO.

Winter 2017—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Director of OMB.

Winter 2017—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Treasury Secretary.

Winter 2017—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Members of Congress.

Winter 2017—Possible additional hearings on the President's budget and the budget outlook.

Winter 2017—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Winter 2017—Possible hearing on Federal entitlement spending and the long-term budget outlook.

Winter-Spring—2017 Possible field hearings.

Spring 2017—Hearing on the economy: Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Summer 2017—Hearing on the long-term budget outlook. Possible additional hearings to review federal spending, taxes, deficits, debt, the federal budget process and budget process reform, and the economy.

#### *Second Session (2018)*

Winter 2018—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook: Director of CBO.

Winter 2018—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget: Director of OMB.

Winter 2018—Hearing on the economy.

Winter 2018—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget: Treasury Secretary.

Winter 2018—Hearing on the President’s Fiscal Year 2019 Budget: Members of Congress.

Winter 2018—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate in developing the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Summer 2018—Hearing on the long-term budget outlook.

Possible additional hearings may include reviewing federal spending, taxes, deficits, debt, and the economy.

The Committee will also conduct research, examine programs, and prepare analyses of fiscal and economic issues with an emphasis on providing for a more effective and accountable Federal government.



# COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

## OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION PLAN

### 1. Adoption of an Oversight Plan

Each standing committee of the U.S. House of Representatives is required to formally adopt an oversight plan at the beginning of each Congress. Specifically, clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives states in part:

*Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress. Such plan shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration.*

### 2. Jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce

Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives vests in the Committee on Education and the Workforce (Committee) jurisdiction over issues dealing with students, education, workers, and workplace policy. Specifically, clause 1(e) of Rule X vests the Committee with jurisdiction over the following subject-matter:

- (1) Child labor;*
- (2) Gallaudet University and Howard University and Hospital;*
- (3) Convict labor and the entry of goods made by convicts into interstate commerce;*
- (4) Food programs for children in schools;*
- (5) Labor standards and statistics;*
- (6) Education or labor generally;*
- (7) Mediation and arbitration of labor disputes;*
- (8) Regulation or prevention of importation of foreign laborers under contract;*
- (9) Workers' compensation;*
- (10) Vocational rehabilitation;*
- (11) Wages and hours of labor;*
- (12) Welfare of miners; and*
- (13) Work incentive programs.*

### 3. General Oversight Responsibilities

Clause 2 of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides in part:

*(a) The various standing committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph (b) in order to assist the House in—*

*(1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of—*

*(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of Federal laws; and*

*(B) conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and*

*(2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of changes in Federal laws, and of such additional legislation as may be necessary or appropriate.*

*(b)(1) In order to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a committee are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated, each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) shall review and study on a continuing basis—*

*(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;*

*(B) the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;*

*(C) any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation addressing subjects within its jurisdiction (whether or not a bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto); and*

*(D) future research and forecasting on subjects within its jurisdiction.*

Clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides:

*(n)(1) Each standing committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing during each 120-day period following the establishment of the committee on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize.*

*(2) A hearing described in subparagraph (1) shall include a focus on the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement as documented by any report the committee has received from a Federal Office of the Inspector General or the Comptroller General of the United States.*

*(o) Each committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing in any session in which the committee has received disclaimers of agency financial statements from auditors of any Federal agency that the committee may authorize to hear testimony on such disclaimers from representatives of any such agency.*

*(p) Each standing committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing on issues raised by reports issued by the Comptroller General of the United States indicating that Federal programs or operations that the committee may authorize are at*

*high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the “high-risk list” or the “high-risk series.”*

#### **4. Exercise of Oversight Responsibilities**

The American people deserve an open, accountable government that works efficiently and effectively. Congress must use its constitutional authority to ensure our laws are properly enforced, taxpayer money is spent wisely and not wastefully, and government policy does not harm the American people.

Congressional oversight of federal programs and activities is a critical part of this authority. Oversight is a constitutional prerogative, an important responsibility of the Congress, a core objective of the Committee. Accordingly, the Committee will thoroughly oversee and investigate the various agencies, departments, and programs within its jurisdiction. In so doing, the Committee will actively consult with House committees that have concurrent or related jurisdiction. In its oversight proceedings, the Committee will make full use of hearings in Washington, D.C., and of regional field hearings to ensure all relevant voices are heard and made part of the official record. Among other investigative techniques, the Committee will visit relevant sites, correspond with affected parties, and review audits and investigations by the Congressional Research Service, the Government Accountability Office, the U.S. Attorney General, and the Offices of the Inspectors General of the U.S. departments of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services, among others.

The Committee will continue to demand and lead aggressive oversight in its areas of jurisdiction. Under the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has jurisdiction over programs and statutes administered and enforced by the U.S. departments of Education, Labor, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Justice, and various independent agencies. The Committee will continue to ensure these programs and statutes are administered consistent with the appropriate federal role and operated in an effective and efficient manner, as well as follow congressional intent in their scope, activities, and operations.

The Committee has identified several particular areas for oversight and investigation in the 115th Congress. These areas are discussed below:

- Every Student Succeeds Act. In 2015, Congress passed and the President signed a bipartisan, bicameral bill to replace No Child Left Behind with commonsense reforms to allow states and communities the flexibility needed to provide all students an excellent education. Unfortunately, the Obama administration has frequently ignored both the letter and intent of the Every Student Succeeds Act in its efforts to implement this bipartisan law. The Committee will work with the Trump administration to ensure the law is properly implemented, including following the significant changes made to the Preschool Development Grants.
- Student Loans. The U.S. Department of Education manages \$1.3 trillion in outstanding federal student loans and disburses billions in grants and work-study funds each year. The Com-

mittee will continue to monitor the costs and performance of these programs.

- **Higher Education Regulations.** Institutions of higher education are subject to myriad federal regulations and reporting requirements that are often burdensome and costly. The regulatory burden has only worsened with rules that interfere with academic freedom, infringe on the authorities of the states, limit student choice, and unfairly target particular sectors of higher education. The Committee will continue its oversight of regulatory policies and challenge those that enlarge the federal footprint in higher education.

- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.** In 2014, Congress passed and the President signed a bipartisan, bicameral bill to fix the nation's broken workforce development system. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act helps workers attain skills for 21st century jobs, provides greater accountability to taxpayers, and helps put Americans back to work. The Committee will work with the new administration to ensure the law is properly implemented.

- **Affordable Care Act.** As Congress repeals and replaces the Affordable Care Act, the Committee will continue oversight of the previous administration's implementation of the law. In particular, the Committee will focus on how the law and the previous administration's regulations and sub-regulatory guidance harmed employers' ability to provide quality, affordable health care to employees, including educators and school-staff.

- **Employer and Employee Protections.** The Committee will conduct oversight and investigations, as appropriate, to ensure employee and employer rights under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) are protected and applied consistently and without bias. The Committee will work to ensure the National Labor Relations Board properly fulfills its responsibilities, giving particular scrutiny to the Board's changes to union election rules and unit determinations, decisions affecting joint-employer standards, and questions regarding whether graduate students are employees under the NLRA.

- **Retirement Security.** The retirement system works best when workers have access to voluntary, robust, portable, and secure savings options. The Committee will monitor the U.S. Department of Labor's activities to ensure regulations and sub-regulatory guidance benefit the long-term retirement security of working families and do not restrict access to affordable retirement advice.

- **Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014.** The Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA) helped improve the financial outlook of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), but more work needs to be done. The Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of MPRA and the activities of the PBGC to develop needed reforms that will both protect taxpayers and workers while encouraging employer participation.

- **Regulatory Process.** An open and transparent process for revising and implementing regulations benefits employers and workers alike. The Committee will work to ensure that stake-

holders have sufficient time to review and provide public comment on regulatory actions within its jurisdiction.

- **Labor Laws.** Various federal labor laws were enacted during the past century for a very different workforce than the one that exists today. The Committee will continue to examine how these laws affect economic growth and job creation, paying particular attention to their impact on the rapidly-emerging “sharing” economy.

- **Government Spending.** The Committee will closely monitor all agencies under its jurisdiction to determine whether the expenditure of taxpayers’ money is leading to high-quality outcomes for students and workers.

- **Union Transparency.** Workers who have chosen to be represented by unions want to be sure their dues are being properly managed. The Committee will examine the efficacy of current reporting requirements, and work to ensure that employees have access to information that clearly shows how their dues are being spent.

- **Executive Action.** The Obama administration took a number of executive actions that encroach on the constitutional authority of Congress to write the law. The Committee will continue to monitor and analyze those actions and work with the current administration to reign in those efforts and check executive authority.

Along with the oversight objectives already outlined, the Committee will examine the programs within its jurisdiction whose authorizations have expired or will soon expire. Based upon the results of that oversight, the Committee will determine the appropriate next steps.

The following laws include programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee that currently receive funding despite having authorizations that are expired:

- *America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act;*
- *Assistive Technology Act of 1998;*
- *Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998;*
- *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act;*
- *Child Nutrition Act of 1966;*
- *Community Services Block Grant Act;*
- *Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000;*
- *Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973;*
- *Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002;*
- *Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002;*
- *Food and Nutrition Act of 2008;*
- *Head Start Act;*
- *Higher Education Act of 1965;*
- *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;*
- *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974;*
- *Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981;*
- *Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act;*
- *Museum and Library Services Act;*

- *National and Community Service Act of 1990;*
- *National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act;*
- *National Environmental Education Act;*
- *National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965;*
- *Native American Programs Act of 1974;*
- *Public Health Service Act;*
- *Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act;*
- *Runaway and Homeless Youth Act;*
- *Second Chance Act of 2007; and*
- *Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004.*

The following laws include programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee that receive funding but have authorizations that will expire in the 115th Congress:

- *Congressional Award Act;*
- *Missing Children's Assistance Act; and*
- *Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.*

The following laws include programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee that currently receive funding but have authorizations that will expire in the 116th Congress:

- *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990;*
- *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;*
- *Older Americans Act of 1965;*
- *Violence Against Women Act of 1994; and*
- *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.*

# **COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

(Adopted January 25, 2017)

During the 115th Congress, the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold hearings and conduct rigorous oversight over matters within its jurisdiction. The Committee will conduct thorough oversight, reach conclusions based on an objective review of the facts, and treat witnesses fairly. The Committee will request information in a responsible manner that is calculated to be helpful to the Committee in its oversight responsibilities. The Committee's oversight functions will focus on: (1) Cutting government spending through the elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse and (2) ensuring laws are adequate to protect the public interest or are being implemented in a manner that protects the public interest, without stifling economic growth. The Committee will use the information it collects through its oversight to inform the reauthorization of certain lapsed programs within its jurisdiction.

## **HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE ISSUES**

### **PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

To aid in legislative efforts to replace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), the Committee will continue to examine issues related to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) implementation of PPACA, Public Law 111-148, and the related Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111-152. It is critical that the Committee understand decisions made in drafting and implementing PPACA so that it can replace PPACA with better solutions focused on helping consumers. The Committee will examine the continuing impact of PPACA and its implementing regulations on the economy, consumers, and the health care industry. The Committee will also examine the status and future of employer-sponsored health care plans as well as the effects of PPACA's enactment on the States. The Committee will continue to monitor the law's effects on individuals as well as the regulations and requirements imposed on small and large businesses.

### **CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES**

The Committee will review the management, operations, and activity of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the programs it administers. The Committee will examine and review Medicare and Medicaid management and activity as it relates

to ongoing Committee efforts to prevent bias, waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal health care programs. The Committee will investigate the process by which CMS implements statutory formulas to set prices for Medicare payment, as well as the effectiveness of those formulas. The Committee will investigate the processes by which CMS prevents bias, waste, fraud, and abuse in the award of government contracts.

#### FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND DRUG SAFETY

The Committee will review whether the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is ensuring that regulated drugs and medical devices are safe, effective, and available to American patients in an expeditious fashion. The Committee will also explore the interplay between these policies and drug and medical device innovation, both in the United States and abroad. Further, the Committee will examine FDA's enforcement of current drug safety laws and the issues involved in protecting the nation's supply chains against economically motivated and other forms of adulteration, including those posed by illegal drug supply chains and economically-motivated adulteration. The Committee will examine whether FDA's reorganization efforts are improving the effectiveness of product reviews, or worsening delays and inefficiency in decision-making. The Committee will review FDA's efforts to improve and modernize import-safety screening, and the management of its foreign inspection program.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

The Committee will examine the roles of various Federal agencies involved in insuring and protecting the public health, including the implementation and management of these programs. In particular, the Committee will review Federal efforts on the opioid epidemic, pandemic preparedness, including influenza preparedness, the United States' response to the spread of the Zika virus, and other emerging infectious disease threats from abroad. The Committee will continue to evaluate the Federal response to the opioid epidemic, the Zika virus, and other public health emergencies to better understand the operation and efficacy of key public health programs and to address broader concerns about national all-hazards preparedness and response capacity. Further, the Committee will monitor related spending to ensure the appropriate and efficient use of Federal tax dollars.

#### 21ST CENTURY CURES AND MENTAL HEALTH REFORMS

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act, landmark legislation that will expedite the discovery, development, and delivery of new treatments and cures. The legislation also included meaningful mental health reforms. The Committee will ensure that HHS and its component agencies, including FDA and the National Institutes of Health, and other relevant agencies implement the legislation in a manner that will quickly deliver the benefits provided by the law. The Committee will conduct oversight of the implementation of and work done by the newly-created Assistant Secretary for Mental

Health and Substance Use, an office which will be responsible for HHS mental health programs and policies. The Committee will also examine regulations drafted to implement the 21st Century Cures Act to ensure they comport with the intent of Congress, and will monitor funding provided by the legislation to ensure that it is appropriately spent.

## **ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ISSUES**

### **NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY**

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine issues relating to national energy policy, including U.S. policies that relate to the exploration, production, distribution, and consumption of electricity, oil and natural gas, coal, hydroelectric power, nuclear power, and renewable energy. The Committee will examine the impact of government policies and programs on the efficient exploration, production, storage, supply, marketing, pricing, and regulation of domestic energy resources, including issues relating to the nation's energy infrastructure. The Committee will continue to examine safety and security issues relating to energy exploration, production, and distribution.

### **ELECTRICITY SYSTEM AND ELECTRIC UTILITY MARKETS**

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will undertake a comprehensive review of the nation's electricity system. This effort will include a review of the federal electricity policies of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure that those policies promote competitive wholesale power markets, transmission, generation infrastructure upgrades, and compliance with relevant statutes. It will also examine the activities of the DOE and FERC relating to electric industry restructuring, protection of consumers, and the development of efficient and vigorous wholesale markets for electricity. It will also continue to examine the activities of the DOE and FERC with respect to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations affecting the electricity sector, including regulatory requirements that may impact consumer prices and reliability of the electricity grid.

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

The Committee will continue to assess federal programs setting energy efficiency standards for motor vehicles, crafted by EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and home appliances, crafted by DOE, to ensure that the programs are implemented in a manner that maximizes the benefit to consumers. In the case of motor vehicle standards, the Committee will also assess the merit of having two federal agencies operating parallel efficiency programs. The Committee will continue to promote energy efficiency initiatives in order to create jobs, save businesses and consumers money, and improve our nation's energy security. This may include federal programs setting energy efficiency standards for motor vehicles and appliances, to ensure that the programs are implemented in a manner that rewards innovation, ensures bene-

fits for consumers and businesses, enhances U.S. energy security, and protects the environment.

#### MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ITS NATIONAL LABORATORIES

The Committee will continue to oversee the governance, management, and operations issues at DOE, including oversight, management, and operations of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the national laboratories. The Committee's oversight work will include review of the implementation of security and safety reforms at NNSA and DOE facilities, ongoing safety and security matters, and the Office of Environmental Management's cleanup program. This work will also include the Committee's special oversight functions over programs and activities relating to nonmilitary energy research and development.

The Committee will also continue to examine the findings and the recommendations made by the final report of the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the National Nuclear Security Enterprise as established by Section 3166 of the FY 2013 NDAA.

#### YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The Committee will continue to examine the actions of DOE and the NRC in connection with obligations of these agencies under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, including licensing activities for the Yucca Mountain repository.

#### DOE ENERGY GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAMS

The Committee will continue to review management and implementation of clean energy and advanced technology grant and loan programs authorized under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and other statutes; the development of new technologies, products, and businesses including clean energy, advanced coal, nuclear, and other technologies; and the impact of DOE grant, cost-sharing, and loan spending on the domestic supply, manufacture and commercial deployment of clean and advanced energy products and other technologies.

#### THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

The Committee will continue to review the activities of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Committee will examine NRC's budget requests and conduct oversight of the manner in which the Commission discharges its various responsibilities, including licensing activity, the safety and security of nuclear power facilities and nuclear materials licensees, and the Commission's regulatory actions.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT

The Committee will continue to review significant rulemakings under the Clean Air Act and the potential economic and job impacts of those rulemakings on the energy, manufacturing, industrial, and construction industries, and other critical sectors of the U.S. economy, as well as any public health and environmental ben-

efits of the regulations. The Committee's review will include oversight of the EPA's decisions, strategies, and actions to meet Clean Air Act standards, and the current role of cost, employment and feasibility considerations in Clean Air Act rulemakings. The Committee will also continue to review EPA's implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

The Committee will continue to monitor international negotiations on efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions in connection with concerns about global climate change. In addition, the Committee will examine the EPA's efforts to regulate domestic greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act based on its endangerment findings. The Committee will consider whether such agreements and regulatory efforts are scientifically well grounded. The Committee will also review the activities undertaken in this area by DOE, HHS, and other agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction, including efforts to prepare for and respond to weather events and natural disasters in the future.

#### EPA MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will conduct general oversight of the EPA, including review of the agency's funding decisions, resource allocation, grants, research activities, enforcement actions, relations with State and local governments, public transparency, and respect for economic, procedural, public health, and environmental standards in regulatory actions. In addition, the Committee will review the government's activities in hydraulic fracturing research and regulation.

#### ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

The Committee will monitor EPA implementation of reforms made to title I of the Toxic Substances Control Act. These efforts will include program management and the use of chemical risk analysis in environmental assessment programs. The Committee will also review deadline management and consistency of implementation, ensure that confidential business information is protected from unwarranted disclosure, and make certain that EPA provides the appropriate consideration of risks and their trade-offs during the evaluation and regulatory process.

#### DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGULATION

The Committee will conduct oversight of the operation of the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund program authorized under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Included will be an examination of State funding uses, efficiencies that could be realized in managing this funding that maximize its effectiveness, and the use of this funding for leveraging other investments. In addition, the Committee will conduct oversight of EPA regulatory actions under section 1412 of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the protocol it uses to issue health advisories under the same section of law.

### SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Committee will review EPA implementation of various regulatory programs established under the most recent administration, including regulations regarding the definition of solid waste and coal ash.

### CERCLA (SUPERFUND) AND BROWNFIELDS

The Committee will monitor EPA implementation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA). These efforts will include an examination of State cleanup programs and a comprehensive analysis regarding whether cleanup under State programs would result in greater efficiency in the process. The Committee will also conduct oversight of EPA regulatory actions under CERCLA, in particular the current rule making for financial assurance under CERCLA section 108(b). The Committee will also examine the EPA brownfields program, including statutory implementation, the challenges of program operation, and whether changes to the program would result in more effective and efficient cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned and blighted properties.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

### A MODERN COMMUNICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR THE INNOVATION AGE

The Committee will continue to exercise its jurisdiction over wired and wireless communications to ensure our nation's policies governing voice, video, audio, and data services are promoting investment, innovation, and job creation. The country's current regulatory regime takes a siloed approach in which different technological platforms—such as wireline, wireless, broadcast, cable, and satellite—are regulated differently based on regulations that may be decades old. As we move deeper into the Internet era, however, providers are increasingly using these platforms to offer the same or similar services. The Committee will examine whether these regulations should be updated to better meet the communications needs of the country and to ensure its citizens enjoy cutting edge services and the economic benefits they bring.

### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), including the efforts to reverse the reclassification of Broadband Internet Access Service as a telecommunications service subject to Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 and efforts to bring transparency and accountability to the Commission's processes. The Committee will also continue to conduct oversight of the FCC's decisions and their impact on innovation and the U.S. economy. Among other things, the Committee will evaluate the impact generally of FCC actions on voice, video, audio, and data services, and on public safety. The Committee will pay particular attention to whether the

FCC conducts cost-benefit and market analyses before imposing regulations.

#### SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Communications Commission's and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) management and allocation of the nation's spectrum for commercial and government use. Spectrum is increasingly being used to provide voice, video, audio, and data services to consumers and to serve the needs of our nation's government agencies. The Committee will evaluate spectrum-management policies to ensure efficient use of the public airwaves for innovative communications services. The Committee will also examine whether plans for allocating spectrum maximizes broadband deployment and encourages investment. The Committee will pay particular attention to FCC and NTIA implementation of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which included provisions intended to make more spectrum available for mobile broadband services, as well as raise billions in spectrum auction proceeds.

#### AVAILABILITY OF BROADBAND

The Committee will investigate whether regulatory policies are helping or hindering broadband deployment. In particular, the Committee will examine the need for reforms to State and Federal permitting processes to speed the deployment of fiber optic systems and 5G wireless services. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight of funding mechanisms for broadband deployment and adoption, including the \$9 billion per year Universal Service Fund. Specifically, the Committee will examine what procedures are in place to control waste, fraud, and abuse, whether the funds are appropriately targeted, and the impact of the funding on jobs and the economy.

#### INTERNET

The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over wired and wireless communications to ensure continued growth and investment in the Internet. In particular, the Committee will monitor efforts to employ the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance—in which governmental and non-governmental entities develop best practices for the management of Internet networks and content. The Committee will also monitor international efforts to replace multi-stakeholder governance with domestic regulation and international multilateral institutions.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee will examine whether the communications needs of first responders are being met. The Committee will examine the progress being made to ensure that first responders have interoperable communications capabilities with local, State, and Federal public safety officials. The Committee will also examine the progress being made by the First Responder Network Authority

(FirstNet) in carrying out the mandates of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. Specifically, the progress made in finding private sector partners to develop an interoperable public safety broadband network and implementation of the network. In addition, the Committee will conduct oversight regarding the implementation of legacy 911 and Next Generation 911 (NG911) services. The Committee will review efforts to promote deployment of these advanced systems and challenges to realizing ubiquitous NG911.

## **DIGITAL COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

### **PRIVACY AND SECURITY**

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine issues relating to the privacy and security of methods, information and data collected by businesses about consumers and the potential for improving protection without undercutting innovative uses that benefit consumers and the economy. Further, the Committee will continue to review the manner in which fraud and other criminal activities affect e-commerce. The Committee will also explore how privacy and cybersecurity policies should treat the burgeoning Internet of Things.

### **SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES**

The Committee will examine the policy framework being put into place for self-driving vehicles. Self-driving vehicles hold the promise to greatly reduce traffic fatalities, while at the same time expanding mobility to additional subsets of Americans and doing so with less impact on the environment. It is critical that this technology is encouraged through smart approaches and to ensure that the potential of revolutionary change to the industry is not curtailed by unnecessary regulation.

### **MANUFACTURING**

The Committee will explore the state of manufacturing in the United States to identify factors that are hampering or furthering U.S. competitiveness. The Committee will review the issues presented by the globalization of production and manufacturing networks, including the integrity of products and components assembled overseas and the impact on national security.

### **TRADE**

The Committee will examine trade negotiations to ensure that foreign governments are not imposing non-tariff trade barriers, such as regulations or requirements, that harm U.S. businesses, their competitiveness and their ability to support jobs in the United States, especially as it relates to the flow of data across borders.

### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS**

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Commerce Department and complementary or conflicting Federal efforts to promote

U.S. manufacturing, exports, and trade, including efforts to lower or eliminate non-tariff barriers and harmonize regulation of products sold internationally where other countries share our health, safety, and consumer protection goals.

#### CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will continue oversight of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and its implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations relating to the safety of consumer products, including the agency's implementation of Public Law 112-28 and determination of priorities to ensure that it is efficiently and effectively protecting consumers.

#### NHTSA MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee intends to continue oversight of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), including the effectiveness of the agency's structure, regulations, research activities, investigations, and enforcement actions pertaining to motor vehicle safety. The committee will be particularly concerned with the way the Administration processes information and its ability to effectively oversee ever advancing safety technologies.

#### FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Trade Commission's management and operations, including the impact of its decisions and actions on the general public and the business community, its determination of priorities and the need, if any, for refinement of its authorities. In particular, the Committee will explore the FTC's role relative to emerging sectors of the economy and its jurisdiction relative to new technologies.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### CYBERSECURITY

The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over cybersecurity to ensure the country is well protected while at the same time avoiding one-size-fits-all approaches that hinder the flexibility of commercial and governmental actors to combat the rapidly evolving threats. The Committee will also review the efforts of agencies within its jurisdiction to secure their networks consistent with the Homeland Security Act of 2002. In doing so, the Committee will explore current cybersecurity threats and strategies to address those threats. The Committee will also examine government initiatives to improve cybersecurity both in the public and private sectors, and review efforts at agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction to regulate cybersecurity. The Committee will also examine the security of the Internet of Things, discovery and disclosure of cybersecurity vulnerabilities, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework, and the recently released report from the Presidential Commission on Enhancing Cybersecurity.

## BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The Committee will continue its examination of the roles of HHS agencies in assisting the nation's detection, warning capability, and response to potential biological attacks. In addition, the Committee will evaluate the potential impact and preparedness of the nation's public health system. The Committee will continue to review the implementation of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 by HHS, and the extent of the coordination between HHS and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), especially as it relates to Project Bioshield.

## FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF HIGH-CONTAINMENT BIO LABORATORIES

The Committee will examine issues related to high-containment bio laboratories, which handle some of the world's most exotic and dangerous diseases, including anthrax, smallpox, foot and mouth disease, and Ebola virus. Among the issues under review are the adequacy of the security and practices of high-containment bio laboratories, Federal efforts to oversee the laboratories, and whether some of these efforts are duplicative and overlapping. The Committee will continue its oversight into issues raised by the improper storage and handling of Federal select agents at CDC, NIH, and FDA labs.

## ANTI-TERRORISM SECURITY FOR CHEMICAL FACILITIES

The Committee will continue its oversight of DHS's implementation of the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Program, originally authorized in Section 550 of Public Law 109-295, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007. The Committee will continue to examine whether taxpayer funds are spent prudently and the extent to which DHS is advancing the purpose of securing chemical facilities against terrorist threats.

## GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC AND RISK ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine issues relating to the numerous Federal science programs assessing public health risks, including the Integrated Risk Information System at the EPA, the Report on Carcinogens produced by the National Toxicology Program at HHS, and assessments proposed or ongoing in other Federal departments and agencies. The Committee will review programs to assess the objectives, transparency, and integrity of scientific assessments that inform regulatory and public health policies.

## CONTROLLING SPENDING

The Committee will examine Departments and agencies under its jurisdiction to assure adequate and prompt implementation of recommendations from the Administration, the Offices of Inspectors General, the Government Accountability Office, and other sources to achieve cost savings or eliminate wasteful spending.

### CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In June 2006, the Bush Administration issued a National Infrastructure Protection Plan. This plan created a process by which DHS is to identify critical assets and assess their vulnerabilities and risks due to loss or natural disaster. During the 115th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's activities with respect to identifying high-priority assets and implementing plans to protect these assets in areas within the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee will also examine the activities of DOE, FERC, and other Federal agencies related the physical and cybersecurity of the nation's energy infrastructure. Further, the Committee will examine the roles and responsibilities of the private sector, which owns and operates the bulk of the nation's critical infrastructure assets.

### NUCLEAR SMUGGLING

The Committee will continue to monitor Federal government and private sector efforts at border crossings, seaports, and mail facilities. The Committee's review will analyze and assess U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Energy's efforts, including international efforts, aimed at detecting and preventing the smuggling of dangerous commerce, particularly nuclear and radiological weapons of mass destruction.

### **AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

During the 115th Congress, as part of both its oversight and legislative agenda, the Committee on Energy and Commerce will review the authorizations of agencies and programs within its jurisdiction and, specifically with regard to lapsed authorizations, determine whether the program should be reauthorized or terminated. Each subcommittee will conduct oversight of these programs and offices, including hearings, outreach to the Executive Branch, and requests for information in order to gather the necessary information to support these determinations.

The Committee plans to dedicate considerable time in the 115th Congress to examining the policies of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and then developing legislation to improve health care delivery and treatment and lower costs for families. When the PPACA was enacted in 2010, it authorized dozens of individual programs. Some of these programs received indefinite, or "such sums" authorizations, and others were authorized at a specific level. Since 2010, the authorizations for most of these programs have expired; some have continued to receive appropriations while others have not. The Committee expects to consider the now-lapsed programs that the law authorized and determine which ones should be reauthorized. The Committee's oversight of the PPACA, as described previously in this document, will necessarily inform how the Committee will advance alternative solutions to the PPACA and either reauthorize or terminate the programs first authorized by the that law. The Committee plans to work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Executive Branch when making decisions about individual programs.

In addition to examining the lapsed authorizations contained within the ACA, the Committee in the first session of the 115th Congress will work on the reauthorization of two key programs before they expire: the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), last authorized in the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 and expiring in 2017, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) User Fees, including the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) and Generic Drug User Fee Amendments (GDUFA). The reauthorization of both programs will require multiple hearings and may involve extensive negotiations.

With regard to the Committee's jurisdiction over energy and the environment, a number of the energy and environment programs within the Committee's jurisdiction have lapsed but continue to receive appropriations. The bulk of the lapsed programs are within the Committee's energy jurisdiction, including the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-140). In addition, there are various lapsed programs within the Clean Air Act; the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Toxic Substances Control Act; the Nuclear Waste Policy Act; the Solid Waste Disposal Act, also referred to as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986; the Energy Act of 2000; the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act; the Pollution Prevention Act; the Department of Energy Organization Act; and the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975.

As many of the programs related to energy and environmental matters have lapsed for more than a decade, and as part of the Committee's ongoing work to modernize energy policy, it is an appropriate time to consider whether these programs should continue, be updated, or be terminated. The Committee plans to collect information as appropriate and to evaluate the relevant programs within the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Energy Information Administration, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Department of Homeland Security, and other relevant agencies. Such reauthorization activity will include consideration of programs in relation to current and projected U.S. economic, energy, and environmental conditions.

In addition to the reauthorization work described previously in the health, environment, and energy jurisdictions of the Committee, and as explained in the oversight plan, the Committee plans to lay the groundwork for other reauthorizations in this Congress. Within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, the oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the NTIA that the Committee pursued in the 114th Congress will continue in the 115th Congress, including the examination of the Federal Communications Commission Authorization Act of 1990 and the NTIA Organization Act. Finally, within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection, the Federal Trade Commission was last reauthorized in 1996, with the authorization expiring at the end of Fiscal Year 1998. The Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and

Consumer Protection plans to conduct continued oversight of how the FTC carries out its authorities relating to unfair or deceptive acts or practices, specifically the agency's actions with respect to disruptive and technology-driven markets, innovative products, and services that benefit consumers. The purpose of this oversight work is to clarify the FTC's consumer protection authority in areas where observed harms have plagued consumers and better understand the legal and economic basis for the agency's enforcement actions.

The reauthorization work will require extensive Committee resources and member participation, particularly of the members of the Subcommittee on Health and Subcommittee on Energy. While the Committee expects that the repeal and replacement of the PPACA will be accomplished by the end of the 115th Congress, it is possible that the Committee's work to reauthorize the energy and environment-related programs and agencies will continue into the next Congress.



# COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

## AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN

Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the House of Representatives, the following agenda constitutes the authorization and oversight plan of the Committee on Financial Services for the 115th Congress. It includes areas in which the Committee and its subcommittees expect to conduct oversight during this Congress; it does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters or programs as they arise. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction on any of the subjects listed below.

Pursuant to House Rules, this Authorization and Oversight Plan contains oversight initiatives that will be undertaken for the purpose of identifying cuts to or the elimination of programs that are inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State and local government. Finally, the Authorization and Oversight Plan identifies agencies and programs with lapsed authorizations that received appropriations in the previous fiscal year and/or agencies or programs with permanent authorizations that have not been subject to a comprehensive review in the prior three Congresses.

## OVERSIGHT PLAN

### THE DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

The Committee intends to continue its close examination of the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111–203) (the Dodd-Frank Act) by the financial regulators charged with implementing the law.

*Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC).* The Committee will review the operations, activities, and initiatives of the FSOC.

*Office of Financial Research (OFR).* The Committee will review the operations, activities, and initiatives of the OFR.

*Volcker Rule.* The Committee will examine financial regulators' implementation of Section 619 of the Dodd-Frank Act, known as the "Volcker Rule," and the effect of the Volcker Rule on the strength and international competitiveness of U.S. capital markets.

*"Too Big to Fail."* The Committee will examine whether financial regulators' implementation of Titles I and II of the Dodd-Frank Act, which together were designed to end the government's practice of bailing out financial institutions deemed "too big to fail," is advancing or impeding that goal.

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT

*Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (CFPB).* The Committee will oversee the regulatory, supervisory, enforcement, and other activities of the CFPB, the effect of those activities on regulated entities and consumers, and the CFPB's collaboration with other financial regulators. The Committee will also examine the governance structure and funding mechanism of the CFPB.

*Financial Supervision.* The Committee will examine financial regulators' safety and soundness supervision of the banking, thrift and credit union industries, to ensure that systemic risks or other structural weaknesses in the financial sector are identified and addressed promptly.

*Capital Standards and Basel III.* The Committee will explore generally the twin subjects of bank capital and liquidity, and, in so doing, examine closely the guidelines developed by the international Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and how domestic financial regulators are implementing or planning to implement those guidelines in the U.S.

*Mortgages.* The Committee will closely review recent rulemakings by the CFPB and other agencies on a variety of mortgage-related issues. The Committee will monitor the coordination and implementation of these rules and the impact they are having on the cost and availability of mortgage credit.

*Deposit Insurance.* The Committee will monitor the solvency of the Deposit Insurance Fund administered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund administered by the National Credit Union Administration.

*Community Financial Institutions.* The Committee will review issues related to the health, growth, safety, and soundness of community financial institutions, including the effect of regulations promulgated pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, individually and cumulatively, on community financial institutions' role in lending to small businesses, fostering employment, and promoting economic growth.

*Regulatory Burden Reduction.* The Committee will continue to review the current regulatory burden on financial institutions, particularly community financial institutions, with the goal of reducing unnecessary, duplicative, or overly burdensome regulations, consistent with consumer protection and safety and soundness.

*Credit Scores and Credit Reports.* The Committee will monitor issues related to credit scores and credit reporting.

*Access to Financial Services.* The Committee will generally examine ways to expand access to mainstream financial services among traditionally underserved segments of the U.S. population.

*"Operation Choke Point."* The Committee will conduct oversight of the Department of Justice, financial regulators, and other agencies relating to the coordinated interagency initiative known as "Operation Choke Point."

*Discrimination in Lending.* The Committee will examine the effectiveness of regulators' fair lending oversight and enforcement efforts to ensure that the Federal government does not tolerate discrimination.

*Diversity in Financial Services.* The Committee will continue to monitor Federal regulators' efforts to implement the diversity requirements of the Dodd-Frank Act.

*Improper Disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information.* The Committee will evaluate best practices for protecting the security and confidentiality of personally identifiable financial information from loss, unauthorized access, or misuse. The Committee will also examine how data breaches are disclosed to consumers.

*Payment System Innovations/Mobile Payments.* The Committee will review government and private sector efforts to achieve greater innovations and efficiencies in the payments system.

*Payment Cards.* The Committee will monitor payment card industry practices.

*Money Services Businesses and their Access to Banking Services.* The Committee will examine the operations of Money Services Businesses.

*Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund).* The Committee will monitor the operations of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

*Community Reinvestment Act (CRA).* The Committee will monitor developments and issues related to the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977.

*Financial Literacy.* The Committee will review efforts to promote greater financial literacy among investors, consumers, and the general public.

## CAPITAL MARKETS

*Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).* The Committee will monitor all aspects of the Securities and Exchange Commission's operations, activities, and initiatives to ensure that it fulfills its Congressional mandate to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation.

*The JOBS Act.* The Committee will conduct oversight of the SEC's implementation of the "Jumpstart Our Business Startups" or "JOBS" Act (P.L. 112-106) and the effect of that law on capital formation and investor protection.

*Derivatives.* The Committee will continue to review the impact of Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act on the operations, growth, transparency, and structure of the over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives market.

*Credit Rating Agencies.* The Committee will examine the role that credit rating agencies, also known as Nationally Recognized Statistical Ratings Organizations (NRSROs), play in the U.S. capital markets including the issuer-selected model, and will review the effectiveness of the SEC's regulation and oversight of NRSROs.

*Regulation and Oversight of Broker-Dealers and Investment Advisers.* The Committee will review the SEC's regulation and oversight of broker-dealers and investment advisers.

*Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs).* The Committee will examine the activities, operations, and initiatives of self-regulatory organizations (SROs), including the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), and the SEC's oversight of these SROs.

*Equity/Option Market Structure.* The Committee will review recent developments in the U.S. equity and option markets and the SEC's response to those developments.

*Fixed-Income Market Structure.* The Committee will review recent developments in the U.S. corporate and municipal bond markets and the SEC's response to those developments.

*Corporate Governance.* The Committee will review developments and issues concerning corporate governance at public companies and the SEC's proposals that seek to modernize corporate governance practices.

*Employee Compensation.* The Committee will monitor the implementation of provisions in Title IX of the Dodd-Frank Act governing the compensation practices at public companies and financial institutions.

*Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC).* The Committee will review the operations, initiatives, and activities of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, as well as the application of the Securities Investor Protection Act (SIPA).

*Asset Managers.* The Committee will continue to examine the SEC's regulation and oversight of asset managers and investment companies, including their impact on capital formation and investor protection.

*Advisers to Private Funds.* The Committee will examine the functions served by advisers to private funds in the U.S. financial marketplace and their interaction with investors, financial intermediaries, and public companies.

*Securitization and Risk Retention.* The Committee will monitor the implementation of joint agency risk retention rulemaking mandated by Section 941 of the Dodd-Frank Act.

*Covered Bonds.* The Committee will examine the potential for covered bonds to increase mortgage and broader asset class financing, improve underwriting standards, and strengthen U.S. financial institutions.

*Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB).* The Committee will review the operations, initiatives, and activities of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

*Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB).* The Committee will review the operations, initiatives and activities of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

*Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB).* The Committee will review the initiatives of the Financial Accounting Standards Board.

*Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB).* The Committee will review the initiatives of the Government Accounting Standards Board.

*Convergence of International Accounting Standards.* The Committee will review efforts by the SEC, the FASB, and the International Accounting Standards Board to achieve robust, uniform international accounting standards.

*Securities Litigation.* The Committee will examine the effectiveness of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 in protecting securities issuers from frivolous lawsuits while preserving the ability of investors to pursue legitimate actions.

*Securities Arbitration.* The Committee will examine developments in securities arbitration, including the impact of the arbitration-related provisions contained in Section 921 of the Dodd-Frank Act.

## HOUSING

*Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.* The Committee will examine proposals affecting the operations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, including consolidating their business operations, winding down their legacy business commitments, and repealing their statutory charters. The Committee will also examine the overall size of the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's footprint in various aspects of the housing finance system and ways to reduce or constrain their large market share and develop a vibrant, innovative, and competitive private mortgage market.

*Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) System.* The Committee will monitor the capital requirements and financial stability of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, as well as the FHLB System's ability to fulfill its housing and community economic development mission and provide liquidity to member banks in a safe and sound manner.

*Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA).* The Committee will monitor the activities and initiatives of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

*Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae).* The Committee will examine Ginnie Mae to ensure that the agency has the proper resources, procedures and oversight necessary to manage the \$1.7 trillion in outstanding mortgage-backed securities it currently guarantees.

*Federal Housing Administration (FHA).* The Committee will examine the operations of the Federal Housing Administration in our housing finance system, including FHA's appropriate role, market share, and ability to manage its mortgage portfolio and mitigate taxpayer risk.

*Mortgage Insurance.* The Committee will continue to examine the role private mortgage insurance plays in increasing consumer choice and protection, and furthering the goal of robust private sector participation in our housing finance system.

*Housing and Urban Development, Rural Housing Service, and the National Reinvestment Corporation.* The Committee will conduct oversight of the mission, operations, and budgets of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Rural Housing Service (RHS), and NeighborWorks America. The Committee will review current HUD, RHS, and NeighborWorks America programs with the goal of identifying inefficient and duplicative programs.

*Public Housing.* The Committee will conduct oversight of HUD's public housing programs and the subsidies they provide for the operations, management and capital development for public housing agencies. The Committee will also investigate the impact of funding of Public Housing Authorities and seek ways to ensure capital repairs are made to improve the health and well-being of residents.

*Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and Affordable Housing.* The Committee will monitor and review HUD's rental assist-

ance programs and the government's role in the future of affordable rental housing. As part of its review, the Committee will examine the conduct of landlords participating in the Section 8 program and investigate HUD's oversight of landlord participants to ensure rules and regulations are being followed.

*Homelessness.* The Committee will examine progress towards the nation's goals to end homelessness in America, including successful strategies and best practices where local communities have effectively ended homelessness for certain populations.

*Fair Housing.* The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure the enforcement of fair housing practices. The Committee will seek to ensure that the principles of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 are upheld so that no person is subject to illegal discrimination in housing practices.

*Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA).* The Committee will conduct oversight of the grants and other programs under the NAHASDA block grant program, the authorization for which expired on October 1, 2013.

*Settlement Procedures.* The Committee will conduct oversight of the regulation of real estate settlement procedures, including appraisals and disclosures involving closing costs and the settlement process.

## INSURANCE

*National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).* The Committee will conduct oversight of the National Flood Insurance Program, the authorization for which is set to expire on October 1, 2017. In particular, the Committee will examine proposals to limit taxpayer exposure under the NFIP, improve the efficiency and transparency associated with the processing of claims submitted by policy holders, and increase the participation of the private sector in the flood insurance market. The Committee will also examine proposals to address the National Flood Insurance Program's debt, and other proposals to ensure the affordability and availability of flood insurance.

*Federal Insurance Office (FIO).* The Committee will examine the Treasury Department's Federal Insurance Office and the conduct of its statutory functions under the Dodd-Frank Act regarding domestic and international insurance policy issues.

*Impact of Dodd-Frank Act Implementation on the Insurance Sector.* The Committee will monitor implementation of various provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act and various international regulatory initiatives for their potential impact on the insurance sector, including FIO's efforts to enter into a covered agreement with the European Union.

## MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

*The Federal Reserve System.* The Committee will exercise oversight of the operations and activities of the Federal Reserve System, including its conduct of monetary policy, its regulation and supervision of the financial services sector, its role in the payment system, and its susceptibility to cybersecurity threats and other security risks.

*Defense Production Act.* The Committee will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Defense Production Act, which was reauthorized in 2014, and its individual authorities in promoting national security and recovery from natural disasters.

*Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).* The Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007 and actions taken by CFIUS to identify and address foreign investments that pose threats to national security.

*Coins and Currency.* The Committee will conduct oversight of the printing and minting of U.S. currency and coins, and of the operation of programs administered by the U.S. Mint for producing congressionally authorized commemorative coins, bullion coins for investors, and Congressional gold medals. The Committee will continue its review of efforts to detect and combat the counterfeiting of U.S. coins and currency in the United States and abroad. Finally, the Committee will examine commemorative coins and medals, including potential reforms related to the process for funding the production of such items.

*Economic Sanctions.* The Committee will monitor the implementation of financial sanctions as well as any proposals to expand such sanctions or impose new ones. As part of this oversight, the Committee will monitor the efforts of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, which administers such sanctions.

*International Monetary Fund (IMF).* The Committee will consider the policies of the IMF to ensure effective use of resources and appropriate alignment with U.S. interests to promote economic growth and stability, including through technical assistance that strengthens the capacity of Fund members to prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The Committee will review the statutorily required annual report to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the international financial system and the IMF.

*U.S. Oversight over the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Possible U.S. Contributions.* The Committee will consider any Administration request that the U.S. contribute to the replenishment of the concessional lending windows at the World Bank and other multilateral development banks, which provide grants and below market-rate financing to the world's poorest nations.

*Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank).* The Committee will examine the operations of the Ex-Im Bank, the authorization for which expires in September 2019.

*International Trade.* The Committee will oversee existing and proposed trade programs and consider policies within the Committee's jurisdiction to promote U.S. international trade so that U.S. companies retain access to foreign markets and remain globally competitive.

*Exchange Rates.* The Committee will review and assess the semi-annual report to Congress from the Secretary of the Treasury on International Economic and Exchange Rate Policies pursuant to the Omnibus Trade Act of 1988.

*Global Economic Conditions.* The Committee will monitor economic developments overseas—particularly in those countries expe-

riencing severe economic stress or dislocation—and assess the effect of those developments on the U.S. economy.

*Extractive Industries and Conflict Minerals.* The Committee will monitor the implementation of provisions in Title XV of the Dodd-Frank Act imposing disclosure requirements relating to so-called extractive industries and conflict minerals.

## ILLICIT FINANCING

*Terrorist and Illicit Financing.* The Committee will monitor the extent to which individuals or groups may fund terrorist or other criminal acts by transmitting funds through the financial system, including through the use of anonymous shell companies, and will additionally monitor methods to detect and inhibit illicit uses such as cyber extortion and cyber threats.

*Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI).* The Committee will conduct oversight of TFI's development and implementation of U.S. government strategies to combat terrorist financing, including on matters relating to the National Money Laundering Strategy.

*Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).* The Committee will monitor activities of OFAC, which is housed within TFI, on matters relating to countering terrorist financing and illicit financial flows.

*Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).* The Committee will examine the operations of the FinCEN, which is housed within TFI, and its ongoing efforts to implement its regulatory mandates.

*Information Sharing.* The Committee will examine the extent to which government agencies and financial institutions have adequate capacity under current law to share information concerning terrorist financing threats.

*Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering Terrorist Financing (CFT).* The Committee will review the application and enforcement of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing laws and regulations, and whether such laws and regulations are sufficient to counter threats posed by terrorist organizations and international criminal syndicates.

## AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS

With respect to capital markets matters, several lapsed programs received appropriations in Fiscal Year 2016. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) received \$1.605 billion in appropriations in FY 2016, though its authorization lapsed in the prior fiscal year. Additionally, the SEC Office of the Inspector General's authorization lapsed after FY 2011; it received over \$11.3 million in FY 2016 as part of the SEC's appropriation. The Committee will perform oversight as necessary to support activities related to the reauthorization of the SEC and the Office of Inspector General.

With respect to financial institution matters, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund received FY 2016 appropriations without authorization. The Committee will take appropriate action on matters relating to oversight and authorization of this program.

With respect to housing and insurance matters, virtually all Department of Housing and Urban Development programs within the Committee's jurisdiction have lapsed authorizations but received FY 2016 appropriations. The bulk of the lapsed programs are within the Committee's housing assistance jurisdiction and include the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs authorized by the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (P.L. 75-412). These programs represent the largest portion of HUD's annual budget authority.

In addition, there are several programs created through the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act, the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1992 that have lapsed authorizations. The Committee will evaluate the efficacy of these programs in alleviating poverty and increasing housing affordability and how reforms can increase individual choice and self-sufficiency.

Finally, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network received FY 2016 appropriations without authorization. During the 115th Congress, the Committee will hold hearings and conduct oversight as appropriate to support activities related to the reauthorization of these two programs. In addition, certain headquarters functions of the Treasury Department received FY 2016 appropriations despite having lapsed authorizations. The Committee will take appropriate actions relating to the oversight and authorization of these functions.



# **COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

Adopted January 24, 2017

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to the requirements of clause 2(d) of House Rule X, the Committee on Foreign Affairs (“the Committee”) has adopted this authorization and oversight plan for the 115th Congress, which will be shared with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on House Administration, and the Committee on Appropriations. This plan summarizes the Committee’s authorization and oversight priorities for the next two years, subject to the understanding that new developments will undoubtedly affect priorities and work assignments in the months ahead.

Budget authorization and agency oversight remain key responsibilities of the legislative branch. Committee Rule 15 requires each Subcommittee to hold regular oversight hearings that, according to usual practice, include an annual hearing on the portions of the Administration’s budget request within that Subcommittee’s jurisdiction. Oversight activities will thus be coordinated between the Committee and the Subcommittees, in order to facilitate comprehensive and strategic review of the programs and agencies within the Committee’s jurisdiction.

These Committee activities may include hearings, briefings, investigations, Member or staff-level meetings, correspondence, fact-finding travel, reports, and public statements. They may also include effective use and review of reports by the Government Accountability Office and by statutory Inspectors General, as well as Congressional Notifications submitted by executive branch agencies. The Committee also will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction over relevant issues and activities.

The Committee’s authorization and oversight activities will emphasize:

- effectiveness of U.S. foreign policy;
- effective implementation of U.S. law;
- the review of agencies and programs operating under permanent statutory authority;
- the elimination of programs and expenditures that are inefficient, duplicative, or outdated; and
- institutional reform, efficiency, and fiscal discipline.

## 2. FUNDING AUTHORIZATION

*a. Legislative Context:* The agencies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee are funded by discretionary appropriations.<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding the Committee's extensive authorization work, almost all of the funding authorities within its legislative jurisdiction have been lapsed for more than 13 years. The last enacted Foreign Relations Authorization Act (P.L. 107–228) was passed in 2002, and provided funding authority through fiscal year 2003.

This lapse is not due to a lack of action by the Committee or the House of Representatives: The Committee produced and the House passed Foreign Relations Authorization bills in five of the six Congresses that followed, under both Republican and Democratic control, usually with overwhelming bipartisan support.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, the Senate did not act on any of those bills.

Notwithstanding these challenges, during the 114th Congress the Committee succeeded in authorizing, modernizing, and reforming the \$2.8 billion International Disaster Assistance account for the first time since 1987 (P.L. 114–195), reauthorizing and reforming the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (P.L. 114–71), fundamentally restructuring and reforming the Broadcasting Board of Governors (sec. 1288 of P.L. 114–328), and working with the Senate to successfully enact a fiscal year 2017 Department of State Authorities Act that provided authority for important embassy security enhancements and personnel reforms (P.L. 114–323).

*b. Funding Without Current Authorization:* As mentioned, nearly all of the agencies and entities within the Committee's legislative jurisdiction are operating without current funding authorizations, including:

- The Department of State
- United States Agency for International Development
- The Millennium Challenge Corporation
- Broadcasting Board of Governors
- International Border, Water, and Fisheries Commissions
- National Endowment for Democracy
- United States Trade and Development Agency
- Peace Corps
- Inter-American Foundation
- United States African Development Foundation
- Overseas Private Investment Corporation
- United States Institute of Peace
- East-West Center
- The Asia Foundation
- International Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue

*c. Authorization Plans:* During the 115th Congress, the Committee plans to build on the reforms of the FY17 Department of State Authorities Act and again attempt to remedy the 14-year authorization lapse by enacting a Foreign Relations Authorization

<sup>1</sup>A relatively minor amount of mandatory spending is involved with the Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

<sup>2</sup>Un-enacted, House-passed foreign relations funding authorization bills include: H.R. 1950 in the 108th Congress; H.R. 2601 in the 109th Congress; H.R. 2410 in the 111th Congress; H.R. 6018 in the 112th Congress; and H.R. 2848 in the 113th Congress.

Act. That Act provides funding authorization for the operating expenses, programs, and assessed treaty contributions of the Department of State and related agencies, which traditionally also include the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the Budget Function 300 international commissions (International Boundary and Water Commission; International Joint Commission; Border Environment Cooperation Commission; and the International Fisheries Commissions), and related programs and agencies (National Endowment for Democracy, U.S. Institute of Peace, Asia Foundation, and the East-West Center). This Act will not only address authorization levels, but also will include important reforms and modifications of authorities, based on the oversight activities conducted pursuant to the plan outlined below, and in prior congresses.

### 3. PRIORITY OVERSIGHT MATTERS

*a. ISIS, Iraq and Syria:* The Committee will scrutinize U.S. efforts to combat the terrorist group known as ISIS, as well as the larger crisis unfolding in Iraq and Syria, including the latter country's ongoing civil war, the war crimes associated with it and the role of Iran and Russia. Particular attention will be paid to U.S. military and diplomatic efforts to fight ISIS and other terrorist groups, including their funding and recruitment, international efforts to eliminate the presence and use of chemical weapons in Syria, and efforts to document potential war crimes by parties to the conflict. The Committee will continue to review economic and diplomatic means by which to influence events in Syria.

*b. International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime:* The Committee will examine the current status of al-Qaeda and its affiliates, with a specific focus on recruitment efforts, evolving safe havens, and efforts to obtain WMDs. The Committee will conduct oversight of the State Department's various counterterrorism programs, including those designed to counter violent extremism (CVE), as well as agreements with foreign governments relating to the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay. The Committee will also examine the links between organized crime, illicit drugs, and global terrorism. Other transnational criminal issues of interest include maritime piracy, human, arms and wildlife trafficking, money laundering and intellectual property piracy issues.

*c. Iran:* The Committee will continue to closely review U.S. policy toward Iran, with special focus on the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between the prior Administration and Iran and subsequent developments. The Committee will also review and work to address the threat posed by Iran's ballistic missile development, state sponsorship of terrorism and growing influence in Iraq and the region, as well as the regime's ongoing human rights abuses.

*d. Middle East and North Africa:* In addition to the conflict in Iraq and Syria and its impact on regional states including Jordan and Lebanon, the Committee will carefully review U.S. policy toward the Middle East and North Africa, to include: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the overall status of the Middle East peace process; the democratic transition in Tunisia; the collapse and conversion of the Libyan state into a terrorist haven and principal route for human trafficking; the continuation of the civil war in

Yemen; the impact of Iranian aggression on regional stability; the consequences of low oil prices for various oil-producing states; human rights and challenges to the rule of law throughout the region; and United States policies, programs, authorities and funding to address these challenges.

*e. Russia:* The Committee will address the impact of Russia's foreign policy on U.S. security, political, and economic interests, especially as a result of its aggression and related hostile actions regarding NATO, Ukraine, Georgia, and other countries. It will also examine Kremlin-driven efforts to undermine the government, democratic and other institutions of the U.S. and other countries through cyber intrusions, propaganda and other tools. The Committee will examine the range of options available to the U.S. to respond to these actions, including legislation to impose additional sanctions on Russia and provide assistance to vulnerable countries. In addition, the Committee will assess the impact of Russia's global propaganda campaign, with special attention to Russian-speaking communities along the Russian frontier and European countries with upcoming elections. The Committee will also review the deteriorating domestic situation in Russia regarding democracy, civil society, the rule of law, and human rights. In addition, it will examine ways to reduce Russia's ability to use its energy exports for political and economic coercion. The Committee will consult widely on the appropriate response by the U.S. government and other partners.

*f. Ukraine:* The Committee will closely monitor Russian-supported separatist activity and other aggressive actions aimed at undermining Ukraine's sovereignty, including the forcible and illegal annexation of Crimea. The Committee will continue to examine the U.S. response in light of the long-standing U.S. foreign policy doctrine of non-recognition of territorial changes effected by force alone. In addition, it will actively oversee efforts to work with Ukraine to strengthen its military and security services, promote economic growth, combat corruption, and promote an effective and democratic government.

*g. Europe/Eurasia:* The Committee will review U.S. relations with European countries, with an emphasis on the European Union and NATO. Key issues include the potential for trade agreements with the EU and the UK; continued support for our NATO allies, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe; rule of law, border security, and European integration issues in the Balkans; U.S.-European cooperative efforts to combat terrorism and extremism; and diversification of energy sources to reduce reliance on Russian energy. The Committee will also examine Turkey's evolving foreign policy orientation and domestic political trends, including efforts to combat ISIS and the spread of extremism, the impact of the refugee crisis on European and Turkish foreign policy priorities, as well as reviewing their general support for U.S. priorities. The Committee will also continue oversight of U.S. political, security and economic policy in Central Asia, with a particular focus on strengthening partnerships to advance mutual security interests, including countering violent extremism, as well as efforts to promote economic development, human rights, and good governance.

*h. Afghanistan:* The Committee will comprehensively review U.S. policy toward Afghanistan. Particular focus will be paid to efforts to support the national unity government, tackle corruption, improve governance, and strengthen security. This review will assess the effectiveness of international aid and U.S. assistance programs, the broader political-military and associated counterterrorism strategies, and the full range of policies related to the post-2014 transition, including programs and budgeting processes.

*i. Pakistan:* The Committee will review all elements of U.S. policy toward Pakistan, including efforts to eliminate safe havens for violent extremists and establish a stable, democratic country. This review will encompass both U.S. civilian and security assistance to Pakistan, in order to assess the extent to which such programs effectively advance U.S. national interests. The Committee will also conduct ongoing oversight of matters relating to Pakistan's nuclear program, including issues relating to nonproliferation, such as the legacy of the A.Q. Khan network.

*j. North Korea:* The Committee will review and work to address the threat posed by North Korea. Particular focus will be paid to North Korea's nuclear and missile proliferation, weapon sales, illicit activities, cyber-attacks, human rights violations, and U.S. efforts to assist North Korean refugees. The Committee will review U.S. diplomatic efforts, the implementation of U.S. and international sanctions, and consider next steps in U.S. policy to address the North Korean threat.

*k. State Department Oversight, Authorization, and Reform:* The Committee will seek to advance far-reaching reforms, building on the 2016 enactment of the first State Authorization bill in more than 14 years. In particular, the Committee will focus on reforming how the Department uses foreign and security sector assistance, ensuring that projects and programs are strategically planned and coordinated. Emphasis will also be placed on reforming the Department's personnel systems, increasing workforce flexibility and modernizing recruitment and retention processes. The Committee will continue to monitor and examine the operations, budget, programs, planning, human resources, building, and security policies of the Department of State, with an eye toward authorization and reform legislation for Fiscal Year 2018. In addition to hearings with the Secretary of State and other Administration officials regarding their budget proposals for the upcoming year, such efforts may include: revisions to the Foreign Service Act; the introduction of merit based pay and promotion; consideration of reforms to Executive Branch reporting requirements; and a reduction or consolidation of offices with duplicative mandates and overlapping responsibilities. In the wake of increasing threats to U.S. personnel serving overseas, the Committee will continue to evaluate the security of our embassies and consulates, along with proposed reforms to the State Department's diplomatic security service.

*l. Asia-Pacific Region:* The Committee will review the U.S.'s significant political, economic, and security interests in the Asia-Pacific, including East and Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands. The Committee will conduct oversight of U.S. relations with the Asia-Pacific, including foreign policy, foreign assistance, security cooperation, territorial disputes, and trade relations.

The Committee will examine the State Department's participation in multilateral organizations such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and the East Asia Summit, and closely monitor any discussion of future trade agreements in Asia. The Committee will monitor the needs of Taiwan for defensive weapons systems as provided for in the Taiwan Relations Act.

*m. India:* The Committee will review U.S. policy towards India and the continued expansion of bilateral cooperation. Particular attention will be paid to the U.S.-India security relationship, including cooperation on counterterrorism efforts and developments since the 2015 defense framework agreement and India's designation as a "Major Defense Partner." The Committee will also focus on efforts to enhance U.S.-India economic relations, including discussions surrounding a possible bilateral investment treaty. Stalled efforts to initiate civil nuclear cooperation and the implications of India's rapidly growing energy demands will also be subject to review.

*n. U.S. International Broadcasting:* The Committee will continue to actively monitor and review the operations and organization of U.S. government-supported, civilian international broadcasting to respond more effectively to the challenges presented by state and non-state actors using modern communication platforms. The Committee will closely oversee the implementation of the reforms enacted in the 114th Congress, and seek further improvements in this critical area.

*o. China:* The Committee will examine China's role in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Particular focus will be placed on China's assertiveness in territorial disputes, rapid military modernization, and human rights abuses, including treatment of Tibetans, Uyghurs and other religious and ethnic minorities. The Committee will also consider China's adherence to agreements made with Hong Kong under the "one country, two systems" principle enshrined in the Basic Law. In addition, the Committee will examine China's role in the global economy, including trade, technology, its strong growth in energy demand, and currency issues that affect the American workforce. The Committee will review China's cooperation on international nonproliferation efforts against North Korea. The Committee will investigate China's increasing use of cyber and economic espionage to affect foreign trade, and other policy outcomes.

*p. Economic Policy and Trade:* The Committee will play a vigorous role in overseeing international economic policy, including U.S. leadership in trade, finance, energy, technology, and development policy to promote economic prosperity and national security.

*q. Export Control Reform:* The Committee will oversee the implementation of Executive Branch reforms to U.S. strategic export controls. In particular, the Committee will assess the extent to which recent and any proposed new changes to the U.S. Munitions List and the Commerce Control List effectively safeguard critical technologies and national security, while supporting the defense industrial base and advancing U.S. commercial interests.

*r. U.S. Nonproliferation Policy:* The Committee will examine the effectiveness of U.S. nonproliferation policy and the international nonproliferation regime in preventing the spread of weapons of

mass destruction. The Committee will address opportunities to strengthen existing nonproliferation organizations, especially the International Atomic Energy Agency, increase cooperation with other countries, and enhance international nonproliferation agreements and mechanisms. Prominent issues will include the global expansion of civil nuclear power and the potential spread of technology, equipment and material useful in the development of nuclear weapons capabilities. The Committee will closely examine proposed and existing bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements with other countries, including their potential to promote U.S. nonproliferation objectives and commercial interests.

*s. Africa.* The Committee will review political, economic and security developments on the African continent. Key issues will include efforts to eliminate safe havens for violent extremists, economic development—including implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Electrify Africa Act—effective use of aid, human rights and democracy promotion. Particular attention is to be paid to the developments in Mali, Nigeria, Sudan and South Sudan, the Central African Republic, the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa.

*t. Western Hemisphere:* The Committee will conduct oversight regarding the content and effectiveness of U.S. political, security and economic policy toward the countries of the Western Hemisphere. The Committee will address continuing threats from drug trafficking organizations, transnational criminal organizations, gangs, and terrorist organizations. Threats to democracy and press freedom throughout the Americas also will be examined. Attention will also be paid to new and important supplies of energy coming online from places like Brazil, Canada, and Mexico, and the implications of Iran, Russia and China's increasing presence and influence in the region. The Committee will continue to closely monitor the stability of, and cooperation between, the governments in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Ecuador and Cuba. The Committee will also closely monitor the significant developments in U.S.-Cuba relations, as well as the ongoing political and economic crisis in Venezuela and the implementation of sanctions against human rights violators in that country. The Committee will continue its oversight of State Department and USAID assistance for reconstruction efforts in Haiti, as well as U.S. energy, security and diplomatic cooperation with the countries of the Caribbean. The Committee also will continue to assess the impact of U.S. assistance to Central America to address the increase in unaccompanied minors from the subregion. Special emphasis will be placed on any developments in political, security and economic cooperation with our partners in Canada and Mexico.

*u. Security Assistance and Arms Transfer Policy:* The Committee will assess the effectiveness of security assistance programs authorized under the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act in advancing U.S. national interests. In addition, the Committee will review those security cooperation programs funded by the Department of Defense but which require concurrence of the Secretary of State, or otherwise give rise to the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee will also review law and policy relating to U.S. arms transfers and related end-use monitoring, as well as var-

ious counterterrorism tools that impact foreign policy. The Committee will also continue to carefully review proposed arms sales to ensure they comport with U.S. foreign and national security policy and benefit the legitimate defense needs of the recipient countries, as well as the process by which the Administration consults with the Committee and the Congress on such sales to ensure proper oversight.

*v. Foreign Assistance:* The Committee will review the underlying authorities for U.S. foreign assistance with an eye towards reducing duplication, increasing transparency and effectiveness, and modernizing the foreign assistance workforce. It will also review issues related to the implementation of U.S. foreign assistance programs and projects, including the role of U.S. missions and embassies in overseeing grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. In addition, the Committee will review issues related to coordination between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), other U.S. Government agencies and departments involved in carrying out U.S. foreign assistance, and the private sector to ensure programs and projects are strategically planned and coordinated. Among a broad range of issues, the Committee will review U.S. foreign assistance initiatives aimed at catalyzing economic growth, reducing aid dependence, and addressing food security and global health challenges, including food aid reform, maternal health and child survival, infectious disease surveillance and control, and the implementation of the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013. Assistance provided through the Millennium Challenge Corporation will also receive close scrutiny.

*w. Human Rights and Democracy:* The Committee will examine U.S. activities to promote democracy and protect human rights around the world, including in post-transition environments. The Committee will critically assess U.S. involvement with multilateral human rights organizations, to ensure that U.S. diplomacy serves to promote fundamental human rights and freedoms.

*x. United Nations and International Organizations:* The Committee will closely review all aspects of U.S. funding of, and participation in, international organizations. Close attention will be paid to the extent to which such funding and participation advances U.S. interests and values, protects the integrity of U.S. taxpayer dollars, counters unwarranted bias against Israel, and leads to increased transparency, accountability, and reform of those organizations. The Committee will closely monitor the work of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, and particularly efforts to improve performance, enhance accountability, and combat waste, fraud and abuse in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

#### **4. GENERAL REVIEW OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**

The Committee intends to exercise its oversight jurisdiction concerning the relations of the United States with foreign nations to the fullest extent allowed by House Rule X(1)(i). This means taking cognizance of events and circumstances in every region of the world outside of U.S. national borders, as well as U.S. foreign policy responses thereto, as developments warrant.

According to Committee Rules, those responsibilities are divided among the Full Committee, its one functional subcommittee, and its five regional subcommittees, as follows:

**Full Committee.** The full Committee is responsible for oversight and legislation relating to: foreign assistance (including development assistance, Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Millennium Challenge Account, HIV/AIDS in foreign countries, security assistance, and Public Law 480 programs abroad); national security developments affecting foreign policy; strategic planning and agreements; war powers, treaties, executive agreements, and the deployment and use of United States Armed Forces; peacekeeping, peace enforcement, and enforcement of United Nations or other international sanctions; arms control and disarmament issues; the United States Agency for International Development; activities and policies of the State, Commerce, and Defense Departments and other agencies related to the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act, including export and licensing policy for munitions items and technology and dual-use equipment and technology; international law; promotion of democracy; international law enforcement issues, including narcotics control programs and activities; Broadcasting Board of Governors; embassy security; international broadcasting; public diplomacy, including international communication and information policy, and international education and exchange programs; and all other matters not specifically assigned to a subcommittee. The full Committee will have jurisdiction over legislation with respect to the administration of the Export Administration Act, including the export and licensing of dual-use equipment and technology and other matters related to international economic policy and trade not otherwise assigned to a subcommittee, and with respect to the United Nations, its affiliated agencies, and other international organizations, including assessed and voluntary contributions to such organizations. The full Committee may conduct oversight and investigations with respect to any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee as defined in the Rules of the House of Representatives.

**Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.** This subcommittee has oversight and legislative responsibilities over the United States' efforts to manage and coordinate international programs to combat terrorism as coordinated by the Department of State and other agencies, and efforts to bring international terrorists to justice. With the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee, it has oversight of, and legislation pertaining to, nonproliferation matters involving nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction, except for legislation involving the Foreign Assistance Act, the Arms Export Control Act, the Export Administration Act, and sanctions laws pertaining to individual countries and the provision of foreign assistance (which is reserved to the full Committee). It has oversight of matters relating to international economic and trade policy; commerce with foreign countries; international investment policy; the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency; commodity agreements; and special oversight of international financial and monetary institutions; the Export-Import Bank, and customs. With the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Com-

mittee, it also has legislative jurisdiction over measures related to export promotion and measures related to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency.

**Regional Subcommittees.** The five subcommittees with regional jurisdiction are:

- The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations
- The Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
- The Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats
- The Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa
- The Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere

As detailed below, two of the regional subcommittees also have functional jurisdiction. Each of the regional subcommittees has jurisdiction over the following within their respective regions:

- (1) Matters affecting the political relations between the United States and other countries and regions, including resolutions or other legislative measures directed to such relations.
- (2) Legislation with respect to disaster assistance outside the Foreign Assistance Act, boundary issues, and international claims.
- (3) Legislation with respect to region- or country-specific loans or other financial relations outside the Foreign Assistance Act.
- (4) Legislation and oversight regarding human rights practices in particular countries.
- (5) Oversight of regional lending institutions.
- (6) Oversight of matters related to the regional activities of the United Nations, of its affiliated agencies, and of other multilateral institutions.
- (7) Identification and development of options for meeting future problems and issues relating to U.S. interests in the region.
- (8) Oversight of base rights and other facilities access agreements and regional security pacts.
- (9) Concurrent oversight jurisdiction with respect to matters assigned to the functional subcommittees insofar as they may affect the region.
- (10) Oversight of foreign assistance activities affecting the region, with the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee.
- (11) Such other matters as the Chairman of the full Committee may determine.

**The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.** In addition to its regional jurisdiction, this subcommittee has oversight of: international health issues, including transboundary infectious diseases, maternal health and child survival, and programs related to the global ability to address health issues; population issues; the United Nations and its affiliated agencies (excluding peacekeeping and enforcement of United Nations or other international sanctions); international cultural and educational programs and exchanges; the American Red Cross; and the Peace Corps. In addition, it has legislative and oversight jurisdiction pertaining to: im-

plementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; other matters relating to internationally-recognized human rights, including legislation aimed at the promotion of human rights and democracy generally; and the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, and related issues.

**The Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.** In addition to its regional jurisdiction, with the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee, this subcommittee has oversight jurisdiction related to emerging foreign threats to the national security and interests of the United States.



# **COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

Clause 2(d), Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 115th Congress requires each standing Committee to adopt an authorization and oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and to submit the plan to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, and Appropriations not later than February 15th of the first session of the Congress.

This is the oversight plan for the Committee on Homeland Security for the 115th Congress. It includes the areas in which the Committee expects to conduct oversight during the 115th Congress, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters as needs arise. The Full Committee will examine the following key priorities, among other issues.

### **SECURE AMERICA'S BORDERS**

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will conduct rigorous oversight on the Department's efforts to secure land and maritime borders of the United States, including but not limited to personnel, technology, infrastructure, and coordination between components. The Committee will monitor the extent to which the Department can measure its performance in securing the borders and how these measures reflect the state of border security. The Committee will also examine the technologies used to secure the borders and the Department's acquisitions efforts regarding border security technologies. The Committee will address the illegal flow at our ports of entry, between our ports of entry, and in the maritime environment.

### **ENSURE THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY RUNS EFFECTIVELY**

Previous leadership of the Department undertook a number of reviews and reforms to address a series of well-documented management challenges, many of which harken back to the days when twenty-two agencies were brought together to form this Federal agency in 2003. Key management challenges include acquisitions management and chronically low morale. In the 115th Congress, the Committee will continue to conduct oversight to ensure that DHS effectively conducts its operations, which guard against waste, fraud, abuse and duplication. Also, close scrutiny will be given to the Department's efforts to improve acquisition and procurement outcome, bolster employee morale and effectively address instances of employee corruption. Moreover, the Committee will examine various programs related to the Department of Homeland Security to

determine whether such programs should be reauthorized, including those included in the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and those programs with expiring authorizations in the “Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007”.

#### PREVENT TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE HOMELAND AND SHUT DOWN TERROR PATHWAYS INTO AMERICA

The Committee will continue to conduct rigorous oversight of the Federal government’s counterterrorism efforts, including monitoring ongoing and emerging terror threats to the United States, both foreign and domestic. The Committee will also continue its focused oversight of Federal efforts to prevent terrorist travel to the United States. In particular, the Committee will give keen attention to U.S. activities to deny terrorists entry into the United States and will consider designating a panel to focus on the matter.

#### PROTECT AGAINST CYBER ATTACKS

Everything from the banking system to the electrical grid remains susceptible to cyber attacks. Terrorist organizations and state-sponsored cyber attackers continue to target America’s personal information in addition to sensitive national security information on a daily basis. The Committee will focus on the oversight of the landmark cyber laws enacted during the 113th and 114th Congress as well as on fostering private sector information sharing and better protecting federal networks.

Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight to elevate and strengthen the cybersecurity mission at DHS and how it can most effectively align to carry out its cybersecurity mission.

Finally, the Committee will continue to conduct oversight on the intricacies of encryption. It has become well known that terrorists have successfully begun to communicate via platforms that U.S. law enforcement are unable to shine a light on. Unfortunately, there are no simple answers to this terrorism and law enforcement problem. The Committee believes that in order to examine the issue of encryption, it will take collaboration between the best technical, legal and policy minds from the technology sector, the privacy and civil liberties community, academia, computer science and cryptography, economics, law enforcement and intelligence.

#### SUPPORT AMERICA’S FIRST RESPONDERS

First responders and those who support their efforts with information and intelligence are on the front lines of our efforts to secure the homeland. Through oversight of information sharing, grants and other DHS programs, the Committee will continue to support the community of first responders in their vital homeland security mission.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY**

### **DEPARTMENTAL EFFICIENCY AND WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND DUPLICATION**

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will oversee the Department of Homeland Security's day-to-day operations to ensure that it is operating in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d)(1)(F) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee will work to identify potential opportunities to eliminate duplicative or unnecessary programs, find efficiencies that will contribute to the Department's ability to meet its vital missions, and identify areas for cost savings. The Committee will investigate homeland security programs and practices, as warranted. The Committee will also conduct rigorous oversight to ensure the Department conducts effective outreach to the private sector and utilize commercial best practices, as appropriate.

### **ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT**

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will review the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security to improve acquisition outcomes, and to ensure that effective management controls are put in place to prevent contract waste, fraud, and abuse while promoting efficiency and effectiveness. The Committee will review the authorities and activities of the Undersecretary for Management and Chief Procurement Officer to ensure the effective management of these key functions. The Committee will monitor the cost, schedule, and performance status of major Department acquisition programs. The Committee will also examine the impact of the Department's acquisition initiatives to enhance processes and improve outcomes related to its major acquisition programs.

Moreover, the Committee will review the Department's implementation of Section 831(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-296), which grants the Secretary authority with respect to research and development projects to use more flexible contracting mechanisms in an effort to attract "nontraditional government contractors" for needed homeland security technologies, as well as the Secretary's use of other streamlined acquisition practices. The Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to leverage strategic sourcing, as outlined in Federal guidance, to increase efficiencies.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's progress to properly manage financial systems and data to minimize inefficient and wasteful spending, make more informed decisions to manage its programs, and implement Department policies. The Committee will also review the Department's efforts to enhance its managerial cost accounting, address internal control weaknesses in financial reporting, achieve a clean audit opinion on its financial statements, and reduce the reliance on manual data calls to collect cost information

from the various components and compile consolidated, reliable data.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's efforts to address information technology (IT) challenges, including the management and integration of the Department's IT systems. The Committee will review the authorities and activities of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and component CIOs to ensure the effective management, oversight, and coordination of these key functions. The Committee will monitor the Department's progress in IT architectural planning, investment management, cloud computing, policy development, operations, and related personnel management. The Committee will also continue its oversight of the Department's efforts to establish centralized and modernized human resources IT program.

#### DEPARTMENTAL WORKFORCE

Throughout the 115th Congress, the Committee will monitor the Department's efforts to recruit and retain personnel and to address employee concerns set forth in the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey and the Department's own personnel surveys, which have indicated morale problems across the Department. The Committee will also examine the Department's fairness in hiring and promotion practices. In addition, the Committee will continue to examine the Department's efforts to ensure an appropriate balance is struck between Federal employees and private contracts and guard against any unnecessary elimination of private sector jobs.

The Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to effectively and efficiently consolidate its headquarters from more than 40 locations throughout the National Capital Region, known as the St. Elizabeths Headquarters Consolidation Project. Additionally, the Committee will continue to examine the Department's efforts to consolidate the Department's real property footprint to better achieve administrative, logistical, and operational efficiencies in the field.

#### EMPLOYEE INTEGRITY

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine employee corruption and misconduct issues and their effect on homeland security. Although the vast majority of Department employees reflect the agency's core values, even one corrupt employee represents a significant management challenge. The Committee will review Department statistics and case studies associated with employee integrity issues, as well as, the effectiveness of policies, procedures, and practices the Department utilizes to address such employee integrity issues.

#### PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Section 222 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-296) created a Privacy Officer for the Department of Homeland Se-

curity to ensure that the Department's information gathering and analysis functions and other programs across its components adhere to established standards for the protection of privacy. Section 705 of the Act also established an Officer for Civil Rights and Liberties to review and assess information alleging abuses of civil rights or civil liberties by employees and officials of the Department of Homeland Security. During the 115th Congress, the Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts under such laws to strike an appropriate balance between the need to combat terrorist attacks against the United States with the privacy expectations and civil rights of US citizens. Also, the Committee will examine the extent to which the Department is transparent with the American people, including its process for managing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine the Administration's efforts to accomplish the National Preparedness Goal through the National Preparedness System and its various frameworks. Additionally, the Committee will review the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) response and recovery efforts for declared disasters to ensure capabilities are enhanced by lessons learned and Federal resources are used appropriately. The Committee will investigate issues, if any, of waste, fraud, and abuse associated with FEMA's disaster response efforts.

#### **ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**

Throughout the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine FEMA's allocation and administration of grants to enhance the ability of state and local governments and emergency response providers to prevent, prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from a terrorist attack. The Committee will review the coordination of grant programs within the Department of Homeland Security in developing guidance and administering grants; the ability of state and local governments to access, obligate, and expend funds; the strength of regional partnerships developed through grants; and the risk-based distribution and expenditure of such grants at the state and local levels. The Committee will examine options to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of grant programs. The Committee will also review ongoing efforts to comprehensively assess these investments and the impact on preparedness capabilities through the lens of the National Preparedness Goal, National Preparedness Report, State Preparedness Reports, and other related assessments.

#### **CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE**

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine the significant challenges posed by chemical, biological, radiological, and

nuclear (CBRN) agents to homeland security and will assess the Department's progress in implementing security strategies to reduce the likelihood and impact of CBRN attacks, and, thus, the CBRN risk to the Nation. The Committee will assess the Department's organization to respond to these threats. In addition, the Committee will oversee the Department's efforts to predict and respond to the evolving CBRN threat landscape, and ensure that CBRN expenditures are risk-based, coordinated, and, in general, represent the wise use of taxpayer dollars.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine the coordination of various communications programs and offices within the Department of Homeland Security, including the achievement and maintenance of interoperable communications capabilities among the Department's components, as required by the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act (Pub. Law 114–29). The Committee will monitor activities of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and the development of the public safety interoperable wireless broadband network. In addition, the Committee will review the Department's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System to ensure timely and effective alerts and warnings are provided to the public in the event of an emergency and the Department fully implements the requirements of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015 (Pub. Law 114–143).

#### TRAINING AND EXERCISES

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's training and exercise programs, including awareness of these resources among first responders and state and local governments. The Committee will review existing training centers and determine whether the Department is optimally utilizing these facilities to enhance first responder terrorism preparedness. The Committee will also examine the Department's efforts to streamline and improve the National Exercise Program to ensure the program enhances the preparedness of the Nation. The Committee will monitor the extent to which FEMA is incorporating lessons learned from national exercises into future training, planning, and response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the 115th Congress, the Committee will focus on the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and its ability to provide DHS components with the technology advancements needed to effectively carry out their respective missions. The Committee will also examine S&T's collaboration with the Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC) and the transparency with which S&T reports this work to Congress. During the 115th Congress, the Committee will also examine the effectiveness of the S&T Centers of Excellence to provide the DHS components with advanced technologies that help them carry out their respective missions. The Committee will also provide oversight on the effec-

tiveness of the Integrated Product Teams (IPT) and the process established to ensure the most urgent needs of the DHS components are met in a timely fashion.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECTIVE SECURITY**

### **ADVANCING RISK-BASED SECURITY**

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will continue to examine TSA's long-term goals for TSA Pre✓™ and assess the effectiveness of TSA's passenger, baggage and cargo screening operations. The Committee will evaluate TSA's successes and challenges in expanding enrollment in TSA Pre✓™, including through contracts with private sector entities, and examine TSA's methodology to decide which passengers are eligible for TSA Pre✓™. Additionally, the Committee will monitor TSA's efforts to protect passenger privacy.

The Committee will also examine how TSA is ensuring that passengers that are designated high-risk are receiving enhanced screening at the checkpoint. Finally, the Committee will assess whether there are additional ways for TSA to enhance security and implement risk-based strategies at the screening checkpoint or in other areas of security, such as checked baggage screening operations, cargo security, and aviation access control points at domestic airports.

### **ENHANCING PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT**

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that TSA is effectively engaging the private sector to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its operations. Specifically, the Committee will evaluate the contracting process and management of TSA's Screening Partnership Program (SPP) and the use of third party canine teams. The Committee will work to ensure that stakeholders are properly consulted on major security policy decisions and airport staffing allocations, through the Aviation Security Advisory Committee or other means. The Committee will encourage TSA to find new ways to leverage private sector expertise, innovation, and technologies in its mission to secure the Nation's critical transportation systems in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

### **TARGETING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE**

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight to identify and prevent waste, fraud, or abuse within TSA. As part of this overall effort, the Committee will continue to conduct oversight on the implementation of the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act (Pub. Law 113-245), and monitor whether TSA is complying with the provisions outlined in the Act. This includes, among other things, better private sector engagement, strategic planning, and utilizing innovation opportunities within the private sector from small businesses, and transparency in how tax dollars are spent to avoid wasteful spending on technologies that do not perform as intended. The Committee will also look at in-

stances of employee misconduct and agency retaliation against whistleblowers. Finally, the Committee will also examine TSA's process of designating information as Sensitive Security Information to determine if the designation is being abused.

#### STREAMLINING AND IMPROVING SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will review TSA's efforts to secure surface transit systems, including the highest-risk mass transit and rail systems. The Committee's oversight will include a review of the Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response Program, the Surface Transportation Security Inspection Program, and TSA's surface transportation security regulations. The Committee will review the extent to which TSA effectively coordinates with its Federal, State, local, and private sector partners to secure our Nation's transportation systems and to help prevent conflicting or unnecessarily redundant regulations. The Committee will also assess the effectiveness of TSA's efforts to secure the Nation's pipeline systems through TSA's oversight and inspection activities.

#### UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine the homeland security operations of the United States Secret Service. The Committee will conduct oversight on the Secret Service's complete integrated mission, including protecting the President of the United States and other Executive branch officials and investigating financial and cybercrime. The Committee will also examine the Secret Service's lead role in planning and executing security operations for National Special Security Events, such as the 2017 Presidential Inauguration. The Committee will also examine the agency's staffing model, including whether it has adequate resources to meet its current and projected needs as well as the agency's flexibility to handle unanticipated events. The Committee will also give robust oversight to the steps the agency is taking to address its longstanding concerns with hiring practices, promotion policies and morale. Finally, the Committee will monitor the ongoing efforts to reform the management of the agency and implement the recommendations from the 2014 Protective Mission Panel.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of all the cybersecurity activities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and, in particular, on activities within the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), the U.S Secret Service, and the Science and Technology Directorate. Areas of examination will include the President's Executive Orders 13636, *Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity*, and the Presidential Policy Directive 41 (PPD-41), *United States Cyber Incident Coordination*, and operations of NPPD's EINSTEIN and Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) programs for securing Federal networks.

The Committee will also consider the organization of NPPD to ensure that the component is properly structured to carry out the Cybersecurity and Information Sharing Act of 2015 as efficiently as possible. The Committee will also examine ways to further build the Department's cybersecurity capability and capacity, in order to implement newly assigned cyber statutory authorities.

Finally, the Committee will examine the implementation of cybersecurity legislation enacted during the 113th Congress including the National Cybersecurity Protection Act of 2014, (Pub. L. 113–282) (authorizing the National Cybersecurity Communications and Integration Center, or NCCIC); the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113–283 (authorizing DHS to carry out federal information security activities); the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014, (Pub. L. 113–274) (providing for improvements to cybersecurity through public-private partnerships, education, awareness, and development of standards and best practices); and the Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act, (Pub. L. 113–246) (calling for a comprehensive cyber workforce strategy with workforce assessments every three years) to, among other things, authorize the National Cybersecurity Communications and Integration Center (NCCIC), help improve the cybersecurity workforce, and grant DHS the authority to carry out protection of Federal civilian networks (Pub. Laws 113–246, 113–274, 113–277, 113–282, and 113–283).

During the 115th Congress the Committee will conduct oversight into DHS' engagement with the private sector on cyber risks to the Internet of Things.

The Committee will continue to monitor the security of Federal buildings and facilities, including the role and effectiveness of the Federal Protective Service (FPS). The Committee will also examine the general management of FPS, including its vehicle fleet, personnel policies, and training program. Additionally, the Committee will monitor FPS's oversight and management of federal facility contract guard personnel.

#### PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine NPPD's programs to protect critical infrastructure, with key focus on internal coordination mechanisms to ensure that expertise from both the cyber and physical 'sides of the house' can be leveraged efficiently and effectively, specifically with respect to the work of the Office of Cyber and Infrastructure Analysis (OCIA). The Committee will also review how DHS, through NPPD, works with the various critical infrastructure sectors pursuant to Presidential Policy Directive 21, *Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience* (PPD–21).

During the 115th Congress the Committee will continue to oversee the Department's implementation of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standard (CFATS) program, which requires high risk chemical facility owners and operators to report chemical holdings, perform vulnerability assessments, and adopt risk-based security measures to protect against the threat of a terrorist attack. The Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorism Act of 2014, (Pub. L. 113–254), conveys CFATS statutory authority until December 18, 2018, at which point the Committee will rely

on these oversight activities and findings to consider improvements or modifications to the CFATS program which can be achieved through reauthorization.

Further the Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to establish a program to secure the sale and transfer of ammonium nitrate, as required by the Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2008 (563, Consolidated Appropriations Act, Pub. L. 110–161). After being unable to implement a program for several years, the Department is currently reviewing how common Improvised Explosive Device (IED) chemical precursors move through commerce to better inform a solution that considers many IED precursors of concern. DHS is also continuing to develop a program to secure ammonium nitrate against the threat of terrorist misuse.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY**

### **BORDER SECURITY BETWEEN PORTS OF ENTRY**

During the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine the Department's efforts to secure land and maritime borders of the United States, including but not limited to personnel, technology, infrastructure, and coordination between components. The Committee will also assess the status of programs and international agreements to secure US borders from illegal entry by persons or contraband. The Committee will monitor the extent to which the Department can measure its performance in securing the borders and how these measures reflect the state of border security. The Committee will also examine the technologies used to secure the borders and the Department's acquisitions efforts regarding border security technologies.

Finally, the Committee will examine the Department's efforts to identify, detain, prioritize, and remove criminal aliens from the United States, including those apprehended at or near US borders and ports of entry who are subject to removal, and particularly those from special interest countries.

### **BORDER SECURITY AT PORTS OF ENTRY**

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine the integration and effectiveness of transportation and border security screening systems at ports of entry for detecting high-risk passengers and cargo transported within the United States and across our borders, including efforts to better facilitate travel and trade such as implementation of "trusted traveler" programs, expansion of CBP Preclearance locations and the Beyond the Border Agreement with Canada.

The Committee will continue its rigorous oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's biometric programs including the accuracy and completeness of databases and the development and implementing of a biometric exit system in the air, sea and land environments. The biometric *entry* system was a 9/11 Commission recommendation and was first implemented in 2003 with the creation of US-VISIT. The recommendation to support a biometric *exit* system has not been completed, and, for the first time, Congress has

provided the Department with a dedicated funding stream to complete an exit system at the nation's largest airports by 2018.

The Committee will examine the technology and infrastructure needs at ports of entry to better facilitate trade and travel while also strengthening border security. Congress recently authorized U.S. Customs and Border Protection to enter into Public Private Partnership agreements that leverage private dollars to enhance services at the nation's air, land and sea ports of entry, which will also be a key area of oversight.

#### VISA SECURITY

In the 115th Congress, the Committee intends to review efforts to ensure the deployment and implementation of training and infrastructure enhancements to assist border and consular officials in identifying, intercepting, and disrupting terrorists or others who would do the Nation harm by attempting to enter the United States. The Committee will address any security-related deficiencies in the immigration and naturalization process that terrorists could use to gain entry to or remain in the country for illegitimate purposes.

The Committee will continue to review visa security programs and policies to ensure adequate screening and vetting by DHS law enforcement including the Visa Security Program, the Preadjudicated Threat Recognition and Intelligence Operations Teams (PATRIOT), as well as reviewing the criteria for admission under the Visa Waiver Program's Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). These programs are critical to countering the growing threat of foreign fighters, including Americans and Europeans, who may attempt to join ISIS or its affiliates in Syria or Iraq, and who may return or travel to the United States to commit acts of terrorism.

The Committee will also examine the integration, security, and reliability of criminal immigration and terrorist databases used to screen persons seeking to enter and exit this country, to include advanced passenger information, and will assess the development of secure travel documents.

#### PORT AND MARITIME SECURITY

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will examine various aspects of port and maritime security, including the security of port facilities; the screening of vessels, passengers, cargo, and crew, for potential terrorists, terrorist weapons, and contraband. Specifically, the Committee will examine nuclear detection efforts and the development of international security standards for shipping and containers. The Committee will also analyze and conduct oversight on the statutorily required security assessment of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program.

The Committee also plans to review how the Department manages risks emerging from maritime threats and vulnerabilities such as small "go-fast" boats, panga vessels, yola boats, and semi-submersible vessels. The Committee will continue its oversight of the increasing maritime smuggling threat along the California coast

and the impact of fewer interdiction assets and holding platforms in the source and transit zones.

The Committee plans to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department's supply chain security programs, such as the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), the Container Security Initiative (CSI), and the need to utilize a risk-based methodology and the future of the Radiation Portal Monitor program to ensure a proper balance between the facilitation of lawful trade and the security of the homeland. This will include an assessment of implementation of certain provisions of the Maritime and Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-295), the Security and Accountability for Every (SAFE) Port Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-347), relevant provisions of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-458), and the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-53).

The Committee will examine the operations and procedures of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operations (AMO), specifically looking at AMO's interagency working relationships with law enforcement and Department partners and its specific capabilities and authorities. The Committee will review AMO's operational platforms and future acquisition programs to ensure both aviation and maritime assets are capable of meeting future mission needs and service requirements.

The Committee plans to review the Coast Guard's statutorily defined homeland security missions, to include ports, waterways, and coastal security; drug interdiction; migrant interdiction; law enforcement; and defense readiness. The Committee will examine Coast Guard operations to ensure that the service is using a risk-based, layered strategy to enforce laws and keep America's waters secure. This will include a specific assessment of the Coast Guard's counter terrorism capabilities, including the Maritime Safety and Security Teams (MSST), Port Security Units, Tactical Law Enforcement Teams, and the Maritime Security Response Team (MSRT).

The Committee will review resource and asset needs within the Coast Guard to determine whether the service is operationally ready to address the varied threats to America's ports and waterways while pursuing a long-term sustainable path of fleet recapitalization.

Finally, the Committee will investigate the Coast Guard's specific maritime security operations and initiatives, such as the International Port Security Program and the inspection of vessels originating from ports with inadequate anti-terrorism measures. The Committee will examine these and other programs to ensure that the service is improving its maritime domain awareness and executing all of its missions in the most effective manner possible to keep America secure.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE**

The security of the United States is undeniably linked to international security. Vulnerabilities in one part of the world can quickly become security threats in another; to include the U.S. Homeland. During the 115th Congress, the Committee will exam-

ine the capabilities and efforts of the Federal government, particularly the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), to identify, prevent, deter, and respond to threats to the Homeland.

#### EMERGING THREATS AND HOMELAND COUNTERTERRORISM ACTIVITIES

The Committee will examine worldwide threats to the U.S. Homeland from terrorist groups, including the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), al Qaeda core, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), al Shabaab, Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Boko Haram, and other emerging groups that seek to establish safe havens or plot attacks against U.S. citizens and the Homeland. The Committee will also examine the threat from homegrown violent extremists and terrorist networks in the United States. Additionally, the Committee will monitor issues related to foreign fighter travel and trends, economic threats, and terrorist financing.

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIPS

The Committee will review U.S. counterterrorism cooperation with major foreign partners, with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of international information sharing, training and best practices, and coordination. The Committee will examine international counterterrorism agreements and gather data from Departments and Agencies, as well as foreign partners.

#### RADICALIZATION, PROPAGANDA, AND INFLUENCE

The Committee will examine the security implications of foreign influence and propaganda directed at the Homeland, including the recruiting and radicalization by terrorist networks and propaganda developed and distributed by foreign adversaries. The Committee will assess homegrown terror threats and Federal, State and local efforts to address those threats. The Committee will continue to review Federal efforts to combat radicalization, particularly in prisons, to include how Federal agencies share information on potentially radicalized inmates with other appropriate entities.

#### HOMELAND SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ENTERPRISE

The Committee will conduct oversight of DHS's Intelligence Enterprise (DHS IE), including intelligence activities throughout the Department and component agencies. This will include a focus on the coordination and collaboration across intelligence offices and personnel within the Headquarters' elements and component agencies. Additionally, the Committee will review efforts to build the intelligence, analytical, and assessment capabilities of the Department and to ensure its full participation in the Intelligence Community as part of its homeland security mission. This will include an examination of the hiring authorities, practices, and career-development of intelligence analysts and professionals within Headquarters elements and component agencies.

The Committee will examine the Department's role in managing, distributing, and using terrorist threat information in furtherance

of its homeland security mission. The Committee will monitor the extent to which DHS effectively coordinates and collaborates with other Federal, State, and local agencies to mitigate threats to the Homeland. The Committee will also review how DHS agencies collect and share information, including through vital security vetting programs.

The Committee will continue to assess the development of DHS counterintelligence and insider threat programs, including Departmental organizational changes, resources, monitoring programs, and training initiatives. DHS's counterintelligence efforts are intended to prevent adversaries from penetrating the Department to exploit sensitive information, operations, programs, personnel, and resources.

#### INFORMATION SHARING

The Committee will examine the Department's efforts to improve homeland security and terrorism information sharing among Federal, state, and local governments; law enforcement entities; first responders and emergency management personnel; and the private sector. The Committee will examine the Department's initiatives to coordinate information sharing to and from state and local fusion centers throughout the country, and will continue to evaluate the efficacy and efficiency of the National Network of Fusion Centers to determine their impact on securing the homeland. The Committee will also review coordination and information sharing procedures between state and local fusion centers and Joint Terrorism Task Forces.

The Committee will examine the Department's role in managing, distributing, and otherwise using terrorist threat information in furtherance of its homeland security mission. The Committee will also examine how the Department's component agencies conduct outreach to state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as other emergency response agencies, to identify best practices as well as address ongoing deficiencies.

# COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

## COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 115-\_\_\_\_\_

*Resolved*, that the Oversight and Authorization Plan of the Committee on House Administration for the 115th Congress, as required pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X, is hereby adopted, as follows:

### OVERSIGHT AND AUTHORIZATION PLAN

#### MEMBER SERVICES

##### *Member Services*

- Oversee Members' allowance amounts, including structure and regulations.
- Provide guidance and outreach to congressional offices to ensure compliance with Committee regulations.
- Review and revise as necessary the *Guide to Outfitting and Maintaining an Office of the U.S. House of Representatives*, a set of regulations governing the acquisition, transfer, and disposal of furnishings, equipment, software, and related services.<sup>8</sup> Review and update as appropriate the calculation of the Members' Representational Allowances to ensure Members have adequate resources to carry out their responsibilities.
- Oversee the process by which vouchers and direct payments are conducted, including those for payroll. Continue to monitor the migration to an electronic voucher system.

##### *New Member Orientation*

- Review successes and areas of improvement from previous New Member Orientations. Plan, implement, and oversee the New Member Orientation Program for newly-elected Members of Congress.
- Oversee the planning and implementation of the Congressional Research Service New Member Issues Seminar.

##### *Intern Program*

- In coordination with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, organize, administer, and oversee the Intern Lecture Series.
- Review and revise, as appropriate, the Intern Handbook and other publications and communication materials used in support of the Intern Program.
- Continue and expand the Congressional Internship Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.

## COMMITTEE FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT

- Review Monthly Reports on committee activities and expenditures.
- Review the *Committees' Congressional Handbook* regulations governing expenditure of committee funds and update regulations as needed.
- Review Primary and any Secondary Expense Resolutions and approve authorization of committee-funding levels in committee and by House Resolution.
- Review Committees' Franking expenditures.
- Monitor continued implementation of the Committee hearing room modernization program.

## CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

- Monitor application of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) (PL 104-1).
- Review regulations, and proposed regulations, adopted by the Office of Compliance.
- Evaluate resources available to the Office of Compliance and House employing offices to facilitate implementation of the Act.
- Conduct general oversight of the Office of Compliance.
- Monitor ongoing judicial proceedings to determine the impact on the CAA.

## FRANKING COMMISSION

- Oversee the Members' use of the congressional frank by providing guidance, advice, and counsel through consultation or advisory opinion on the frankability of congressional mail.
- Review proposals to reform mass mailing practices of Members, and regulations governing such mailings, and monitor current prohibition on mass mailings 90 days before a primary or general election.
- Review previously implemented rules to increase disclosure and improve the accounting of franked mail costs.
- Review and update the *Regulations on the Use of the Congressional Frank and Rules on Practice in Proceedings Before the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards*.

## HOUSE OFFICERS AND HOUSE OPERATIONS

- Work with House Officers and Officials to identify and achieve long term goals for the administrative, financial and operational functions of the House.
- Work with House Officers to streamline operations within the House.
- Review proposals and other initiatives submitted by the House Officers, the Inspector General, the Capitol Police Board, the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and other legislative branch agencies to improve management and operations and monitor implementation of respective proposals.
- Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations on areas of concurrent jurisdiction.
- Provide policy guidance to the House Officers, Inspector General and the joint entities, as appropriate.

- Oversee compliance with the House Employee Classification Act (2 U.S.C. 291 *et seq.*).
- Oversee coordination among officers and joint entities on administrative and technology matters.
- Review and update security and safety protocols in the House, monitor congressional entities charged with implementing protocols and provide policy guidance where appropriate.

*Chief Administrative Officer*

- Oversee the functions of the Chief Administrative Officer and provide policy guidance where appropriate.
- Review the development and implementation of the Chief Administrative Officer's strategic plan.
- Review Chief Administrative Officer's efforts to strengthen cybersecurity in the House.
- Monitor House procurement policies, including the effectiveness of the Chief Administrative Officer's procurement and contract management functions.
- Review procedures for processing contracts with the House that exceed the threshold of \$350,000.
- Monitor implementation of food services contract with Sodexo.
- Oversee the House financial management system, including financial counseling.
- Oversee House Information Resource operations, including services provided, maintained or hosted by HIR, steps taken to improve HIR services to Members, as well as steps taken by HIR to strengthen vulnerabilities related to continuity of operations.
- Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; oversee implementation of changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Monitor the operations of the House gift shop and its management.
- Monitor CAO communications efforts, including but not limited to HouseNet and Dear Colleagues.
- Monitor transition efforts from the 114th to the 115th Congress, including leases, phones, and technology.
- Oversee CAO Human Resource Office, including panels compiled and review processes followed to hire new employees.
- Monitor House Learning Center and Wounded Warrior programs.
- Review furniture policies, including inventory and selection.
- Review alternatives to the current mail delivery process in order to strengthen the services and tools available to Members and staff.
- Oversee the Cannon House Office Building renovations.
- Monitor efforts to strengthen the CAO Asset Management program.
- Monitor Chief Administrative Officer's role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings and other House facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

*Clerk of the House*

- Monitor Clerk's operations, including procurement policies.

- Review and approve contracts and requests for proposals by the Clerk that exceed the \$350,000 spending threshold.
- Monitor implementation of improvements to the electronic voting system.
- Oversee the House Document Repository.
- Review standards for the electronic exchange of legislative information among the Houses of Congress and legislative-branch agencies.
- Coordinate on matters under the jurisdiction of the House Fine Arts Board.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Clerk.
- Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review the printing needs of the Clerk to evaluate the potential for eliminating duplication.
- Oversee preparation of congressionally-authorized publications.
- Oversee efforts to improve transparency including monitor bulk data and digital transformation.

*Sergeant-at-Arms*

- Review and oversee security operations in the House, including the House chamber, the galleries, the Capitol, House Office Buildings, Capitol Grounds, and District offices.
- Review and oversee initiatives designed to increase security and security awareness for Members and staff in district offices.
- Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review impact of electronic access to controlled spaces.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Sergeant-at-Arms.
- Review the security operation of House parking facilities, regulations, and allocation of parking spaces.
- Consult with the Sergeant-at-Arms on policies adopted by the Capitol Police Board.
- Review the policies and procedures for visitor access to the Capitol.
- Review the printing needs of the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Capitol Police Board to identify the potential for eliminating duplication.
- Examine Sergeant-at-Arms' role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings, and other House facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Review the use of technology generally in the protection of the House of Representatives.
- Oversee the Office of Emergency Management, including the implementation of coordinated plans for emergency evacuation and response.

*House Inspector General*

- Review proposed audit plan and audit reports, including the annual financial statements audit.
- Review comprehensive financial and operational audits of the House, investigate any irregularities uncovered, and monitor necessary improvements.
- Monitor progress of House audits.
- Monitor Inspector General's internal operations.
- Direct Inspector General to conduct management advisories to improve House operations.

## OVERSIGHT OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND OTHER ENTITIES

*Information and Technology Coordination*

- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, forums to share technology plans and capabilities among the legislative branch agencies.
- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, the Legislative Branch Telecommunications group.
- Oversee management of the Congress.gov website.
- Oversee work of the Legislative Branch Financial Managers' Council.
- Oversee, in conjunction with the Senate, proposals to reduce technology costs through consolidation and use of internet-based resources.

*Library of Congress*

- Monitor Library of Congress' management operations, services and planning initiatives.
- Monitor progress made related to providing public access to government information, especially in electronic form.
- Oversee Library of Congress' operations, including inventory and cataloguing systems, and the Library's information technology services.
- Continue oversight of Law Library operations.
- Continue oversight of Congressional Research Service operations, and consider any need to modify management of the Service.
- Review implementation of the Library of Congress Fiscal Operations Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-481), the Veterans' Oral History Project Act (Public Law 106-380), the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000 (Public Law No: 106-474), the Gold Star Families Voices Act (Public Law 114-246) and the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act (Public Law 106-99).
- Consider human-resources legislation proposed by the Library.
- Review the use of technology generally in Library of Congress operations.
- Review printing policies of the Library of Congress to assure compliance with Title 44 of the U.S. Code.
- Review reports by Library of Congress Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the Library of Congress Inspector General's office.

- Oversee management of Copyright Office.
- Monitor efforts to modernize and streamline Copyright Office's information technology systems.

#### *United States Capitol Police*

- Monitor administrative operations of the agency, including budgetary management, civilian component, attrition rates, recruitment efforts and incentive programs for officers and civilian employees.
- Review proposals for additional USCP facilities and equipment.
- Monitor efforts to improve safety at firing range.
- Review analysis of uniformed officer post/duty assignments to determine and authorize force levels to meet the agency's security requirements within the Capitol complex to include the Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress and U.S. Botanic Garden.
- Review and consider proposals to improve USCP training program for new recruits, and in-service training.
- Authorize and oversee the installation and maintenance of new security systems and devices proposed by the Police Board.
- Review and authorize regulations prescribed by the Police Board for use of law enforcement authority by the Capitol Police.
- Examine Capitol Police role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, House Office Buildings and other facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Monitor the ongoing implementation of the Radio Modernization Project.
- Review reports by USCP Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the USCP Inspector General's office.

#### *Government Publishing Office*

- Oversee operations of the Government Publishing Office, including the Superintendent of Documents.
- Review and adopt legislative proposals to reform government printing by eliminating redundancies and unnecessary printing, increasing efficiency, and enhancing public access to government publications.
- Monitor implementation of remedial actions taken by management to address audit issues identified by the GPO Inspector General.
- Review the printing needs of the House of Representatives to identify the potential for eliminating duplication.
- Examine current GPO printing and binding regulations to determine advisability of change.
- Oversee Superintendent of Documents' Sales and Depository Library Programs.
- Review GPO labor practices and labor agreements.
- Review use of GPO facilities and other assets to identify possible alternatives enhancing value to the Congress and the public.

#### *Architect of the Capitol*

- Review the operations of the office of the Architect.
- Review the electronic and procured services provided by the Architect.

- Oversee Architect of the Capitol's maintenance of House buildings and the House side of the Capitol, and review plans for rehabilitation of House buildings, including oversight over the Cannon House Office Building renovation.
- Continue oversight of life safety measures, accessibility measures, and improved evacuation mechanisms in House buildings.
- Review the AOC Office of Sustainability's efforts to reduce energy consumption by the Capitol complex.
- Oversee operations of the Capitol Visitors Center, in conjunction with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.
- Review reports by Architect of the Capitol Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the Architect of the Capitol Inspector General's office.
- Monitor activities and operations of the House Superintendent, including Rayburn Garage closure and re-construction.

*Office of Congressional Accessibility Services*

- Oversee management and operations of Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, such as the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), in conjunction with Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

*Smithsonian Institution*

- Review the Smithsonian Inspector General's reports on the status of the Smithsonian.
- Oversee general museum and research facility operations of the Smithsonian Institution.
- Review and evaluate the Smithsonian Institution's use of authorized public funds.
- Review proposed appointments of Citizen Regents to the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents.
- Review proposals for authorization of new Smithsonian facilities. Review Smithsonian policies regarding initiation of planning, design and construction of projects.
- Review operations of the National Zoo.
- Review operations and conduct oversight of Smithsonian Enterprises.
- Review the use of technology generally in Smithsonian operations.
- Review any proposals to charge fees for admission to any Smithsonian exhibits.
- Monitor Air and Space Museum Renovations

TECHNOLOGY USE BY THE HOUSE

- Continue oversight of House Information Resources and other technology functions of the House to improve technology governance, services and the electronic dissemination of information.
- Oversee implementation of House Rule XI 2(e)(4) requiring committee documentation to be made available electronically, to the maximum extent feasible.
- Review and improve cybersecurity measures as necessary.
- Review technology standards for hearing rooms as they relate to the Committee broadcast program.

- Oversee and continue to implement an enterprise House Disaster Recovery Program for House offices, standing and select committees and Member offices.
- Oversee implementation of the House Office of Legislative Counsel & Law Revision Counsel's Modernization Project.
- Oversee and coordinate the House strategic technology plan.
- Oversee continuation of House technology assessment in both new media and cloud services.

#### OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL ELECTION LAW AND PROCEDURES

- Recommend disposition of House election contests pending before the Committee; monitor any disputed election counts.
- Review operations of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency, improve enforcement of the Federal Election Campaign Act, and improve procedures for the disclosure of contributions and expenditures. Consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the FEC's budget.
- Review federal campaign-finance laws and regulations, including Presidential public financing, and consider potential reforms.
- Examine the role and impact of political organizations on federal elections.
- Eliminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and evaluate other possible changes to improve efficiency and improve implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the EAC's budget.
- Examine the impact of amendments made by HAVA and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act) to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), and consider proposals to improve voting methods for those serving and living abroad.
- Review state and federal activities under the National Voter Registration Act to identify potential for improvement to voter registration and education programs and reducing costs of compliance for state and local government.
- Review all aspects of registration and voting practices in federal elections. Monitor allegations of fraud and misconduct during all phases of federal elections and evaluate measures to improve the integrity of the electoral process.

## COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

### AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLANS

February 15, 2017

In accordance with Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary is responsible for determining whether the laws and programs within its jurisdiction are implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, eliminated, or enhanced. Accordingly, in the 115th Congress the Committee will review all laws and programs within its jurisdiction to assess their application, administration, execution, and effectiveness. The Committee will also review the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities within its jurisdiction for the administration and execution of laws and programs within its jurisdiction.

The Committee will review the mission and operations of all agencies and programs within its jurisdiction as it prepares to reauthorize the components of the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and other agencies as appropriate. In doing so, the Committee will identify wasteful, inefficient, or duplicative programs that should be streamlined or eliminated, as well as those that could be enhanced. Through such oversight, the Committee seeks to determine how these agencies and entities can achieve more impactful and effective programs with an eye toward improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal programs and agencies. The Committee also seeks to eliminate fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. As a result of this oversight, the Committee anticipates streamlining and eliminating spending on agencies and programs within its jurisdiction, if appropriate.

This document outlines the current plans of the Committee on the Judiciary for authorization and oversight activities in the 115th Congress. Part I includes a description of programs and agencies the Committee intends to reauthorize in the 115th Congress and notes which such programs and agencies received funding in fiscal year 2016 despite having lapsed authorizations. Part II includes oversight to be conducted by the Committee to help determine whether to authorize certain programs and agencies or eliminate them.

#### PART I

The following programs and agencies will be considered for reauthorization in the 115th Congress. Programs or agencies designated with an *asterisk* received funding during fiscal year 2016 despite having no current authorization for appropriation.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

##### EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY OFFICE OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES IN CERTAIN JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

The volume of bankruptcy cases commenced in the U.S. continues to grow as individuals and businesses attempt to cope with

the effects of the recent recession. . . The lapse date for these temporary judgeships is May 25, 2017.

AUTHORITY TO REDACT CERTAIN LIMITED INFORMATION FROM  
FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS

The Judiciary seeks continued authority for judges and judicial employees to redact certain limited information from their financial disclosure reports in order to protect their safety and the safety of their families pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act (5 U.S.C. app. Sec. (b)(3)(A)–(E)). The current authority expires December 31, 2017.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

General Administration (GA) supports the Attorney General and the Department of Justice's senior policy level officials in managing Department resources and developing policies for legal, law enforcement, and criminal justice activities. GA consists of four decision units: Department Leadership, Intergovernmental Relations and External Affairs, Executive Support and Professional Responsibility, and the Justice Management Division.

The Department Leadership decision unit includes the Offices of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General, Privacy and Civil Liberties, Rule of Law, and Access to Justice. Intergovernmental Relations and External Affairs includes the Offices of Public Affairs, Legislative Affairs, and Tribal Justice. Executive Support and Professional Responsibility includes the Offices of Legal Policy, Professional Responsibility, Information Policy, and the Professional Responsibility Advisory Office. Finally, the Justice Management Division provides advice to senior DOJ officials and develops departmental policies in the areas of management and administration, ensures compliance by DOJ components with departmental and other federal policies and regulations, and provides a full range of management and administration support services.

*Justice Information Sharing Technology*

Justice Information Sharing Technology (JIST) programs fund DOJ's enterprise investments in information technology (IT). As a centralized fund under the control of the Department of Justice Chief Information Officer (DOJ CIO), it ensures that investments in IT systems, cyber security, and information sharing technology are well planned and aligned with the Department's overall IT strategy and enterprise architecture.

*Administrative Review and Appeals*

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) contains the corps of Immigration Judges, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer. EOIR presides over administrative immigration hearings such as benefits adjudications, removal, bond, and employer sanctions proceedings. Timely and fair adjudication of cases in immigration courts is an essential part of effective immigration enforcement as

well as benefits adjudications. Funding for EOIR personnel and programs must keep pace with other immigration enforcement activities in order for the entire immigration enforcement system to function properly.

*Office of the Inspector General*

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is an independent office within the Department of Justice that is charged with investigating allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct by DOJ employees, contractors, and grantees and promoting economy and efficiency in DOJ operations.

GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

*Office of the Solicitor General*

The Office of the Solicitor General supervises and processes all appellate matters and represents the U.S. and federal agencies in the Supreme Court.

*Tax Division*

The Tax Division represents the U.S. in virtually all litigation arising under the internal revenue laws. This work includes both a civil component as well as assistance to U.S. Attorneys in prosecuting criminal tax violations. In addition, the Division's attorneys lend their financial crimes expertise to the enforcement of other laws with financial aspects.

*Criminal Division*

The Criminal Division is responsible for supervising the application of all federal criminal laws except those specifically assigned to other divisions. Its mission is to identify and respond to critical and emerging national and international criminal threats, and to lead the enforcement, regulatory, and intelligence communities in a coordinated, nationwide response to reduce those threats. The Division provides expert guidance and advice to U.S. Attorneys and other federal, state, and local prosecutors and investigative agencies, as well as foreign criminal justice systems. It also oversees the use of the most sophisticated investigative tools available to federal law enforcement, including all federal electronic surveillance requests in criminal cases, and secures the return of fugitives and other assistance from foreign countries.

In addition to other initiatives, the Criminal Division uses its resources to prosecute the most significant financial crimes, including mortgage fraud, corporate fraud, and sophisticated investment fraud; coordinate multi-district financial crime cases; and assist U.S. Attorneys' Offices in financial crime cases with significant money laundering and asset forfeiture components.

*Civil Division*

The Civil Division represents the United States, its departments and agencies, Members of Congress, Cabinet officers, and other federal employees in litigation in federal and state courts. Each year, it successfully defends the United States against billions of dollars in unmeritorious claims. In its affirmative litigation, the Division

brings suits on behalf of the United States, primarily to recoup money lost through fraud, loan defaults, and the abuse of federal funds. As a result of the work of the Civil Division, hundreds of millions of dollars are returned to the Treasury, Medicare, and other programs annually.

#### *Environment and Natural Resources Division*

The Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) enforces the Nation's civil and criminal environmental laws; defends environmental challenges to federal laws and actions; and performs a variety of other important legal activities related to the environment and our nation's natural resources. ENRD's responsibilities include litigating disputes under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund), the Endangered Species Act, and other federal environmental statutes; defending against environmental challenges to federal programs and activities; representing the United States in matters concerning the protection, use, and development of national natural resources and public lands; and litigating on behalf of individual Indians and Indian tribes.

#### *Civil Rights Division*

The Civil Rights Division is responsible for enforcing federal statutes that guarantee the civil rights of all Americans and prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, disability, religion, and national origin. The Division enforces federal laws that protect Americans' civil rights and freedom from discrimination in education, employment, credit, housing, certain federally funded and conducted programs, and voting.

The Division has eleven sections: Appellate, Coordination and Compliance, Criminal, Disability Rights, Educational Opportunities, Employment Litigation, Housing and Civil Enforcement, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Special Litigation, Policy and Strategy, and Voting.

#### *INTERPOL Washington*

INTERPOL Washington facilitates cooperation and information sharing among police agencies in different countries. It is the link between more than 18,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities and the 187 other member countries for INTERPOL-related matters. The main goals of INTERPOL Washington are facilitating international law enforcement cooperation; transmitting information of a criminal justice, humanitarian or other law enforcement related nature between law enforcement agencies; responding to law enforcement requests; coordinating and integrating information for investigations of an international nature, and identifying patterns and trends in criminal activities. INTERPOL Washington also actively screens all inbound international flights for passports that are reported as lost or stolen to INTERPOL and generates over 200 hits monthly that require human analysis.

## ANTITRUST DIVISION

The mission of the Antitrust Division is to promote economic competition through enforcing and providing guidance on antitrust laws and principles. In addition to enforcing the antitrust laws, the Antitrust Division also acts as an advocate for competition, seeking to promote competition in sectors of the economy that are or may be subject to government regulation.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR U.S. ATTORNEYS

There are 94 U.S. Attorneys located throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The U.S. Attorneys who lead each office are the chief law enforcement representatives of the Attorney General. Each enforces federal criminal law, handles most of the civil litigation in which the United States is involved, and initiates proceedings for the collection of fines, penalties, and forfeitures owed to the United States.

## FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States (FCSC) is a quasi-judicial, independent agency within the Department of Justice which adjudicates claims of U.S. nationals against foreign governments, under specific jurisdiction conferred by Congress, pursuant to international claims settlement agreements, or at the request of the Secretary of State.

## FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

The mission of the Fees and Expenses of Witnesses (FEW) appropriation is to provide funding for all fees and expenses associated with the provision of testimony on behalf of the Federal Government. Funding is also provided to pay for private and foreign counsel. The FEW appropriation is centrally managed by the Justice Management Division's Budget Staff, and funds are allocated to the General Legal Activities and the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys for administration of expert witnesses that provide technical or scientific testimony and are compensated based on negotiations with the respective federal government attorney.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

The Community Relations Service's mission is to assist state and local governments, private and public organizations, community groups and law enforcement in quelling conflicts and tensions arising from differences of race, color, and national origin. The Community Relations Service is also authorized to work with state and local governments and groups to restore community stability and harmony while preventing, resolving, and responding to alleged violent hate crimes.

## ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

The Assets Forfeiture Fund (AFF) was established pursuant to the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984. The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) administers the program by managing and dis-

posing of properties seized by and forfeited to federal law enforcement agencies and U.S. Attorneys nationwide, and the Attorney General is authorized to use the AFF to pay necessary expenses associated with forfeitures. The Fund may also be used to finance certain general investigative expenses, as those enumerated in 28 U.S.C. § 524(c).

The Asset Forfeiture Fund, first and foremost, is used to pay victims of specific crimes for which the proceeds were subject to forfeiture. After those costs, the Department of Justice (DOJ) uses the funds to pay for the management costs associated with disposing and forfeiting property. Finally, the Fund is used to fund law enforcement at the state and local level who assist with federal law enforcement priorities. The Fund is also vital to ensuring that state and local law enforcement continue to participate in the numerous joint task forces established by the Federal government.

#### U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) administers the Asset Forfeiture Program of the Justice Department; conducts investigations involving escaped federal prisoners, unregistered sex offenders, and other fugitives; ensures safety at Federal judicial proceedings; assumes custody of individuals arrested by all federal agencies; houses and transports prisoners; and manages the Witness Security Program.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

The National Security Division (NSD) was first authorized by Congress in the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–177). The NSD consists of the elements of DOJ (other than the Federal Bureau of Investigation) engaged primarily in support of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Federal government, including: (1) the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, (2) the Office of Intelligence Policy and Review, (3) the counterterrorism section, (4) the counterespionage section, and (5) any other offices designated by the Attorney General.

#### ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCES (OCDETF) PROGRAM

The OCDETF program is a centerpiece of DOJ's intra- and inter-agency drug enforcement strategy. It coordinates and channels all elements of federal law enforcement—including components of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of the Treasury—in its efforts against the most powerful and dangerous national and transnational criminal organizations engaged in drug trafficking and money laundering, and those organizations primarily responsible for the nation's illegal drug supply.

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the Nation's largest federal law enforcement agency, charged with investigating terrorism, cybercrimes, public corruption, white-collar crime, organized crime, civil rights violations, and other federal offenses. The

FBI is also the primary federal domestic counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence agency.

#### DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is the lead federal agency tasked with reducing the illicit supply and abuse of narcotics and drugs through drug interdiction and seizing of illicit revenues and assets from drug trafficking organizations.

#### BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

The mission of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) is to reduce violent crime, prevent terrorism, and protect the United States through enforcing laws and regulating the firearms and explosives industries. ATF plays an important role in addressing the gaps in information available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) regarding mental health adjudications, commitments and other prohibiting backgrounds.

#### FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is responsible for the custody and care of federal offenders in prisons and community-based facilities. BOP is currently responsible for housing approximately 196,000 federal offenders, which includes sentenced inmates as well as persons awaiting trial and/or sentencing.

#### STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

DOJ's three State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance components administer billions of dollars' worth of federal grants every year. The Committee will review each office and the programs it administers in order to authorize programs and activities, or adjust authority, as necessary.

Created in 1994, the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to reduce violence against women and to administer and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), which was created in 1994, is responsible for advancing the practice of community policing by the nation's state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources.

Finally, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), which was established in 1984, oversees the majority of grant resources at DOJ. It works in partnership with the justice community to identify crime-related challenges confronting the justice system and to provide information, training, coordination, and strategies and approaches for addressing such challenges. OJP is comprised of five bureaus: the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC). OJP works in partnership with the justice community to identify crime-related challenges confronting the justice system and to provide information, training, coordination, and

strategies and approaches for addressing such challenges. OJP administers grant funding in the areas of Research, Evaluation and Statistics; Juvenile Justice Programs; and State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

##### U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICE

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) oversees lawful immigration to the United States. USCIS is funded primarily by immigration and naturalization benefit fees charged to applicants and petitioners.

##### *E-Verify Pilot Program*

Section 401 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 authorizes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to “conduct 3 pilot programs of employment eligibility confirmation” including the E-Verify program, which allows employers to electronically check the employment eligibility of potential employees. Section 401(b) of that Act, as amended, currently provides that “[u]nless the Congress otherwise provides, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall terminate a pilot program on April 28, 2017.”

##### *EB-5 Regional Center Program*

The EB-5 Regional Center Program was established in Section 610 of P.L. 102-395, and reserves certain immigrant investor visas for those who invest in certain targeted employment areas. Section 610(b), as amended, provides that 3,000 visas shall be annually set aside for the EB-5 Regional Center Program until April 28, 2017.

##### *Conrad 30 Waiver Program*

Section 220 of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 established the Conrad 30 Waiver Program for J-1 visa holders, which describes individuals that have come to the United States to receive graduate medical education or training. Under this program, a limited number of J-1 visitors may receive a waiver of the 2-year residency requirement that would normally apply before such individuals could seek an immigrant visa, permanent residence, or a non-immigrant work visa. Section 220(c), as amended, provides that an individual must have received a J-1 visa before April 28, 2017, in order to be eligible for such waiver.

##### *Non-minister Special Immigrant Religious Worker Program*

Section 101(a)(27)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) is sometimes referred to as the non-minister special immigrant religious worker program. The INA defines a “special immigrant” to include certain immigrants, and such immigrants’ spouses and children, who are affiliated with a religious denomination. For such individuals who are not entering the United States to carry on the vocation of a minister, the individual must seek entry before April 28, 2017.

## U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of DHS. Comprised of several components from the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the U.S. Customs Service, the agency combines the investigative, detention and removal, and intelligence functions of the former INS with the investigative and intelligence functions of the former Customs Service. ICE's mission is to promote homeland security and public safety through the criminal and civil enforcement of federal laws governing immigration, customs, and trade.

## U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has extended a zone of security beyond U.S. physical borders. Aspects of CBP under the jurisdiction of the House Judiciary Committee include CBP's non-border immigration enforcement functions, intellectual property enforcement functions, the Entry/Exit Transformation Office (EXT) and the Arrival and Departure Information System (ADIS), and the visa waiver program.

## OFFICE OF BIOMETRIC IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM) (formerly United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology, or US-VISIT) supports DHS's responsibility to protect the nation by providing biometric identification services that help federal, state, and local government decision makers accurately identify the people they encounter and determine whether those people pose a risk to the U.S. OBIM supplies the technology for collecting and storing biometric data, provides analysis, updates its watchlist, and ensures the integrity of the data. The Committee has long supported sufficient funding to meet the entry-exit requirements mandated first by Congress in 1996 in order to identify who is entering and exiting the U.S. and how long they stay in the country. OBIM is part of the National Protection and Programs Directorate.

## FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) provides training to law enforcement professionals to help them fulfill their responsibilities safely and proficiently. FLETC's mission is to train all those who protect the homeland, and therefore, its training audience also includes state, local, and tribal departments throughout the U.S. Additionally, FLETC's impact extends outside our Nation's borders through international training and capacity-building activities.

## U.S. SECRET SERVICE

The Secret Service is tasked with dual law enforcement missions: protection of national and visiting foreign leaders and conducting criminal investigations. Criminal investigation activities encompass financial crimes, bank fraud, mortgage fraud, identity theft, counterfeiting, and computer fraud. Secret Service protection extends to the President, Vice President, and their families, among others.

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES

## OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT (HHS)

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides assistance and services to refugees, asylees, unaccompanied alien minors, victims of human trafficking, and certain Amerasian, Iraqi, Afghan, Cuban, and Haitian immigrants. ORR assists these populations by providing a range of services, including cash and medical assistance, housing assistance, and economic and social integration services.

## OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT &amp; BUDGET

U.S. OFFICE OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ENFORCEMENT  
COORDINATOR (US-IPEC)

Intellectual property theft presents a substantial threat and imposes significant harm, including major economic damage, to the U.S. To address this problem, the Committee authorized, through the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property (PRO-IP) Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-403), the creation of an Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC) within the Executive Office of the President. The IPEC chairs an interagency intellectual property enforcement advisory committee, coordinates the development of the Joint Strategic Plan against counterfeiting and infringement and provides other assistance in the coordination of intellectual property enforcement efforts.

## OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) implements executive regulatory oversight activities under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review), Executive Order 13563 (Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review), among other authorities; reviews collections of information from the public; provides guidance concerning the acquisition, use and management of Federal information resources; and, coordinates policy direction on Federal statistical activities.

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

## BUREAU OF COMPETITION

The Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition shares jurisdiction to enforce the nation's antitrust laws with the Antitrust Division of DOJ.

## OTHER ENTITIES

## ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

The Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) is an independent, nonpartisan agency that was created to analyze the federal administrative law process and to provide Congress, the President, the Judicial Conference of the United States, and federal agencies with recommendations and guidance.

## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

The Commission on Civil Rights was established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957 (P.L. 85-315), to serve as a bipartisan, fact-finding agency to investigate and report on the status of civil rights, and inform the development of national civil rights policy.

## OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

The Office of Government Ethics (OGE) is responsible for providing the overall direction of executive branch policies designed to prevent conflicts of interest and to ensure high ethical standards. In partnership with executive branch agencies and departments, OGE develops ethics training courses and other educational materials for government employees, conducts on-site reviews of existing ethics programs, and provides advice and guidance on the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch.

## PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) is an independent agency within the executive branch established by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act to analyze and review actions the executive branch takes to protect the U.S. from terrorism, ensuring that the need for such actions is balanced with the need to protect privacy and civil liberties, and to ensure that liberty concerns are appropriately considered in the development and implementation of laws, regulations, and policies related to efforts to protect the Nation against terrorism. The continued role of the Board includes the review of various government surveillance programs and the related activities of the Intelligence Community.

## STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

The State Justice Institute was established by federal law in 1984 to award grants to improve the quality of justice in State courts, facilitate better coordination between State and Federal courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts.

## U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## FEE SETTING AUTHORITY

The authority of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Director) to set or adjust any fee to recover the aggregate estimated costs to the Office for processing, activities, services, and materials relating to patents terminates on September 16, 2018.

**PART II**

The Committee's oversight and investigative activities will be coordinated between the Full Committee and the Subcommittees in order to facilitate comprehensive and strategic oversight of the programs and agencies within its jurisdiction. Oversight activities will

include hearings, briefings, correspondence, reports, public statements and site visits.

#### FULL COMMITTEE

*U.S. Department of Justice:* In conjunction with the Subcommittees, the Committee will conduct oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice, including all Department components and agencies.

*Budget Oversight and Management Performance:* The Committee will conduct oversight and identify U.S. Department of Justice grant programs that should be streamlined or eliminated, as well as those that could be enhanced. The Committee will also conduct oversight of all agencies and programs within its jurisdiction to uncover waste, fraud, or abuse and to identify programs that are inefficient, duplicative, or outdated, or that are more appropriately administered by State or local governments. The Committee will also consider the extent to which federally funded or administered agencies and activities can more efficiently handle certain tasks on a national level and whether they save, reduce, or render more effective State or local government expenditures or activities. In addition, the Committee will consider whether any federal programs within its jurisdiction should be enhanced, concomitant with cuts to or the elimination of less effective programs.

*Protecting Congress' Constitutional Powers:* The committee will conduct oversight to examine the separation of powers between the branches of government and to consider ways to restore and reestablish the powers and authorities granted to Congress in Article I of the Constitution.

*The U.S. Copyright Office:* The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Copyright Office as it completes its transition to a digital environment. Oversight will include review of its recordation system, public access to its registration records, and the process by which the Register of Copyrights should be selected.

*Copyright Law and Policy:* The Committee will examine the provisions of the Copyright Act to ensure it addresses the challenges faced by copyright owners, users, and consumers in the digital environment.

*Office of the U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC):* The Committee will examine how the IPEC is functioning and whether it has the authority and resources necessary for it to be effective. To the extent this involves non-copyright-related intellectual property issues, this will be coordinated closely with the Subcommittee on the Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet Subcommittee.

*Intellectual Property Enforcement Agencies:* The Committee will review the intellectual property enforcement efforts of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection division and the Department of Justice. To the extent this involves non-copyright-related intellectual property issues, these will be primarily handled by the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM, HOMELAND SECURITY &  
INVESTIGATIONS

*U.S. Department of Justice:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the law enforcement agencies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

*A. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the FBI. In addition to its traditional criminal investigatory jurisdiction, the Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the FBI's counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence authorities.

*B. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA):* The Subcommittee will review the operations of the DEA, including domestic and international drug enforcement, money laundering and narco-terrorism investigations.

*C. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF):* The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the ATF, including federal firearms enforcement, explosives investigations, and tobacco and alcohol trafficking operations.

*D. U.S. Marshals Service (USMS)/Office of the Federal Detention Trustee (OFDT):* The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the USMS, including fugitive apprehensions, court and witness security, and its responsibilities under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight on the operations of OFDT.

*E. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP):* The Subcommittee will review the mission and operation of the federal prison system, including prisoner rehabilitation, reentry programs, and management of a growing offender population.

*F. Federal Prison Industries, Inc.:* The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a government corporation that employs offenders incarcerated in federal prisons and provides job training opportunities to prisoners by producing goods and services for federal agencies.

*Criminal Division:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Justice Department's Criminal Division.

*National Security Division:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Justice Department's National Security Division.

*Office of Justice Programs (OJP):* The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of OJP and its component organizations and the administration of law enforcement assistance grants in order to identify programs that should be streamlined or eliminated, and those that could be enhanced.

*Office on Violence Against Women (OVW):* The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of OVW and the administration of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grants.

*Community Oriented Policing Services Office (COPS):* The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of COPS and the administration of community policing grants.

*Federal Grants:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the receipt of federal grants by state and local jurisdictions found to be in violation of section 1373 of title 8, United States Code.

*Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA):* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the operations of EOUSA.

*Office of the Pardon Attorney:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Office of the Pardon Attorney.

*U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS):* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of DHS law enforcement components, including the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Federal Air Marshals Service.

*U.S. Sentencing Commission:* The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the U.S. Sentencing Commission with particular attention to the role of the Commission following the Supreme Court's decision in *U.S. v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005) and its progeny. The Subcommittee will also examine the extent to which federal courts are imposing sentences that diverge from those recommended by the sentencing guidelines.

*National Security:* The Subcommittee will review the use of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and U.S. PATRIOT Act authorities by Intelligence Community (IC) agencies, and the reauthorization of section 702 of FISA.

*Terrorism:* The Subcommittee will review the threat to our national security from terrorist activity including the recruitment and training or self-radicalization of home-grown terrorists. The Subcommittee will examine the adequacy of federal criminal laws that deter and punish terrorism.

*GAO Report on DOJ Funding Sources:* The Subcommittee will review the alternative sources of funding at DOJ, including fines, fees, and penalties, that make up approximately 15 percent of DOJ's budgetary resources.

*Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):* The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of OJJDP.

*Criminal Division—Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering section of the Justice Department's Criminal Division.

*Encryption and Handheld Electronic Devices:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on both the benefits of strong encryption and concerns expressed by law enforcement that encryption hinders their efforts to investigate crime.

*Crimes against Children:* The Subcommittee will review laws and law enforcement tools designed to combat child exploitation, including reauthorization of the Adam Walsh Act, and the proliferation of child pornography on the Internet.

*Protection of U.S. Citizens' Constitutional Rights:* The Subcommittee, along with the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, will examine the adequacy of current protections for U.S. citizens' Constitutional rights vis-à-vis law enforcement and national security efforts.

*Mens Rea:* The Subcommittee will continue working to ensure federal criminal statutes have appropriate criminal intent, or *mens rea*, requirements. This will remain a significant part of the committee's effort to enact reform to the federal criminal justice system.

*Forensics:* The Subcommittee will continue working to ensure federal prosecutors, law enforcement, and the defense bar have the

ability to fully investigate their cases, exclude innocent suspects, implicate the guilty, and achieve true justice at trial, through the Rapid DNA Act and other initiatives.

*Policing Strategies:* The Subcommittee, through the Committee's Policing Strategies Working Group, will continue working with state and local governments and groups to foster positive police-community relations, and ensure law enforcement has the tools it needs to do its job.

*Electronic Communications Privacy Act:* The Subcommittee expects to continue its work to update this decades-old statute in light of the digital revolution that has taken place since the statute's enactment.

*International Data Issues:* The subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight on the issue of law enforcement access to data stored overseas, including the needs of law enforcement, Americans' civil liberties, and pending litigation.

*Cybersecurity:* The Subcommittee will review the laws and law enforcement tools designed to combat and prevent cyber-attacks.

*Firearms:* The Subcommittee will continue to examine ways to reduce firearms-related violence, including examining current federal law and state compliance with requirements to post information to the NICS database.

*Criminal Code:* The Subcommittee will examine issues related to Criminal Code reform, including improving and streamlining Title 18 and whether all criminal statutes in the U.S. Code should be consolidated and/or listed in Title 18.

*Over-criminalization:* The Subcommittee will continue to examine ways to address the problem of over-criminalization and over-federalization.

*Criminal Street Gangs:* The Subcommittee may consider enforcement and prevention issues concerning criminal street gangs, and the issue of how gang affiliations may be broken to reduce the number of both street and prison gangs.

*Crime Prevention:* The Subcommittee may examine the extent to which federal policies and funding are adequate to support crime prevention strategies at the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels.

*International and Domestic Human Trafficking:* The Subcommittee will review law enforcement and other activities within its jurisdiction that address international and domestic trafficking in human beings, including reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

*Misconduct by Executive Branch Officials:* The Committee will continue to conduct oversight into allegations of misconduct by Executive Branch officials. The Committee will also continue to conduct oversight into allegations of leaks of classified information as well as allegations of improper interference with our democratic institutions or efforts to improperly or illegally interfere with our elections.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE

*Protection of U.S. Citizens' Constitutional and Civil Rights:* In general, the Subcommittee will examine the adequacy of current protections for U.S. citizens' constitutional and civil rights.

*Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice:* The Subcommittee will examine the enforcement record and priorities of the Civil Rights Division. The Subcommittee will focus on the Division's activities in the areas of education, employment, credit, fair housing, public accommodations, law enforcement practices, voting rights and the integrity of federal elections, and federally funded and conducted programs.

*Fiscal Responsibility:* The Subcommittee will examine constitutional reforms to address government spending.

*Federalism/Congressional Authority:* The Subcommittee plans to examine the proper balance between the finite powers allocated to the federal government in the U.S. Constitution and the powers reserved to the states.

*Exercise of Constitutional Authority:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the exercise of constitutional authority by the legislative, judicial, and executive branches.

*Civil Justice:* The Subcommittee will review the policies and practices of the civil justice system and consider whether reform is needed.

*Community Relations Service:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the operations of the Community Relations Service.

*Office of Government Ethics:* The Subcommittee will consider the priorities and operation of the Office of Government Ethics. The Subcommittee will also investigate any threat to the independence or efficacy of the Office of Government Ethics.

*Property Rights:* The Subcommittee will consider whether there is a need to address existing protections for citizens' private property rights.

*Religious Liberty:* The Subcommittee will consider the federal role in the protection of Americans' rights under the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses.

*Free Speech:* The Subcommittee will examine restraints on free speech, including efforts by some colleges and universities to limit protests, speeches, distribution of literature, petitions, and other expressive activities to "free speech zones."

*Life Issues:* The Subcommittee will examine the constitutionality and enforcement of federal and state statutes that relate to abortion.

*War on Terrorism:* The Subcommittee will consider constitutional issues associated with the War on Terrorism.

*Detention of Suspected Terrorists:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on matters related to the long-term detention of suspected terrorists, including the protection of the related constitutional rights of U.S. citizens.

*United States Commission on Civil Rights:* The Subcommittee will review the work of the Commission, its management, and its implementation.

*The Judgment Fund:* The Subcommittee will examine payments made from the Judgment Fund, its management, and how it is administered.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

*Deportation of Child Trafficking Victims:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the number of child trafficking victims that

are summarily returned to Mexico after a flawed screening by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.

*Executive Orders Signed by President Trump:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of Executive Orders regarding immigration and border security signed by President Trump, including constitutional and policy issues.

*U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS):* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the components within DHS that are responsible for enforcing and ensuring the integrity of United States immigration laws, including ICE and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

*Immigrant Investor Program:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the immigrant investor program, including its adherence to the intent of Congress and the impact of new proposed regulations.

*H-1B Nonimmigrant Visa Program:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the H-1B visa program, including on its effect on American workers and students.

*H-2A/H-2B Nonimmigrant Visa Program:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the H-2A and H-2B visa programs, including on the quality and timeliness of processing by USCIS and the Department of Labor.

*Detainers:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the constitutional and policy questions surrounding the issuance of ICE detainers.

*Budgetary Resources:* The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight of the sufficiency of budgetary resources with regard to immigration functions at USCIS and ICE.

*Legal Immigration:* The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight over our current legal immigration laws and programs, including whether relevant federal agencies are efficiently administering and enforcing these laws and programs, issues relating to backlogs, family reunification, whether excessive regulations are stifling the use of these programs, the impact on U.S. citizens, comparisons with our global competitors, and related issues.

*Illegal Immigration:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the causes and methods of illegal immigration and how to better prevent it in the future.

*Refugee Program:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the refugee program.

*Visa Security:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the sufficiency of the screening of visa applicants.

*Fiscal Impacts of Immigration:* The Subcommittee expects to conduct hearings on the fiscal effects of legal and illegal immigration, including their impact on the Social Security system and other federal programs.

*Immigration Enforcement:* The Subcommittee intends to examine the sufficiency of current immigration enforcement laws and programs, including whether relevant federal agencies' policies and enforcement records are sufficient and consistent with current federal statutes, the level of cooperation with other countries, the proper roles for the federal government, states and localities in enforcing our immigration laws, and the status of implementation of the congressionally-mandated exit tracking system.

*Fraud:* The Subcommittee expects to conduct hearings on fraud associated with petitions for visas and other immigration benefits, including allegations of fraud in the asylum and credible fear determination processes. The Subcommittee also intends to conduct oversight of identity fraud and identity theft in the immigration context.

*Influx of Unaccompanied Alien Children and Family Units:* The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight of the Administration's handling of the influx of unaccompanied alien children and family units along our southern border and proposed legislative changes.

*Criminal Issues:* The Subcommittee expects to conduct hearings on the impact of crimes committed by immigrants, trends in gang violence among immigrant communities, and the sufficiency of efforts to remove violent criminals.

*Executive Office for Immigration Review:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Department of Justice's adjudication of immigration cases.

*Federal Grants:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the receipt of federal grants by state and local jurisdictions found to be in violation of section 1373 of title 8, United States Code.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET

*U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the USPTO, including the status of pending patent and trademark applications and developments with patent and trademark quality. The Subcommittee will also continue to exercise oversight to ensure that the USPTO has full access to the fees it collects from applicants and appropriately exercises its fee-setting authority.

*U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and Implementation of the America Invents Act:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's implementation of the America Invents Act, which contained numerous changes to our nation's patent system.

*U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Global Intellectual Property Rights Attaché Program:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the Global Intellectual Property Rights Attaché program's efforts to promote high standards of IP protection and enforcement internationally for the benefit of U.S. stakeholders.

*International Intellectual Property Laws:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the impact of international intellectual property laws, regulations, and policies upon American interests. In addition, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of international trade agreements and their negotiations, especially as they relate to potential trademark issues. To the extent this involves copyright-related intellectual property issues, this will be coordinated closely with the Full Committee.

*Federal Judiciary:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the federal judiciary, including judicial ethics and disclosure, the PACER system, and operation of the federal court system. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine the resources available to Article III courts, including judicial salaries and security for federal judges.

*The Service of Judicial Process on Foreign Entities:* The Subcommittee will examine the difficulty of serving judicial process on foreign entities in order to ensure that the rights of all U.S. citizens can be protected in an increasingly global economy.

*Technology Issues:* The Subcommittee will examine developments in technology and the Internet affecting public policy, including issues surrounding Internet governance.

*Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN):* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of ICANN, including the functions that the U.S. conveyed to the global multi-stakeholder community in 2016, and the impacts this system will have on intellectual property rights holders.

*State Justice Institute:* The State Justice Institute (SJI) provides matching grants to state courts that allow them to develop methods to work more efficiently and productively. The Subcommittee intends to review SJI operations.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL AND ANTITRUST LAW

*Administrative Process and Procedure:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the topic of regulatory reform in general, including examining specific regulations, as well as issues related to the Administrative Procedure Act, the Congressional Review Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, trends in regulatory citizen suits, regulatory litigation, judicial doctrines of deference to agency determinations, the overall costs and benefits of federal regulation in general and their impact on specific communities, regulatory budgeting, the extent to which agencies compete for policymaking primacy with the Legislative Branch, and the role that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within the Office of Management and Budget plays in the federal rulemaking process. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine regulatory litigation and enforcement.

*Executive Orders:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of Executive Orders regarding administrative law and agency practice, including constitutional and policy issues.

*Bankruptcy:* The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight of the Bankruptcy Code and bankruptcy system, including their responsiveness to the needs of financially troubled businesses, individuals and municipalities. The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of bankruptcy judgeship needs, asbestos trusts and U.S. Trustee fees.

*State Taxation Affecting Interstate Commerce:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of issues related to state taxation that affect interstate commerce, particularly with respect to appropriate nexus standards.

*Agencies:* The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Justice Department's Civil Division, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Antitrust Division, Tax Division, Executive Office for United States Trustees and U.S. Trustee Program, and Office of the Solicitor General and their respective budgets. It will also conduct oversight of the Department's compliance with the Freedom of

Information Act and the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

*Administrative Conference of the United States:* The Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight of the Administrative Conference of the United States.

*Arbitration:* The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of issues arising under the Federal Arbitration Act.

*Legal Services Corporation:* The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the Legal Services Corporation.

*Interstate Compacts:* The Subcommittee may conduct oversight to determine the extent of compliance with the constitutional process by which States seek Congressional approval of interstate compacts.

*Divergence in U.S. Merger Review and Enforcement:* The Subcommittee may examine disparities in the tools available to the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice with regard to mergers and whether these disparities result in different substantive standards.

*International Divergence in Antitrust Enforcement:* The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of international competition laws.

*Antitrust Exemptions:* The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of industry antitrust exemptions to determine whether such exemptions continue to serve the public interest.

*Net Neutrality:* The Subcommittee may examine Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations regarding net neutrality and the role of antitrust laws in enforcing the principles of net neutrality.

*Effects on Competition Caused by Government Participation in Markets as a Provider of Goods and Services:* The Subcommittee may examine instances where government participates in a particular market and whether such participation impacts competition.

*China and Antitrust Enforcement Policies:* The Subcommittee may examine China's anti-competitive enforcement actions and how the antitrust enforcement agencies are coordinating with other federal government agencies and their Chinese counterparts regarding such enforcement efforts.

*Section 5 of the Federal Trade Communications Act:* The Subcommittee may examine the Federal Trade Commission's use of its authority under section 5 of the Federal Trade Communications Act.

*Telecommunications Act of 1996:* The Subcommittee may conduct a review of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

*Mergers:* The Subcommittee will examine mergers on a case-by-case basis.

*Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB):* The Subcommittee may examine the CFPB, including with regard to its activities concerning arbitration.

*Process Reforms for Congressional Review and Approval of Interstate Compacts:* The Subcommittee may examine the process by which interstate compacts are approved by Congress.

*Settlements Requiring Payments to Nongovernmental Entities:* The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of Justice Department settlements requiring payments to non-victim third parties.

# COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

## AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

Under clause 2 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, each standing committee of the House has general oversight responsibilities to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction are being implemented in accordance with the intent of Congress to determine whether they should be continued, reformed, curtailed, or eliminated.

Congress has a responsibility to keep the Executive Branch accountable to the American people and ensure that decisions by agencies are open and transparent. During the 114th Congress, the Committee on Natural Resources conducted thoughtful oversight on a number of specific issues and policies administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior and other agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction—seeking answers to how and why policy decisions are made, who made the decision, and how it affects people, our economy and the environment.

In the 114th Congress, the Committee pursued aggressive oversight of the Executive Branch and formed a new subcommittee entirely dedicated to oversight and investigation of each federal agency within its jurisdiction. For the 115th Congress, through oversight hearings and investigations, the Committee and its subcommittees will continue to focus oversight efforts on promoting job creation and economic growth, reducing spending and ensuring responsible use of taxpayer resources, and protecting public access to public lands and waters for recreation and economic development. Furthermore, the Committee will work with federal oversight entities to identify and address instances of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the federal government to ensure the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Moreover, in the 115th Congress, the Committee will review and assess the authorizations of both agencies and programs within its jurisdiction and carefully consider whether programs with lapsed authorizations should be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

This authorization and oversight plan outlines the initial, primary focuses of the Committee, though additional oversight activities are expected to be generated throughout the first and second sessions of the 115th Congress.

### FEDERAL LANDS

The Committee will focus on four primary objectives for federal land management in the 115th Congress: restoring access to public lands; promoting sound management of public lands; making the

Federal Government a good neighbor to local communities; and creating new jobs in rural communities.

*Budget and Spending Review*—The Committee will review the Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 budget requests for programs under its jurisdiction including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Furthermore, to enable these agencies to operate more efficiently and effectively, the Committee will review agency programs with lapsed authorizations and determine whether such programs should be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

*Local Input in Federal Lands Decision-Making*—The Committee will explore ways for locally elected officials to have more input into federal land management decisions in their communities.

*National Park Management*—The Committee will explore new and innovative ways to reduce the substantial and growing maintenance backlog (estimated at over \$12 billion for FY 2017) and enhance public enjoyment of the parks. In order to innovate and modernize the management of National Parks, the Committee will examine expired programs under NPS to determine if such programs should be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

*National Park Service Sexual Harassment*—The Committee will continue to examine allegations of sexual harassment occurring within the NPS, and NPS's failure to take appropriate disciplinary action. In recent years, the Committee and the Department of the Interior Inspector General have uncovered numerous cases of sexual harassment occurring within the NPS, including at some of the nation's most well-known parks.

*Cultural and Historic Resources Management*—The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the National Park Service's compliance with various federal statutes, such as the National Historic Preservation Act, and accountability for officials who fail to adhere to federal laws.

*Forest Health and Wildfires*—The Committee will conduct oversight hearings on forest health, wildfire prevention and suppression, and the need for more active management of our national forests. The Committee will focus on western forests, particularly in California, where recent USFS reports estimate a total loss of more than 100 million trees.

*Recreation Enhancement*—The committee will conduct oversight on ways to strengthen public access to public lands for a wide range of family recreational and sporting activities, and ensure that fees for use of developed sites are not excessive.

*Multiple Use and Sustained Yield for the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service*—The Committee will conduct oversight on ways to ensure the BLM and USFS follow their multiple use and sustained yield mandate.

*Economic Growth, National Security, and Sound Conservation on Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Lands*—The Committee will conduct oversight on ways to ensure our federal lands provide secure domestic sources of energy, food, fiber, minerals, and jobs while protecting the environment.

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge Oversight*—According to FWS, the backlog for their 560 refuges now exceeds \$3.4 billion with 12,000

deferred projects left outstanding. The Committee will resume its oversight of this growing backlog.

#### WILDLIFE

*Invasive Species*—Thousands of acres of public land in the United States are adversely impacted by invasive species. The Committee intends to examine ways to effectively address this problem.

*Lacey Act*—The Committee will conduct oversight hearings on various provisions that have been added to this federal law since its original enactment in 1900. Among the issues to be examined are: why are American citizens required to comply with foreign laws; why individuals are denied “innocent owner” protections under the Lacey Act; and what has been the impact of the Legal Timber Protection Act of 2008.

In addition, the Committee will continue to examine how Lacey Act restrictions can impact interstate water supply issues.

*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species*—The Committee will continue its oversight role in monitoring the Administration’s implementation of proposals adopted by the Convention at the 17th Conference of the Parties.

*Voluntary Compensatory Mitigation*—The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the FWS’ use of voluntary payments by energy developers to mitigate impacts on migratory bird habitats.

#### ENERGY AND MINERALS

*Expanding Domestic Energy Production*—The Committee will focus on the importance of increasing American-made energy in order to create more new high-paying jobs, increase our economic competitiveness, and to improve national security through energy independence. In June 2016, the Department of the Interior released a jobs report that showed that 1.8 million Americans were employed in jobs related to programs and activities of the Department. Nearly half the jobs identified in the report were related to oil, natural gas, and mining activities on federal lands, and yet those activities only occupy a small fraction of the total lands managed by the Department.

*Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Natural Gas*—The Committee has jurisdiction over the administration of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) and will work to ensure safe and responsible production of America’s offshore oil and natural gas resources. The Obama Administration’s 2016 ban on offshore acreage in the Arctic and the Atlantic prohibits drilling in over 100 million acres of federally owned Arctic waters, despite the extensive resources in the OCS and the industry jobs at stake. This is one of many critical considerations moving into the 115th Congress. The Committee will build upon oversight and legislative efforts to reform the Offshore Planning Process, direct specific offshore lease sales, codify the reorganization of the former Minerals Management Service (MMS), provide fair and equitable revenue sharing for all coastal states, and promote new safety efforts.

*Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)*—The Committee will examine and conduct oversight of the Coastal Zone Management Act and its implementation and impacts on OCS oil and gas explo-

ration and development. Furthermore, the Committee will review coastal zone management programs with expired authorizations and determine if such programs need to be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

*Onshore Oil and Natural Gas Programs*—In the 115th Congress the Committee will focus on the state of oil and natural gas leasing on federal lands in the western United States. This will include leasing delays and declines in production from federal lands, reforms to streamline onshore energy leasing and permitting, development of oil shale resources, access and leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), and access to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). This Congress will include additional oversight on Alaskan oil and natural gas development by reviewing NPRA administrative reforms and an in-depth review of the previous Administration's regulation of hydraulic fracturing. Moreover, the Committee will examine federal oil and gas leasing programs with lapsed authorizations to determine if such programs should be reauthorized, updated, or terminated. The United States is the world's leading producer of petroleum and natural gas, and a new look at regulations could ease access to gas and oil reserves throughout the country.

*Renewable and Alternative Energy*—In the 115th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight over current solar, geothermal, and wind programs operated by the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM), the BLM, and the USFS. The Committee will examine ways to streamline the leasing and permitting of these renewable and alternative energy forms. The Committee will also review lapsed programs under these agencies to determine if the expired programs should be reauthorized, modified, or terminated.

*National Mineral Security Strategy*—The Committee will conduct oversight on domestic mineral resources, current and planned production, and possible future production opportunities, including critical minerals.

*Coal Mining Regulations and Leasing*—The previous Administration through the Department of the Interior waged a consistent war on coal. The Committee has conducted and will continue extensive oversight of the job-destroying regulatory changes, such as the Stream Protection Rule, proposed by the Obama Administration to stifle coal mining, production, and use. The Committee will focus on this issue through both legislative relief and aggressive oversight. The subcommittee will begin discussions concerning the reauthorization of the AML fee structure, and the future of a Good Samaritan program to remediate abandoned mine lands.

*United States Geological Survey*—For several years, the Committee has had growing concerns about the path taken and the programs operated by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Particularly of concern are the growing non-resource or hazard programs at USGS and other Department programs, USGS data quality dependence on outside data, USGS data manipulation, mineral and energy programs focused on stopping mineral development not promoting it, and the current state of mapping programs. The Committee intends to closely examine the operations of USGS and may consider legislation to consolidate and streamline the focus of

the agency to reduce waste and duplication, not only in the USGS, but across agencies. Moreover, the Committee will review expired programs under the Department to determine if such programs need to be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

*Federal Mapping Programs*—The federal government has spent billions each year on new geospatial data. This spending, including tens of billions in the stimulus act, is frequently wasteful, duplicative, and uncoordinated. During hearings in previous Congresses, witnesses were clear that multiple Administrations have had this problem with little control, central oversight, or effective management. Going forward with the new Administration, the Committee intends to reexamine this issue and may consider legislation to simplify the Department's geospatial programs for greater efficiency. Furthermore, the Committee intends to conduct oversight of federal agencies and how they track and monitor their land management responsibilities and purposes.

#### WATER AND POWER

*Budget and Spending Review*—At a time of growing water supply needs, water-use conflicts, curtailment of water and power deliveries due to federal regulation and a spiraling national debt, the Committee intends to examine the Bureau of Reclamation's and the U.S. Geological Survey's annual budget requests and ongoing spending. The goal of this oversight is to determine whether the agencies are accountable to the American taxpayers, water and power ratepayers and other beneficiaries and to ascertain whether they are fulfilling their core missions. Furthermore, the Committee will review agency programs with lapsed authorizations, to determine if such programs need to be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

*Oversight of the Power Marketing Administration Budgets*—The Committee will continue budget oversight of the four Power Marketing Administrations that sell hydropower generated at federal dams and reservoirs to wholesale customers that serve millions of retail electricity customers with a particular focus on rate and budget transparency.

*Protecting and Promoting Hydropower as a Clean, Renewable Energy Source*—Litigating interests and regulatory efforts undermine existing hydropower resources and curtail the growth of new hydropower. The Committee will examine these efforts and ways to protect and promote large-scale and small-scale hydropower generation at existing and potential facilities.

*Increasing Traditional Water Supplies*—Visionary leaders developed much of the western water supply infrastructure that urban and rural communities have depended upon for generations. These existing water storage and delivery projects continue to serve millions of ratepayers and food consumers nationwide, but their operations are being curtailed by endless litigation. The Committee will focus on the need to protect existing water storage/conveyance facilities and also examine and overcome regulatory, financial and other barriers to building new ones as a way of returning to a policy of abundance. The Committee will focus on the implementation of Public Law 114-322 as part of these oversight efforts. In addition, the Committee will review and examine water supply pro-

grams with lapsed authorizations to assess if such programs need to be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

*Maintaining Electricity Transmission/Distribution Service on Federal Lands*—Energy rights of way on federal lands have a direct impact on electricity transmission and distribution systems. Vegetative management on these rights-of-way is an issue in some areas of the western United States. The Committee will continue examining these matters as it relates to electricity reliability and catastrophic forest fire prevention.

#### OCEANS

*Budget and Spending Review*—The Committee will conduct oversight of the budgets of the National Marine Fisheries Service and certain “wet” programs of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), within the Department of Commerce. In addition, programs under NOAA that have lapsed authorizations will need to be examined to determine if such programs ought to be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

*Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Reauthorization*—The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–479) is the primary statute regulating commercial and recreational fishing in federal waters. The Act was last reauthorized in the 109th Congress and a number of issues related to the reauthorization were examined by the Committee in the 114th Congress. In the 115th Congress, the Committee will look closely at the Act and how the Executive branch has implemented its authorities. Furthermore, the Committee will review programs with expired authorizations under the statute to determine if such programs should be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

*National Ocean Council and Ocean Zoning*—Through an Executive Order, the previous Administration created a new National Ocean Council (NOC) and a structure for a new Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning initiative, otherwise known as ocean zoning. The Committee will continue to examine the authority used to create this entity and initiative, what sources of funding it has used, and what effect any new policy initiatives from the NOC will have on other departments and agencies.

*Ensuring Access*—The Committee focused extensively on legislative and oversight efforts aimed at ensuring fishing access to our oceans’ resources in the 114th Congress. With the recent expansion and designation of marine national monuments, the Committee will focus on the impacts of such Executive branch declarations have on access as well as other actions that have hindered commercial and recreational fishing in federal waters.

#### INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

*Budget and Spending Review*—The Committee will review the budget request and staffing levels for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, and other Departments, offices and functions relating to Indian and Alaska Native affairs. Furthermore, the Committee will review agency programs with expired author-

izations, to determine if such programs need to be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

*Federal Barriers to Economic and Energy Development on Indian lands*—Certain federal laws and policies governing public lands are applied to lands held in trust or restricted status for tribes and individual Indians. For example, the Interior Department promulgated a rule to regulate hydraulic fracturing on federal lands. The Department, through the rule, treats land held in trust for Indians as federal land even though under federal law, the beneficial interest in trust land is vested exclusively in the Indian beneficiaries. The Committee will continue to examine how best to remove federal restrictions on Indian lands so that tribes may have greater control over their own affairs. Tribes have and continue to demonstrate that they are better suited to manage their lands and resources.

*Land Buyback*—The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 provided for a one-time direct appropriation of \$1.9 billion to the Department of the Interior for the consolidation of highly fractionated Indian land, pursuant to the Indian Lands Consolidation Act. The Committee will exercise its duty to review the operation of the land consolidation program and work with the Administration to ensure the expenditure of funds for this program is used efficiently.

*Fee-to-Trust Issues*—The 2009 Supreme Court decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar* was one of the most significant judicial actions concerning Indian lands and tribal recognition since 1934. To date, the Department of the Interior has failed to cooperate with the Committee in identifying a potential resolution. For example, the Department refuses to divulge which tribes and lands are affected by *Carcieri*. This has obstructed potential bipartisan legislative action to reform and improve the process of acquiring lands for Indians in a balanced manner that reflects contemporary land use and ownership among tribal and non-Indian communities in 21st century America. In the 115th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight to determine an appropriate course of action on the Department's fee-to-trust policy.

*Alaska Natives*—The Committee will review the implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other laws pertaining to Alaska Natives (including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980).

*Natural Resources Management on Indian Reservations*—The Department of the Interior holds approximately 56 million acres of land in trust or restricted status for tribes and individual Indians. The Committee will review current law, policy, and agency action concerning these resources in furtherance of the goal of increasing tribal self-governance and economic development opportunities for the benefit of Native Americans. The Committee may conduct oversight focusing on the implementation of the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, continued implementation of the HEARTH Act, and on the Department's recent revision of surface leasing rules affecting Indian trust and restricted lands. Both public laws are intended to give tribes greater control over their own trust assets.

*Indian Country Law and Order*—The Committee plans to review the implementation and impact of the provisions included in the Tribal Law and Order Act, and the tribal jurisdiction provisions in-

cluded in the Violence Against Women reauthorization. In addition, the Committee will examine federal policies and programs concerning safety, crime prevention, and law enforcement in Indian Country, and determine whether such programs with lapsed authorizations should be reauthorized, updated, or terminated.

*Indian Health Care Improvement Act Implementation/Indian Health Service*—In the 115th Congress the Committee intends to review implementation of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, with a focus on the delivery of medical services to Indian people, particularly those in remote reservations where access to health care is difficult and costly. Congress has increased Indian health funding almost each year since FY 2010, and it continues to increase. In FY 2014 and FY 2015, Congress exceeded President's budget requests for the agency. Since 2008, funding for the IHS has increased by more than 50 percent. The House's FY 2017 proposed appropriation sits at approximately \$1 billion over FY 2010 levels. Despite these funding increases, reports from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) continue to reveal that standards for the quality of care in federally operated facilities are absent. Additionally, the dangerous situation in the Great Plains Area and the staffing shortage problem throughout the twelve IHS areas continues to exist if not worsen. To allocate funds more efficiently and modernize Indian Health Policy, the Committee will review Indian Health programs.

*Tribal Recognition*—Since the 1960s the Secretary of the Interior has granted recognition to tribes even though some experts and tribes have noted that such recognition was made without authorization from Congress. For example, the BIA regulatory process for extending recognition to new tribes, found in Part 83 of the Code of Federal Regulations, was established by the Department without authorization from Congress. Recent Departmental actions concerning the recognition of tribes have stirred controversy. The Department administratively "reaffirmed" the recognition of a tribe that had not been named on any list of tribes recognized pursuant to treaty or statute. The Department has refused to invoke any legal defense on behalf of the United States in lawsuits filed by certain groups seeking tribal recognition where new casinos appear to be at stake. Because the power to recognize a tribe is a solemn action that grants special political status on the tribe's members, the Committee will continue to conduct a thorough overview of recognizing new tribes and the controversial rule promulgated by the Department to lower the standards for the recognition of new tribes.

*Indian Gaming*—According to the National Indian Gaming Commission, in FY 2015 the Indian gaming industry generated \$29.9 billion in revenues from 474 casinos operated by 238 tribes pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. Indian gaming is inextricably linked with fee-to-trust and recognition and therefore it may be addressed in the context of the Committee's continued review of recognition and fee-to-trust (including *Carcieri*) issues described above. In addition, the Committee in the 115th Congress may conduct hearings specifically on gaming to ensure that appropriate enforcement and oversight by the National Indian

Gaming Commission, Department of the Interior, and Department of Justice is being conducted.

*Tribal Trust Settlements*—The Committee may review the negotiation and settlement of lawsuits against the United States filed by more than 100 Indian tribes. The basis of the lawsuits, filed under previous Administrations, was that the United States mismanaged trust lands and trust accounts of Indian tribes were in violation of the government's statutory obligations. As of October 2014, lawsuits filed by 82 tribes have been settled with the last Administration for \$2.74 billion, and dozens more have been settled since. The Committee is interested in ensuring that the settlements are fair and just for tribes and taxpayers.

#### INSULAR ISSUES

*Budget and Spending Review*—The Committee will conduct oversight of the budget of the Office of Insular Affairs, within the Department of the Interior.

*General Oversight of the Office of Insular Affairs*—The Committee expects to review the fundamental issues facing each of the territories and freely associated states such as: support and development of self-government and self-determination; economic development and self-sufficiency through the private sector; accountability of federal funds; implementation and enforcement of federal laws; implementation and funding for the Compacts of Free Association; and management of limited land and water resources.

*Puerto Rico*—The Committee shall conduct oversight over the implementation of Pub. L. 114–187, Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA), and anticipate reviewing any actions conducted by the Oversight Board established under the act. The Committee will continue to monitor the results of any plebiscites held expressing the preference of the populace as it relates to the relationship status between the territory and the United States.

#### REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

*Endangered Species Act (ESA)*—Following House passage in 2014 of Committee-led legislation, the Committee will continue to examine ways to update and improve the ESA, which has not been authorized since 1988. The Committee will also continue to examine the impacts of litigation-settlement driven listings, critical habitat designations, and other executive branch regulations to ensure transparency, sound science and state, local, landowner, and tribal involvement.

*National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)*—The Committee will conduct oversight on the implementation and effectiveness of the law and on NEPA's effectiveness in achieving the purposes for which it was enacted more than 45 years ago in 1969.

#### FEDERAL BUDGET AND SPENDING REVIEW

The Committee's jurisdiction covers the Department of the Interior, the Council on Environmental Quality, the IHS, and certain programs of NOAA, and USFS. The Committee will examine each of these agencies for opportunities to streamline, reduce costs, and

either close or consolidate outdated programs. In particular, the Committee will focus on programs that have seen significant growth over the last few budget cycles or sudden significant spikes in funding as a result of agency decisions. The Committee will also review agency programs with lapsed authorizations to assess if such programs need to be reauthorized, updated, or terminated. Furthermore, the Committee will look at the growing number of executive branch regulations, executive orders, and other actions from those agencies that are adversely impacting private property owners, local governments, tribes, states, and private industry.

#### GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

The Committee will conduct oversight of climate change and related policies and programs and the related impacts including impacts on federal lands, oceans, and other resources.

#### ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Committee will conduct oversight of ethics operations at the Department of the Interior and its agencies and bureaus within the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee intends to review ethics training, points of contact, rules, and resources in order to facilitate ethical decision-making at all levels. Furthermore, the Committee intends to ensure that ethics operations and agency managers hold federal employees who violate ethics rules and/or the law accountable.

# **COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

Rule X, Clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House requires each standing committee of the House to adopt and submit a two-year authorization and oversight plan to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on House Administration, and the Committee on Appropriations by February 15 of the first session of each Congress.

The following is the authorization and oversight plan for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and its subcommittees for the 115th Congress. The Committee will conduct oversight and investigations pursuant to its legislative jurisdiction and its broad oversight jurisdiction under Rule X.

This plan contains a detailed list of matters for oversight and investigation that will advance the Committee's mission to ensure the economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the federal government and all its agencies. The list is not exhaustive. The Committee will retain the flexibility to investigate instances of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement as they emerge, and to conduct oversight of other issues as appropriate.

### **LAPSED AUTHORIZATIONS**

The Committee will consider lapsed authorizations in its jurisdiction in the 115th Congress, and work to enact necessary authorizations and reforms. These include the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act; the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); the Opportunity Scholarship Program and DC Tuition Assistance Grant program; the National Historical Publications and Records Commission; the Paperwork Reduction Act; the Merit Systems Protection Board; the E-Government Act; the Office of Government Ethics; and the Office of Special Counsel.

### **WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT**

The Committee will continue to examine instances of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement of the activities of the federal government, with an emphasis on spending. Although the Government Accountability Office (GAO), inspectors general, and whistleblowers raise concerns about waste in federal spending, the executive branch and Congress often fail to adequately address such issues. The Committee's oversight will cover all federal government departments, agencies, and programs with an eye toward solutions for eliminating wasteful spending and abuse of authority. The following sections address specific areas in which the Committee has an opportunity to address wasteful spending. Furthermore, the

Committee will offer targeted legislative proposals that proactively address identified waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

#### OPEN GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

The Committee will continue to advocate for technological solutions to increase transparency throughout the government. The Committee will seek to ensure that the federal government's information—with a few well-defined exceptions, such as national security information—is available online and formatted in ways that facilitate easy access and analysis. The Committee will evaluate possible legislation to set policy goals for technology-driven transparency for program performance, regulatory materials, and legislative documents.

In 2016, Congress passed S. 337, the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, Pub. L. 114–185. In the 115th Congress, the Committee will work to oversee implementation of this Act, and to ensure timely and effective implementation.

The Committee will also examine the implementation of other open government laws, such as the Presidential Records Act, the Federal Records Act, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and consider whether any statutory mandates may impede public access to information.

The Committee will continue to investigate the persistent challenges and failures associated with the preservation of presidential and federal records, as required by law. Dating back to the Clinton Administration, changes in technology have challenged each subsequent administration's ability to capture, manage, and preserve the growing and diverse volume of electronic records. Despite new policies intended to improve transparency, concerns have been raised that problems remain. The Committee intends to examine the challenges created by the changing landscape of digital communication, including the use of personal email and social media for government business.

In 2014, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) was signed into law. The DATA Act, if effectively implemented, will transform federal spending transparency by providing program and activity level spending information. The Committee will continue oversight conducted in the 114th Congress and oversee implementation efforts by the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Treasury.

The Committee will continue to monitor implementation of the Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act, Pub. L. 114–40, including transmission of the Commission's final report which is due in Fall 2017.

#### CYBERSECURITY

Under the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA), which Congress updated in December 2014, and the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (FCEA), federal agencies are required to implement a number of security controls on their information systems.

In July 2016 the Committee sent a letter to 26 of the largest federal agencies and the White House inquiring about their compliance with FISMA and FCEA, including overdue reports on cyberse-

curity. The Committee will continue to focus its oversight efforts on the state of cybersecurity at federal agencies, contractors, and other entities in the 115th Congress.

The Committee will also continue its oversight of federal agencies' policies and regulations affecting cybersecurity technologies and practices. This includes federal and state law enforcement policy towards the use of strong-encryption in and on information technology devices and applications.

Additionally, the Committee will examine the role and responsibility of the federal government in global internet governance, specifically regarding the effect of data protection laws on U.S. economic interests. The Committee will continue its oversight of the development of U.S. policy towards deterring international actors from engaging in unlawful hacking or other cyber activities that fall outside international norms of behavior.

After a year-long investigation into the data breaches at the Office of Personnel Management in 2014 and 2015, majority staff of the Committee produced a report that included findings and recommendations to improve federal cybersecurity, incident response, and IT acquisition. The minority staff of the Committee also produced a memorandum to minority members of the Committee that included findings and recommendations on the data breaches. The Committee's oversight of IT management and cybersecurity will include an emphasis on the report's recommendations, specifically, a zero-trust cybersecurity posture, the role of the Chief Information Officer in IT security, and the transition of background investigations to the new National Background Investigations Bureau and IT security responsibility for background investigation data to the Department of Defense.

#### SECURITY CLEARANCES/NATIONAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

On January 22, 2016, the White House announced the creation of the National Background Investigations Bureau (NBIB), which absorbs the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) existing Federal Investigative Services, and transfers to the Department of Defense (DOD) responsibility for the design, development, security, and operation of the background investigations information technology systems.<sup>3</sup> NBIB officially began operating on October 1, 2016, with a mandate to make the security clearance process run more efficiently and securely. However, the most recent progress report since then, issued in December by the Performance Accountability Council, showed background investigation times increasing, a trend consistent throughout 2016. In addition, President Obama issued Executive Order 13764 on January 17, 2017, regarding background investigations for federal employees and contractors. Structural concerns also remain regarding communications between the DOD, NBIB, DOJ, FBI, and OPM. DOD is charged with protecting and administering NBIB's information technology systems, but the precise lines of authority and responsibility between the various agencies is not always clear. In the 115th Congress, the

<sup>3</sup>White House, Press Release, *The Way Forward for Federal Background Investigations* (Jan. 22, 2016), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/01/22/way-forward-federal-background-investigations>.

Committee will continue its examination of the security clearance and suitability review process and NBIB, including the effectiveness of operations during transition, plans for reforming the background investigations system, and cybersecurity at NBIB.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

Federal agencies spent over \$81 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 buying, operating, and maintaining information technology (IT) products, services, and systems. Many of these systems fail to deliver the productivity gains expected, or worse, simply fail. In addition, the federal government spends over 75 percent of this IT funding on Operations & Maintenance (O&M) in part because of the substantial amount of legacy IT on which federal agencies rely. Legacy IT is a significant area of both wasteful spending and security vulnerabilities.

The Committee will review the federal government's IT acquisition and management policies to ensure that taxpayers are getting the maximum return for their money. The Committee will closely monitor the executive branch's efforts to stop IT projects that are not on target, streamline those that are wasteful, and work to ensure that inefficient legacy systems are decommissioned.

The Committee will conduct IT acquisition oversight and specifically monitor agencies' implementation of the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA). The Act provides an important tool to help agencies manage and acquire IT. As part of this oversight effort, the Committee will continue to issue FITARA Scorecards approximately every six months to assess agencies' implementation of the law. The Scorecard measures performance of FITARA-related activities, such as agencies efforts to assess risk in IT investments, IT budget savings, use of incremental development in software acquisition and consolidation of data centers.

The Committee will look broadly at ways technology can improve governmental processes. In particular, the Committee will focus on the need to transition from outdated legacy systems to newer and more efficient systems—such as those that utilize cloud computing and other technologies—to drive savings. The Committee will be reviewing the status of agency modernization efforts by continuing inquiries related to inventory of legacy IT systems and outdated and unsupported operating systems and software. In addition, the Committee will consider legislative options to incentivize agencies to modernize IT by allowing agencies to reinvest savings realized through modernization. The Committee will also continue to assess the progress of federal IT investments and shine light on underperforming programs and assets.

Changes in technology present government agencies with new possibilities and new challenges. The Committee will continue to monitor for agency misuse of technology and identify areas for improved oversight. For example, given the prominence of cloud computing in efforts to modernize federal IT systems, the Committee will continue its oversight of the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) to ensure federal agencies are able to quickly adopt secure cloud based solutions.

The Committee will review the effect of federal IT mandates under laws such as the Federal Information Security Management

Act (FISMA), the E-Government Act of 2002, and the Clinger-Cohen Act. The Committee will seek input from government employees on the front lines of acquisition and implementation to determine whether these mandates have improved data security, public access, and IT enterprise planning, and at what cost.

The Committee will also closely follow the implementation of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act).

#### E-GOVERNMENT ACT

In the 115th Congress, the Committee will work to enact needed authorizations and reforms for programs in its jurisdiction with lapsed authorizations. Included in the Committee's list of expired authorizations are portions of the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-347:

- General Services Administration (GSA) E-Government Fund;
- GSA programs to maintain, improve, and promote an integrated federal internet portal for public access to government information and services;
- OMB coordinated program to develop and maintain a government-wide repository and website about federal government research and development;
- GSA program to study best practices at community technology centers, to develop and disseminate online tutorials, and promote community technology centers generally;
- GSA program to develop and maintain common protocols for geographic information systems;
- OMB coordinated program to ensure government-wide information security; and
- OMB, Office of Electronic Government, for management and promotion of electronic government services.

The Committee will also consider:

- Section 834, Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative (expires October 1, 2018);
- Section 832, Enhanced Transparency and Improved Risk Management (expires December 19, 2019); and
- Section 833, Portfolio Review (expires December 19, 2019).

#### PRIVACY IN A DIGITAL AGE

Technological innovations are supplying federal agencies with increasing information about the lives of individual citizens. The Committee will broadly investigate whether the protections provided by privacy laws and the Fourth Amendment are sufficient to protect an individual's privacy in the digital age, with an emphasis on access to geolocation data.

The FBI currently keeps its own database with approximately 21 million photographs, as well as having access to millions of state driver's license photos. The Committee will monitor and conduct oversight of the FBI's use of facial recognition technology and the use of facial recognition technology by other law enforcement agencies.

The increasing use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) presents concerns over the current regulations establishing authority over the airspace above a person's property. The Committee will exam-

ine the privacy and regulatory issues surrounding the intersection of UAS and airspace rights and law.

In 2016, OMB issued a memo to heads of executive departments and agencies to reassess the structure and resources of its privacy programs. The Committee will conduct oversight of federal agency chief privacy officers to assess the structure and resources of agencies' privacy programs.

The Committee will also examine and evaluate agency privacy and security practices to ensure protection of confidential data including personally identifiable information.

#### EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

The Committee, which is responsible for oversight across the government, is uniquely situated to bring together multiple federal agencies that have (or claim to have) regulatory authority over a particular field or technology. Generally, the Committee's goal is ensuring regulators do not place undue or impractical burdens on new technologies, such as conflicting or duplicative regulations.

The Committee will examine the 20th-century regulatory state and structure to identify potential ways of either adjusting or abandoning laws and regulations that are outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective in the digital age.

The Committee will also examine specific new technologies and their potential benefits and risks, such as augmented reality, artificial intelligence, facial recognition, autonomous delivery vehicles, and quantum computing.

#### FEDERAL REGULATION AND THE REGULATORY PROCESS

While some federal regulations are necessary to effectively implement the laws that Congress passes to protect health, consumers, and the environment, federal regulations can also impose significant and unnecessary burdens on regulated industry. The Committee will place special emphasis on oversight of the federal regulatory process to ensure that federal regulators work to minimize unnecessary burdens on small businesses, job creation, economic growth, and competitiveness in the global marketplace while maintaining protections for the American people.

The Committee will evaluate rulemakings to ensure that they do not exceed their authority and adhere to the requirements embodied in statutes. Regulators have an obligation to develop rules in an open and transparent manner and provide adequate time for the public to participate in a meaningful way. Therefore, the Committee will scrutinize practices not subject to typical rulemaking requirements, such as the issuance of guidance documents, interim final rulemakings, and settlement agreements, as well as local, state, and federal taxes, fines, fees, and penalties.

In addition, the Committee will focus on the role of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in agency rulemakings to ensure that it carries out its regulatory duties in a timely and transparent manner. The Committee will also evaluate OIRA's statutory role relating to the lapsed authorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Committee will seek to define OIRA's role regarding oversight and approval of the agency information collections processes.

Finally, the Committee will examine the effect of unfunded mandates on state and local governments and private entities, and explore ways to potentially enhance the effectiveness of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

#### HEALTH CARE AND ENTITLEMENTS

The Committee will identify waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government entitlement programs. The Committee will conduct oversight related to the budgetary and economic effect of America's entitlement programs as well as options that would increase choice, access, and quality in health care markets and lower the cost of health care. The Committee will also examine the increase in federal entitlement programs, with a focus on waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement within those programs.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Specifically, the Committee will focus on bringing transparency to the federal government's increased role in health care markets, with a focus on determining the effect of policies on consumer choice and insurance premiums. The Committee will continue to closely examine regulations promulgated under new PPACA authorities, and other executive branch actions, to ensure that they are consistent with the text and intent of the law. The Committee will continue to review health care policy, procedures, and practices at the federal, state, and local level, in particular potential new policies that could change the PPACA. Specifically, the Committee will examine the potential effects of partial or complete PPACA repeal on the employer-sponsored insurance market, the individual and small group insurance markets, and other federal health care programs, including Medicare and Medicaid. The Committee will also conduct oversight of any plans or proposals to replace the PPACA and will oversee implementation of any replacement to the legislation. The Committee will focus on how partial or complete repeal of the PPACA, and the implementation of any proposed replacement plans, will affect the availability, cost, and quality of insurance coverage for all Americans. The Committee will remain vigilant to recover misallocated or unused funds under remaining PPACA authorities.

The Committee will also conduct oversight of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with a focus on ensuring that FDA properly evaluates the safety of drugs and medical devices while also promoting competition and enhancing transparency. The Committee will examine the causes and effects of critical pharmaceutical drug shortages, recent increases in the price of drugs, and the policies and procedures in place to protect the public from the outbreak of dangerous or deadly diseases.

#### DRUG POLICY AND SAFETY

The Committee will continue to work toward the reauthorization of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Congress last authorized ONDCP in 2006, and the authorization expired at the end of 2010. Since its authorization lapsed, ONDCP has continued to receive appropriations each year. The Committee held a reauthorization hearing in December 2015, which examined potential

obstacles to reauthorization. ONDCP's proposed statutory changes for its reauthorization center on expanding ONDCP's work in demand reduction. For example, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas or "HIDTA" program currently focuses more on drug supply reduction, seeking to eliminate both drug trafficking and production throughout the United States.

#### THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

As the authorizer of the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Committee will continue to support its mission. In addition, and as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(1)(A), the Committee will continue to receive and examine GAO reports and submit to the House such recommendations as it considers necessary or desirable in connection with the subject matter of the reports.

In February 2017, the GAO will issue its biennial "High Risk List" report, which identifies government programs that are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. The Committee will provide ongoing oversight of agencies and programs included on the High Risk List by holding hearings, meeting with agency officials responsible for included programs, and monitoring agencies' corrective plans and actions.

In April 2017, the GAO will issue its annual report on opportunities to reduce fragmentation, overlap, and duplication and realize financial benefits in the federal government. The Committee will hold hearings on the report and will continue to monitor GAO's findings to determine areas of federal activity that are duplicative and inefficient. The Committee will also provide particular attention to duplicative items that GAO also includes on its "high priority recommendations" list.

The Committee will consider reforms related to GAO's function of providing legal opinions to Congress on agency Anti-Deficiency Act (ADA) allegations. Generally, the ADA prohibits federal agencies from accepting gratuitous services from contractors.

Finally, the Committee will monitor implementation of GAO congressional protocols and propose revisions as appropriate.

#### FINANCIAL SECTOR AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Committee will conduct oversight of the financial sector, focusing on those regulatory agencies at the heart of the financial crisis and those agencies created, or that saw their powers expanded by the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010. The Committee will monitor financial regulators' management, technological initiatives, and rulemaking, with a view towards promoting capital formation, predictable and efficient markets, and investor and consumer protection.

The Committee will monitor the work of the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) and the Office of Financial Research (OFR), including the "systemically important financial institution" designation process.

Key topics for oversight include the need for technology-driven transparency in financial regulatory filings so that markets can quickly digest crucial information, management, and communications challenges at key agencies, including the Securities and Ex-

change Commission (SEC), and the continued implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act.

The Committee will conduct oversight of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and their regulator, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). The Committee will further explore potential risks to taxpayers associated with Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and government housing policies, and will work to ensure that additional taxpayer money is spent efficiently and effectively. The Committee will also conduct oversight to ensure that FHFA is implementing policies that protect homeowners from abusive mortgage origination and servicing practices and that maximize assistance to homeowners, in accordance with federal statutes.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Reserve, including its use of non-traditional quantitative easing techniques, potential financial risks associated with its growing portfolio of assets, and the effectiveness of its regulatory procedures.

The Committee will continue to monitor the SEC's implementation of the JOBS Act and Dodd-Frank Act. The Committee will examine the effects of proposed changes to the Dodd-Frank Act.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, focusing on the Bureau's management, budget, operations, rulemakings, enforcement actions, and its success in protecting consumers from improper and abusive financial products. The Committee will examine any proposals to change operational structure, funding mechanisms, or enforcement authorities of the Bureau.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and review the actions it took in monitoring financial fraud with respect to third-party payment processors.

The Committee will examine consumer protection efforts across the federal government. As a part of this oversight, the Committee will examine the regulatory and enforcement actions of the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### INSPECTORS GENERAL

On December 16, 2016, the Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016, Pub. L. 114-317, was signed into law. The bipartisan bill clarifies that inspectors general have complete and timely access to agency documents and creates a number of structural reforms to coordinate and oversee the activities of the various inspectors general. The bill also mandates reporting by the inspectors general to Congress regarding their unimplemented recommendations to agencies and the number of criminal referrals made to the Department of Justice.

The Committee will continue to work closely with the inspectors general to ensure they have the tools needed to perform their important oversight work. With the new reporting requirements on unimplemented recommendations, the Committee intends to help inspectors general demand accountability from their respective agencies. The new reporting requirements will also allow the Committee to have better oversight of how the Department of Justice

is choosing to respond to criminal referrals from offices of inspectors general.

The Committee will continue to encourage that inspector general vacancies be filled and work to highlight the importance of filling these positions.

As in previous congresses, the Committee will send a survey to all 70-plus inspectors general to obtain data on their operations.

#### WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

The Committee will maintain its efforts related to the protection of whistleblowers in the federal government. This focus has widespread bipartisan support in Congress, and the Committee considers it a significant priority.

The Committee has legislative jurisdiction over federal workforce measures, including those to protect whistleblowers and prevent retaliation. In addition to legislation already passed out of the House this Congress to reauthorize the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) and improve its effectiveness, the Committee will pursue further legislation to ensure the ability of OSC, the Merit Systems Protection Board, and the U.S. court system to protect whistleblowers. The Committee will also continue to pursue legislation to improve the Department of Justice's processes for responding to complaints of whistleblower retaliation in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Committee is committed to encouraging a culture throughout the federal government of protecting whistleblowers, and will work to encourage best practices to prevent retaliation. To that end, the Committee will continue to work closely with OSC, the agency tasked with policing whistleblower retaliation in the federal government. The Committee will also work closely with Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's Whistleblower Ombudsman Working Group, created as a result of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012's requirement that each inspector general appoint a whistleblower ombudsman. In addition to supporting these entities, the Committee will also conduct oversight of them when necessary to ensure they are working as effectively as possible.

The Committee will continue to work directly with whistleblowers in the federal government, including those who make disclosures of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement to the Committee. The Committee considers such disclosures an extremely important source for Congressional oversight, aiding the Committee's efforts to ensure transparency and accountability in the federal government. The Committee will continue to advance policies that protect federal employees' rights to communicate directly with Congress and to ensure federal employees are aware of these rights, encouraging other whistleblowers to come forward.

The Committee will examine directives restricting federal employees from communicating freely with Congress, as well as allegations of retaliation or reprisal for communicating with Congress. Numerous laws protect the rights of federal employees and whistleblowers to provide information to Congress, including the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, section 744 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, section 713 of the Consolidated

Appropriations Act of 2016, and 5 U.S.C. section 7211. For more than a century, Congress has protected the rights of federal employees to communicate with Congress about waste, fraud, and abuse in the executive branch.

#### U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL (OSC) REAUTHORIZATION

The mission of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is to: (1) safeguard the merit system by protecting federal employees from prohibited personnel practices, especially reprisal from whistleblowing; (2) provide employees a mechanism for disclosing wrongdoing in government agencies; (3) enforce and provide advice on the Hatch Act, which restricts political activity by government employees; and (4) enforce employment rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 for federal employees who serve or have served in the uniformed services. The Committee conducts ongoing oversight of OSC, and also interacts with the agency frequently in the protection of whistleblowers.

OSC's last reauthorization, passed in 2002, covered FY 2003 through FY 2007, and lapsed at the end of that period. In the 114th Congress, the Committee approved and the House passed H.R. 4639, the Thoroughly Investigating Retaliation Against Whistleblowers Act. Introduced by Representative Rod Blum (R-IA), the bill would have reauthorized OSC for a period of five years. In the 115th Congress, Representative Blum reintroduced the bill as H.R. 69, which the House voted to approve on January 4, 2017. H.R. 69 would reauthorize OSC from FY 2017 to FY 2021.

#### OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

The Committee will continue its oversight and support of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE). The agency's mandate is to ensure uniformity across executive branch ethics programs by advising on and interpreting ethics laws, policies, and training. Last Congress, the Committee examined public comments by OGE regarding ongoing ethics issues which OGE had yet to fully investigate. The Committee will continue to ensure OGE operates in a manner consistent with its mission of providing clear, impartial ethics guidance to federal agencies.

The Committee will also consider reauthorization of OGE, as well as substantive and procedural reforms to improve its effectiveness. OGE's statutory authorization lapsed in 2007, and it has asked the Committee to begin the reauthorization process.

#### FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Committee will examine federal financial management. This review will include compliance with financial management and accounting laws, as well as the security and reliability of federal financial systems. The Committee will also focus on agency efforts to reduce improper payments and achieve an unqualified audit opinion for the federal government.

Financial management reforms in 1990 required all federal agencies to conduct financial audits and for GAO to audit the consolidated financial statements of the federal government. To date, GAO has not been able to issue an audit opinion. In the 2016 state-

ment which included the financial statements as of and for FY 2015 and FY 2016, GAO identified three reasons for not issuing an opinion: (1) the federal government cannot account for and reconcile intra-governmental financial activity between federal entities; (2) the Department of the Treasury has not developed an effective process for preparing the consolidated statements; and (3) the Department of Defense has yet to produce auditable financial statements.

The size of DOD's budget accounts for a significant portion of government spending and, as a result, the United States has never produced an audit of its financial statements. The Committee will focus on overseeing DOD's financial management processes and its progress towards becoming auditable.

The Committee will also continue to investigate improper payments distributed by federal agencies. Under the 2002 Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA), federal agencies are required to annually review all programs and activities to identify those entities susceptible to significant improper payments. For FY 2015, improper payments totaled \$137 billion.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING

Controlling federal government contract spending is critically important. The federal government buys a wide variety of goods and services, from pens to sophisticated weapons systems to cybersecurity tools and services. In FY 2016, the federal government spent \$464 billion on contracting, and in FY 2015, the government spent \$431 billion. More than half of federal contract spending is on services. While more recently contract spending has declined—compared to \$540 billion in contract spending in FY 2008—there is much oversight work to do in this area. Consequently, the Committee will investigate waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement and consider opportunities for acquisition reform.

The Committee will conduct oversight of agency contracting to ensure there is appropriate management of taxpayer funds and agencies are effectively using acquisition strategies to achieve policy goals. Such policy goals include effective deployment of cyber tools, timely processing of disability benefits, and accurate and timely provision of citizen services. Further, the Committee will conduct oversight that includes a focus on contract management and identify areas where the government has not effectively optimized commercial best practices. The Committee will also monitor the Administration's use of civil and criminal remedies to address wrongdoing and will promote transparency at the point of contract award and throughout the life cycle of federal contracts to prevent waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

The Committee will also focus on oversight of IT acquisition because far too many federal IT investments fail or incur cost overruns and schedule slippages and do not contribute to mission objectives. As a result of these failures in IT acquisition, the GAO designated "Improving the Management of IT Acquisitions and Operations" as high risk in February 2015.

The Committee oversight and acquisition reform objectives will be focused on: (1) ensuring the federal government acquisition process reflects commercial best practices, to the extent practicable; (2)

leveraging public and private sector capacity to provide goods and services efficiently; and (3) encouraging innovation and modernization of goods and services with streamlined contract processes and limited government-unique requirements.

#### SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT

The federal government spends almost \$1 trillion on contracts and grants annually. Despite congressional oversight efforts, GAO has determined that there are serious weaknesses in the suspension and debarment programs of numerous agencies. This has resulted in the awarding of federal funds to companies, organizations and individuals barred from receiving such funds, including those with criminal convictions, federal tax liabilities, or ties to terrorist organizations. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight to promote efficiency, transparency, and accountability related to suspension and debarment, to include improvements to managing the government-wide database of suspended and disbarred contractors.

#### GOVERNMENTAL REORGANIZATIONS

As required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(1)(B), the Committee will continue to evaluate the effects of laws enacted to reorganize the legislative and executive branches of the Government.

#### GRANT REFORM

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of federal grants, including grant programs and activities. The Committee will examine the efficiency, fairness, and transparency of the grant making process, and evaluate opportunities to reform and streamline the grant making process across the federal government. The Committee's review will extend to emergency and non-emergency grant making, including disaster grant making and processes employed to coordinate recovery between the federal government and states. The Committee will also examine Department of Justice grants and other law enforcement assistance programs, such as the Department of Defense's 1033 program.

#### GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Committee will review the District of Columbia's use of federal dollars to fund programs such as school choice, as well as other District initiatives. The Committee will work to reauthorize both the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program, which provides grants to District residents attending colleges and universities across the country, and the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), which provides grants to District students to expand school choice. In addition, the Committee will review District expenditures on local programs to ensure that the expenditures are in line with Congressional mandates and federal law. The Committee will also work to strengthen Congress's oversight of the District and exercise its plenary legislative authority granted by the Constitution.

#### METRO—WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Committee will continue its oversight of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). Despite a number

of programs aimed at bringing the transit system back into a state of good repair, the system continues to experience delays and infrastructure breakdowns. The Committee will continue to hold WMATA accountable for operational effectiveness and safety. The Committee will also continue to conduct oversight of WMATA's financial status to ensure good stewardship of federal funds.

#### 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS

The cost of the decennial census has continued to rise decade after decade. For example, the total cost for the 2000 census was \$9.4 billion. By the time of the 2010 census, the cost for administering the census had risen to \$12.3 billion. For the 2020 census, the Bureau estimates a cost of more than \$17 billion.<sup>4</sup> The Committee is closely monitoring the development of the Census—including its content, technology development (including effectiveness and related security), and eventual deployment.

Notably, beginning in August 2017, the Census Bureau will conduct its End-to-End Test to verify and validate the operations, procedures, systems, and field infrastructure it will use in the 2020 decennial census. This is a key milestone in the eventual deployment of the 2020 decennial census. Subsequently, the Committee will hold hearings, meet with Bureau officials, and monitor developments to help ensure the Bureau meets data accuracy goals while holding down costs.

#### NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND FEDERAL RECORDS

The Committee will continue its oversight and support of the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) management of government records and the procedures NARA is putting in place to ensure government-wide implementation of the Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014, Pub. L. 113–187, including the treatment of records generated by new technologies, including social media. The Committee will also examine NARA's recommended procedures and agency adoption of those procedures to ensure the electronic capture and archival of records created electronically.

The Committee will examine the Presidential Library system, specifically looking at the governance of the Presidential Libraries, how the foundations interact with NARA, and how the foundations and NARA coordinate to fulfill the mission of the Presidential Library system.

The Committee will also examine the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, housed within NARA. The Commission, which provides grants to organizations to support the preservation and dissemination of historical publications and records, still receives dedicated funding. The Commission has operated without authorization since FY 2009.

#### THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

As the authorizer of civil service rules under Title 5 of the United States Code, the Committee will conduct oversight to ensure the federal workforce is operating efficiently and effectively

<sup>4</sup> 2020 Census Operational Plan (Nov. 2015).

and as Congress intended. As part of these standing efforts, the Committee will continue oversight of federal employee morale and issues contributing to such morale, as informed by the annual Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. The Committee will also continue work initiated in the 114th Congress to examine agencies' tables of penalties to help identify areas that agency disciplinary guidelines could be improved.

In addition, as the nation nears the 40th anniversary of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-454, the Committee will also undertake a comprehensive review of the civil service system reform. Modernizing the civil service system is critical to better serving the federal workforce and the American taxpayers it serves. The hiring process must be competitive, merit-based, technology-based, and conducted in a cost-effective manner. In addition, a review of the General Schedule and occupational families and job series should be conducted to determine whether and how it can be improved and overhauled to better entice talented young people into the government and reward high performers. The Committee will examine other areas for potential improvement, including the federal retirement system, skills gaps, accountability and removal processes, labor management, and reform of the Senior Executive Service (SES).

#### UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

The United States Postal Service (USPS) lost \$5.6 billion in FY 2016 and continues to face systemic liquidity challenges as mail volume continues to decline. Additionally, USPS currently stands in default on \$33.9 billion in payments to the U.S. Treasury to fund the costs of retiree health care. GAO added USPS's financial condition to its high-risk list in 2009 and, since then, has been a major proponent of reform. GAO believes that major restructuring is necessary and not doing so will increase the risk that taxpayers and the U.S. Treasury will have to provide financial relief.

Since FY 2006, USPS mail volume has declined by 28 percent, with the greatest decline in its most profitable product, First-Class Mail. Persistent, ongoing declines in mail volume are now projected for the near future as electronic communication increasingly supplants paper-based communication. While some of these losses are offset by growth in package delivery, including 14 percent growth during FY 2016, the Committee plans to continue examining near-term risks to USPS of the possible diversion of significant portions of package volume to new competitors and whether USPS's financial systems properly account for package delivery cost.

The Committee will examine actions and plans USPS is taking to preserve universal service, avoid insolvency, improve financial management, and prevent a taxpayer bailout. The Committee will also pursue the enactment of substantive postal reform legislation, building on reform bills the Committee reported during the 114th Congress.

Additionally, the Committee will continue to examine the security of international mail coming into the United States through USPS. Currently, inbound international mail transported by private carriers is held to heightened security standards when compared to inbound international mail transported by USPS. As a re-

sult, international drug traffickers and other criminal enterprises have targeted USPS as a preferred option to transport contraband into the United States. Specifically, the Committee will seek to identify means to improve the security of incoming mail within the framework of the Universal Postal Union treaty governing the international exchange of mail.

#### HOMELAND SECURITY

The creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) required one of the largest consolidations of federal agencies in history. The Department brought together 22 different government offices, agencies, and components. Though the Department has made progress in integrating these various agencies, there is still room to improve efficiency and responsiveness. The Committee's wide oversight jurisdiction and legislative jurisdiction over executive branch reorganizations uniquely positions it to conduct oversight across the Department. The Committee will review the operations, management, and decision-making at DHS. The Committee will evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of homeland security strategy, laws, initiatives, and technology. In particular, the Committee will focus on aviation, rail, port, and transit infrastructure; immigration and border security; federal law enforcement agencies; facilities at risk; federal funding interaction with local responders; and efforts to strengthen the U.S. public health system.

The Committee will also review the issuance of visas and passports and the operations of U.S. consulates, as well as other border control and security identification issues.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the federal government's emergency management capabilities to ensure that lessons learned from previous disasters—such as the need for improved planning and execution, communications operability, and coordination between all levels of government and within the federal government—are part of federal agency reform efforts.

The Committee will also conduct oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure it is prepared to handle domestic emergencies.

The Committee will conduct oversight of DHS's federal law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Secret Service. The Committee will examine whether funding is adequate to support the Secret Service in restoring staffing to required levels in all categories of employment. The Committee will continue to monitor the effect of excessive unpaid overtime on hiring, attrition, and morale.

The Committee will conduct oversight of Executive Branch directives and Executive Orders to ensure that they do not exceed their legal authority and that they adhere to the requirements of the U.S. Constitution and federal law. The Committee will also examine directives and executive orders to assess their effects.

The Committee will closely examine the effect of any federal action. The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure federal law upholds the U.S. Constitution. The Committee will monitor the enforcement of the nation's immigration laws for instances of abuse and mismanagement.

## NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

The Committee's interagency jurisdiction allows for the examination of the effectiveness, efficiency, and cooperation of all U.S. government agencies and departments with a role in national security and foreign operations. The Committee will conduct oversight of policies, procedures, and programs affecting the safety and security of U.S. government personnel and facilities abroad. The Committee's oversight will include, but not be limited to, U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Defense efforts to protect embassy personnel and property. In addition, the Committee will study the relationship between the United States and international organizations of which the United States is a member, as required by House Rule X, clause 4 (c)(1)(C).

The Committee's oversight of U.S. diplomatic, military, and development efforts within the CENTCOM area of responsibility will include investigations of the training and equipping of the Afghan National Security Forces; the efficiency and accountability of a variety of development and reconstruction efforts, including the use of private contractors; the capacity of various U.S. Government agencies and departments to carry on activities in Afghanistan; and the State Department's diplomatic mission in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Committee will identify ways to reform the interagency process and eliminate waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement among the various U.S. national security agencies, departments, and foreign aid organizations. The Committee's oversight will include, but not be limited to a review of U.S. military combatant commands, especially AFRICOM, SOUTHCOM, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Institute of Peace, and the State Department. In particular, the Committee will monitor the status of reconstruction efforts in Haiti.

The Committee will conduct oversight of U.S. diplomatic, military, and development efforts to address the issue of global terrorism both in the short-term and long-term. The Committee's oversight will include whether the United States is maximizing the use of all elements of the national security power and how anti-terrorism efforts, such as the detention and trial of unlawful enemy combatants, are coordinated with other important U.S. national security interests and the rule of law. The Committee's review will include the international standing of the United States, humanitarian assistance, development programs, and public diplomacy efforts.

The Committee will evaluate U.S. vulnerability to global energy supply disruptions. The scope of the Committee's oversight will include the extent to which supply diversification through the production of domestic renewable and non-renewable resources is an adequate and cost-effective solution for the Defense Department's national security objectives.

The Committee will continue oversight of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' care and management of veterans' needs. The Committee will examine the large backlog of veterans' benefit claims and efforts to streamline the claims process, as well as veteran transitional issues.

The Committee will continue to oversee and assess the efforts of the United States to secure and protect human rights and religious freedom throughout the world. The Committee will continue to review whether the executive branch is acting in accordance with U.S. national security interests, constitutional parameters, international treaty obligations, and human rights standards.

The Committee will identify ways to eliminate waste and promote accountability and effectiveness in U.S. Department of Defense efforts, including in its use of private contractors.

#### TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Committee will examine the country's aging infrastructure. It will address ways to modernize the way Americans move by reviewing the efficiency of national transportation and infrastructure projects and by identifying and preventing waste. Oversight in this area will include highway and airport redevelopment projects, and fixed rail system improvements.

Additionally, the Committee will examine high speed rail developments and concepts throughout the country, as well as overseas, to help determine the most feasible and cost-effective way to improve mass transit.

The Committee will also consider the role technology plays in advancing commercial and private travel. Oversight in this area will include looking into laws, regulations, and policies related to unmanned aerial vehicles and self-driving cars, for example. The Committee will also examine the status of our nation's merchant marine, including the current condition of the ocean-going fleet in the foreign trade.

#### TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Committee will continue its oversight of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) this Congress. In the 114th Congress, the Committee's investigative efforts highlighted systemic management challenges, sexual misconduct, abuse of directed reassignments, whistleblower retaliation, and various security-related concerns. Moving forward, the Committee will also evaluate TSA's internal reorganization and workforce issues to identify potential areas for reform.

#### ENERGY

The United States continues to be a world leader in energy production. It is crucial that the executive branch foster economic growth and security in this industry. With this goal in mind, the Committee will continue to examine the state of U.S. energy production and how it intersects with the administrative regulatory regime.

This will include looking at the treatment of advanced production techniques, such as hydraulic fracturing, that have led to this boon. In addition, the Committee will examine the transportation infrastructure used for these supplies, such as oil and gas pipelines and coal export facilities. Insufficient capacity has led to bottlenecks, forcing producers to transport domestic oil and gas by inefficient means, such as rail and truck. The Committee will examine the

pipeline permitting process, which involves agencies as varied as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of State, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Committee will also consider the development of coal export facilities.

The Committee will also continue its broad investigation of the Department of Energy. This includes the Department's loan guarantee programs, the Office of Environmental Management, the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the agency's grants program for renewable energy.

#### ENVIRONMENT

The Committee will continue to take an active role in overseeing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), specifically its implementation of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. The Committee will conduct this oversight with a focus on the effects on the consumer, federal interaction with state management processes, constitutionality, agency process, adequate economic analysis of proposed rules, and cumulative impact analysis. Further, the Committee will examine the effects these rules have on the health, safety, and economic well-being of American families, job creation, energy security, electricity generation, and the environment.

The Committee will carry on its oversight of the EPA's implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard and its effect on consumers and businesses.

Additionally, the Committee will continue to monitor the Chemical Safety & Hazards Investigation Board, specifically its management, information sharing with other agencies, ability to retain employees, and investigative capabilities. It will also examine ideas for reform to ensure that the federal government is best able to carry out the goals and functions charged to the board.

#### PUBLIC LANDS & PUBLIC LAND AGENCIES

The federal government owns roughly 28 percent of the 2.27 billion acres of land in the United States, with the vast majority concentrated in western states. The Committee will continue its broad study of federal land management, maintaining its focus on maintenance priorities, effects on states, return on investment, and the effect of litigation.

As part of this oversight of land management, the Committee will examine opportunities for reform of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Committee will consider options to increase local and state authority in the monument designation process. The Committee will also review the suitability and selection procedure for previous designations.

The Committee will also continue oversight of the Department of the Interior's regulatory responsibilities. The focus will be the effect of the Department's regulatory and policy agenda and how these laws affect private landowners, small businesses, public land users, and the environment.

The Committee will also generally review the public land agencies' permitting and leasing programs to ensure fair application and that federal lands are open to multiple uses. This will focus on energy leasing projects, recreational permits, and the commercial permitting process.

Additionally, the Committee will conduct further examination of the Department of the Interior's implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to ensure that listings are made with the goal of recovering species and removing them from the list. Areas of ESA focus will include the litigation process, scientific independence and integrity, cost of compliance, and transparency of the listing process, including data used in decision making.

#### FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY

The Committee will oversee implementation of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016, Pub. L. 114-287, which was enacted on December 16, 2016. This key law establishes the Public Buildings Reform Board, a six-year board for identifying opportunities for cost savings and deficit reduction by reducing the federal government's inventory of civilian real property.

The Committee will also work to oversee implementation of the Federal Property Management Reform Act of 2016, Pub. L. 114-318, which codifies the Federal Real Property Council and increases reporting requirements related to real property for federal agencies.

#### PUBLIC HOUSING

The Committee will examine overall costs associated with public housing throughout the country and territories, as well as the significant unmet need for public housing in the United States. Addressing management concerns within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's public housing and low-income rental assistance programs is a priority for the Committee.

#### STATE AND LOCAL AFFAIRS

The Committee will conduct oversight of the relationship between the federal government and states and municipalities, as required by House Rule X, clause 4 (c)(1)(C). Key issues involve unfunded mandates, grants, and consultation with state and local governments in the federal policy- and rule-making process. The Committee will evaluate how the federal government collects and utilizes information from the state and local level to improve the routine consideration of specialized knowledge, interests, and input of stakeholders.

The Committee will seek to reauthorize the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), which was designed to eliminate the imposition of unfunded federal mandates on state and local governments and strengthen the partnership between the federal government and state, local, and tribal governments. The law directs the Congressional Budget Office to estimate the compliance costs and effect on appropriations for financial assistance programs for certain unfunded mandates on both the public and private sector. The law also directs agencies to produce a written statement analyzing the effects of any rules likely to result in expenditure of \$100 million or more by state, local, or tribal governments, or the private sector, in any single year. Since its lapse in 2005, the Committee has conducted oversight of UMRA's effectiveness and proposals to strengthen the law to help achieve its original goals. To support its

reauthorization, the Committee will continue to examine unfunded mandates and their effect on state and local governments, including an evaluation of specific laws and regulations that place particular weight and strain on state and local resources, as well as proposals to strengthen the underlying law.

The Committee will look to reauthorize the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) to address the increasing administrative burden of compliance with federal paperwork and regulatory requirements. The PRA governs the process of information collection and management by the federal government, and provides the public with the opportunity to comment on information collections. To facilitate this review and the reduction of the information collection burden, the PRA created the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), which also conducts review of significant regulations. The Committee will continue to evaluate ways to improve information collection by agencies and examine how such information would support meaningful analysis and evidence-based rulemaking while ensuring that federal activities do not place an undue burden on innovation and growth. The Committee will also examine how agencies safeguard and manage information.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Trafficking in persons, or human trafficking, is a multi-billion dollar criminal industry that victimizes millions of people annually—both at home and abroad. In the 115th Congress, the Committee will initiate an investigation to move forward the global effort to combat this modern form of slavery. The Committee will work to better understand and expose the processes by which perpetrators facilitate their crimes, and subsequently ensure that federal programs, cutting across multiple agencies and aimed at deterring such activity, are sufficiently effective.

#### FEDERAL TAX ACCOUNTABILITY

In Fiscal Year 2016, the federal government spent \$656 billion on grants and \$464 billion on contracts, for a combined total of \$1.12 trillion. Oversight of these funds is critical. The Committee will also focus on accountability for tax obligations by federal employees, contractors, and grant applicants. This effort will include increased oversight and focus on legislative reform. Oversight will include working with the GAO and inspectors general, and targeted requests to agencies to update the data and statistics highlighting the need for action. Legislative options include requiring contractors, grant applicants, and federal employees to certify they do not have delinquent tax debt and require agencies to refer contractors or grant applicants with delinquent tax debt to agency suspension and debarment officials.

#### FEDERAL FIREARMS

The Committee will continue oversight of federal firearms and ammunition inventory accounting and security. In recent years, a number of media reports highlighted instances whereby federal agencies lost firearms or failed to accurately secure them against theft or loss. The Committee will continue to review agency inven-

tory accounting practices, and to hold accountable agencies that inadequately protect their firearms and ammunition inventories. The Committee will also review agency firearms, munitions, and related equipment purchasing. During the 114th Congress, the Committee held a hearing, which revealed agencies that were incorrectly coding purchases of items as firearms and ammunition. As a result, agencies could not accurately determine the amount spent on firearms, ammunition, and related equipment. Failure to account for the initial purchase of firearms and ammunition can lead to later difficulties in accurately accounting for agency-held inventories of firearms and ammunition.

#### RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD DISABILITY FRAUD

The Committee will continue to investigate the disability program at the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) for potential fraud. The Committee will also work to ensure the RRB is implementing recommendations set forth by its Office of Inspector General.

#### TROUBLED ASSET RELIEF PROGRAM

The Committee will continue its investigation into the Troubled Asset Relief Program's (TARP) Hardest Hit Fund (HHF). In December 2015, the Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) raised a variety of concerns regarding Treasury's management of the HHF Blight Elimination Program. SIGTARP expressed that the HHF Blight Elimination Program is vulnerable to substantial risks of unfair competitive practices and overcharging, potentially leading to fraud, waste and abuse. The Committee will continue its analysis into the management and effectiveness of the HHF Blight Elimination Program.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The Committee will examine the criminal justice system, including arrest and sentencing, incarceration, reentry programming, and support for formerly-incarcerated individuals returning to their communities. The Committee will explore ways the criminal justice system can be improved so that it is targeted, effective, and efficient in its pursuit of public safety while removing unnecessary burdens on individuals returning to their communities after incarceration. The Committee will seek to identify and remove inherent institutional biases, including biases on the basis of race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, and other categories.

On August 18, 2016, the Department of Justice announced its decision to no longer contract with private prisons. The Committee will monitor adherence to this new rule and work to ensure that the Bureau of Prisons better allocates federal resources to the safety of facilities and inmate access to quality rehabilitative services.

# **COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

House Rule X sets forth the legislative jurisdiction of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee while also assigning broad general oversight responsibilities (Appendix A). Rule X also assigns the Committee special oversight responsibility for “reviewing and studying, on a continuing basis, all laws, programs, and Government activities dealing with or involving non-military research and development.” The Committee appreciates the special function entrusted to it and will continue to tackle troubled programs and search for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in non-military research and development programs regardless of where they may be found.

Much of the oversight work of the Committee is carried out by and through the Oversight Subcommittee. However, oversight is conducted by every Subcommittee and the full Committee. All components of the Committee take their oversight mandate seriously and work cooperatively to meet the Committee’s oversight responsibilities.

The following agenda constitutes the authorization and oversight plan of the Science Committee for the 115th Congress. It includes areas which the full committees and the subcommittees expect to conduct reviews, oversight, and investigations. The Committee will address additional issues, events, and plans as they arise. The Committee will consult with other standing committees of the House as necessary.

## **AUTHORIZATIONS**

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology oversees agency budgets totaling over \$40 billion, most of which is focused on research and development (R&D). During the 115th Congress, the Science Committee will review the authorizations of agencies and programs within its jurisdiction and, specifically with regard to lapsed authorizations, determine whether programs should be reauthorized or terminated. Each subcommittee will conduct oversight of the programs and offices within their jurisdiction, including holding hearings and requesting information from the Executive Branch in order to gather the necessary information to support these determinations.

The Committee expects to reauthorize key federal science agencies, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Energy’s (DOE’s) Office of Science, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Oceanic and At-

mospheric Administration's research, data, and weather programs, science and technology at the Department of Homeland Security, and Federal Aviation Administration research and development, through which much of the research benefitting America's economic and national security is performed. The Committee will reauthorize these agencies in a pro-science, fiscally responsible manner.

The Committee began this effort in the 114th Congress with the passage of both H.R. 1806, the "America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015," which authorized NIST, NSF, and the DOE's Office of Science, and H.R. 810, the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015."

The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act was not signed into law but is one of 11 Science Committee bills of which various provisions were included in S. 3084, the "American Innovation and Competitiveness Act," which was signed into law on January 6, 2017. The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act authorized the activities but not spending at NSF, NIST, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and other federal interagency science programs.

In reauthorizing the agencies within the Science Committee's jurisdiction, the Committee seeks to improve accountability and transparency, reduce administrative burdens on researchers, enhance agency oversight, improve research coordination, and reform federal science agency programs to increase the impact of taxpayer-funded research. The Committee will continue its ongoing legislative efforts to reduce the cost of research through efficiency, and eliminate bureaucratic overhead, red-tape, and costly regulations. The Committee also will make certain that research across the federal agencies is not duplicative and that taxpayer resources are used in an efficient and effective manner.

The Committee will ensure that federally funded research conducted through NSF, and all agencies, is in the national interest. Unfortunately, NSF has funded a number of projects that do not meet the highest standards of scientific merit—from climate change musicals to evaluating animal photographs in National Geographic. To make the agency more accountable, the Committee will enforce the original intent of the 1950 NSF Act to require that all grants serve the "national interest."

Last Congress, the president signed into law H.R. 1020, the "STEM Education Act of 2015." The Committee will build off of this progress and will continue its work to improve coordination of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and cyber (STEM) education activities across the Federal government and ensure the American workforce consists of experts in STEM fields. A well-educated and trained high-tech workforce ensures our future economic prosperity. This means motivating more American students to study science, math, computing, and engineering so they will want to pursue these careers.

The Committee seeks to increase support for basic research in the physical sciences. These are the areas with the greatest potential for breakthroughs to new industries and U.S. jobs. America's universities and research institutions carry out federally-funded basic and fundamental scientific research that drives new discov-

eries and innovations—creating new companies, new industries, more private sector jobs, and economic growth and security.

The Committee also seeks to allow contractor operators at DOE national laboratories to work with the private sector more efficiently. The Committee seeks to enable researchers in all 50 states to have access to world-class user facilities, including supercomputers and high intensity light sources.

In regard to the Committee’s jurisdiction over NASA, the Science Committee will reignite America’s pioneering spirit for exploration of new frontiers and worlds through reinvigoration of our space science program with the entrepreneurial drive of commercial incentives and ideas. This includes ensuring that the Space Launch System and Orion programs receive adequate funding to ensure that NASA astronauts are able to explore the cosmos as opposed to having their eyes and feet tied to earth. The Committee will also continue to support the James Webb Space Telescope, the Transitioning Exoplanet Survey Satellite, and the Wide Field Infrared Space Telescope.

## OVERSIGHT

### ENERGY

#### *Department of Energy (DOE)*

- Review and conduct oversight of all energy research, development, and demonstration conducted by the federal government, included but not limited to Department of Energy (“the Department” or DOE) research, development, demonstration and commercial application of energy technology.
- Conduct oversight of all federally owned or operated non-military national laboratories, including but not limited to laboratory management, facilities and research infrastructure, and research priorities.
- Conduct oversight of all federally-sponsored research, development (R&D), demonstration, and commercial application activities that contribute to international agreements entered into by the federal government.
- Review and conduct oversight of all Department of Energy Office of Science activities. For example, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Office of Science programs and will review prioritization across, and management within, its major areas of research. Special attention will also be given to the cost, operation, and maintenance of DOE’s existing and planned major facilities.
- Review and conduct oversight of all research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of energy technology conducted by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). Specifically, the Committee will undertake efforts to improve focus, prioritization, and transparency of EERE programs, and provide close oversight to ensure that programs are managed efficiently, duplication is limited, and funding is allocated appropriately and effectively.
- Review and conduct oversight of all research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of energy technology conducted by the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE). Specifically, the Committee will provide oversight of the nation’s nuclear R&D ac-

tivities, and will examine efforts by DOE, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and industry stakeholders to research, develop, construct, and license advance reactor technology. The Committee will examine how NE can prioritize groundbreaking research and ensure the Department maintains continuing focus on R&D programs that cannot be undertaken by the private sector.

- Review and conduct oversight of all research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of energy technology conducted by the Office of Fossil Energy (FE). For example, the Committee will undertake efforts to improve focus, prioritization, and transparency of FE programs, and provide close oversight to ensure that programs are managed efficiently, duplication is limited, and funding is allocated appropriately and effectively. The Committee will also examine the Office of Fossil laboratory, the National Energy Technology Laboratory, which requires additional oversight due to the unique government owned, government operated management structure at the lab.

- Review and conduct oversight of all research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of energy technology conducted by the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE). Among other efforts, the Committee will undertake efforts to improve focus, prioritization, and transparency of OE programs, and provide close oversight to ensure that programs are managed efficiently, duplication is limited, and funding is allocated appropriately and effectively. The Committee will also focus oversight on the Department's collaborative work with industry in the areas of cybersecurity, smart grid technology, and energy storage.

- Review and conduct oversight of all Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E) programs. Chief among other efforts, the Committee will undertake oversight of ARPA-E program funding and management, examining the appropriate role for and focus of ARPA-E in the context of DOE's numerous other clean energy-focused programs and activities.

- Review and conduct continuing oversight of the DOE Loan Guarantee Program. The Committee will, among other efforts, focus its oversight on program management challenges and ensuring the Department conducts thorough reviews and rigorous financial analysis of the existing loan guarantee portfolio. Oversight will include, but is not limited to, maintaining transparency before Congress, minimizing risk to taxpayers, addressing management problems previously identified by non-partisan organizations, and implementing key recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to improve program management and reduce risk.

- The Committee will continue to examine DOE Contract management practices, including but not limited to potential areas of waste, fraud, and abuse in DOE's contract management.

#### ENVIRONMENT

- Review and conduct oversight of the broad array of programs, both government and private sector, engaged in environmental research and development.

- Conduct oversight and review all activities and functions of the National Weather Service (NWS).

*United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)*

- Review and conduct oversight of the broad array of programs addressing climate change issues across the Federal government to ensure that existing programs are necessary, appropriately focused, effectively coordinated, and properly organized to prevent duplication of efforts and waste taxpayer resources.

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*

- Review and conduct oversight of the funding prioritization and program management challenges related to the NOAA's mission to understand and predict changes in weather, particularly as they relate to severe weather events that threaten life and property.
- Review and conduct oversight of NOAA's satellite programs. These satellites have been plagued with cost overruns, delays, and mismanagement that endanger American lives and property with degraded weather data. The Committee will also continue oversight of NOAA's commercial satellite priorities to ensure that the Agency is taking all necessary steps to protect public safety in the face of government program failures.

*National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)*

- Review and conduct oversight of NASA's efforts to prioritize, plan, and implement Earth science missions within cost and schedule. Particular attention will be paid to programs that exceed cost estimates to ensure they do not adversely impact the development and launch of other NASA priorities. The Committee will also examine the impact of large increases in funding for the Earth Science Directorate relative to funding requested for other science disciplines.

*United States Geological Survey (USGS)*

- Review and conduct oversight of the satellite activities of the USGS, with an emphasis on its LANDSAT program, to ensure continuity of services and implementation of best technologies and commercial partnering.

*Science and R&D at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

- Review and conduct oversight of EPA's management of science and its use of science in the decision making process, including lab management, regulatory science, transparency, and risk assessment. In particular, the Committee will examine how to better integrate science into the Administration's regulatory decision-making process. This includes how EPA uses and manages scientific data to reach its regulatory conclusions.

*Climate Research Activities*

- Review and conduct oversight of the broad array of programs addressing climate change issues across the Federal government to ensure that existing programs are necessary, appropriately focused, effectively coordinated, and properly organized to prevent duplication of efforts and waste taxpayer resources.

## OVERSIGHT

- Conduct oversight to ensure that the Departments and agencies within its jurisdiction follow all applicable authorization acts, appropriation acts, and other congressional directives.
- Conduct oversight of agency efforts to protect information technology systems.
- Coordinate with the GAO and the various Inspectors General (IGs) to ensure Departments and agencies are being transparent and implementing recommendations of GAO and the IGs.
- Continue to oversee risk assessments development in conjunction with the regulatory process to ensure that policies are based on the best science available. Continue to collect and examine allegations of intimidation of scientists and science specialists in federal agencies, including but not limited to investigating allegation of suppression or revisions of scientific finding, and mischaracterization of scientific findings because of political or other pressures.
- Monitor the development and implementation of scientific integrity principles within the executive branch.
- Continue to evaluate DOE's decision to close the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository.
- Continue providing oversight of materials, minerals, and isotopes that are critical to U.S. national interests.
- Review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs and Government activities throughout the government relating to non-military research and development.
- Conduct oversight of additional matters as the need arises and as provided for under House Rule X, 3(k).
- Work closely and collaboratively with other federal oversight bodies to identify and address instances of waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in the federal government to ensure the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

## RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

The Subcommittee on Research and Technology (R/T) has legislative jurisdiction and general oversight and investigative authority on all matters relating to science policy and science education.

The R/T Subcommittee will continue to oversee all activities of the agencies and programs in its jurisdiction, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and White House Office of Science and Technology Programs. The Committee will conduct ongoing review of the entire portfolio of taxpayer investments through civilian science agencies in basic research and advanced technologies in order to ensure that public resources are focused on the most promising new areas of science and technology. Among these areas are artificial intelligence, additive manufacturing, bio-engineering, nanotechnology, energy, computer and information science, and photonics.

*National Science Foundation (NSF)*

- Review all activities of the National Science Foundation (NSF) conducted pursuant to appropriations for Research and Related Ac-

tivities, including but not limited to funding through NSF's seven directorates that support science and engineering research and STEM education and research. (The seven directorates are: Biological Sciences, Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Engineering, Geosciences, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Social/Behavioral/Economic Sciences, and Education and Human Resources.)

- Review all non-research activities of NSF conducted through NSF's Office of the Director and the Office of Integrative Activities, as well as financial management, award processing and monitoring, legal affairs, outreach and other functions. For 2017, this will include monitoring development and moving costs and actions related to NSF's planned September 2017 move to a new headquarters facility.

- Review NSF compliance with and the effects of provisions of the STEM Education Act of 2015, including but not limited to the addition of computer science to the definition of STEM education.

- Review NSF implementation of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (see below for additional information).

#### *National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)*

- Review all NIST programs and activities as well as other programs under the Department of Commerce, with special attention to the evaluation of their alignment with and impact on industry and assurance that the programs do not encroach on areas better served by the private sector. These include:

- Manufacturing Extension Partnerships

- National Network of Manufacturing Innovation

- Review cyber security coordination among NIST, NSF and the Department of Homeland Security, NIST responsibilities and federal agencies' compliance with cyber security regimes authorized by the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), and how federal agencies balance security mandates with the ability to allow technological development through innovation.

- Continue to hold cybersecurity oversight hearings, building on a series of hearings conducted during the 114th Congress, in order to review agencies' compliance with federal information security standards and guidelines and to identify and understand reasons for inconsistencies in their respective cybersecurity postures.

- Review NIST performance of its critical role in helping to develop standards and conformance testing processes that will protect privacy, minimize private sector waste, and advance US economic competitiveness and technological leadership.

- Continue to monitor and review NIST physical security at its two campuses.

- Review NIST actions to support the development of the smart grid, the management of cross-agency information technology (NITRD) and nanotechnology (NNI) research programs.

#### *Department of Transportation*

- Review research, development, and demonstration activities of the Department of Transportation, including safety, cybersecurity and autonomous vehicle systems development programs authorized

by the most recent surface transportation reauthorization, the 2015 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

- Review advances in autonomous vehicle technologies, including vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) technologies, with an eye toward the privacy and security concerns (among others) raised by such increased connectivity features.

- Review DOT administration and results research, development, technology and education programs authorized under the FAST Act, including but not limited to the following:

- Highway Research and Development
- University Transportation Centers
- Intelligent Highway Systems
- Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies

#### *Department of Homeland Security*

- Review all activities, focusing on the effectiveness and organization, direction and priorities, of the DHS Science and Technology Directorate.

- Review the effectiveness and organization, direction and priorities of the research and technology programs associated with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.

#### *US Fire Administration (USFA)*

- Review administration of grant programs that support local career and volunteer firefighting and first-responder capabilities, and consider improvements to the functionality of the USFA.

#### *Natural Hazards*

- Review interagency research programs to mitigate the damage caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, windstorms, and fires by developing early warning systems and improved building and infrastructure design. Evaluate programs to protect Americans from these and other hazards.

#### *Economic Competitiveness*

- Review the technology transfer incentives of the Bayh-Dole Act, the Stevenson-Wydler Act, and the Small Business Innovative Research and Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) programs to improve America's competitiveness and innovative capacity.

- Review GAO study, required by COMPETES Act of 2010, of SBIR/STTR waste, fraud and abuse.

- Review the effectiveness and efficiency of SBIR/STTR in increasing the pace of commercializing technology developed from federally-supported basic research.

#### *National Technical Information Service*

- Review the performance, efficiency and taxpayer costs of maintaining the National Technical Information Service in current form.

#### *Implementation of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA)*

As a result of the enactment of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA) during the 114th Congress, special at-

tention will be paid to the implementation, execution and effectiveness of all provisions of the new law, including but not limited to provisions that strengthen basic research; seek rationalization of unnecessary administrative and regulatory burdens on federally-supported research; improve coordination of science, technology, engineering and math education; and efforts to leverage the private sector. Among other matters the Subcommittee will examine the following:

- Review compliance with the AICA provision that increases transparency and accountability in NSF grant-making by adding “national interest” to the broader impacts criteria of NSF’s merit selection process, and review this provision’s effects on NSF’s portfolio of research grants.
- Review compliance with the requirement that increases transparency and accountability by requiring NSF to publish a non-technical justification of each grant award.
- Review compliance with the AICA provisions that require stronger NSF cost control and management during the development of major research facilities, including calculation of project life-cycle costs, mandated cost review and auditing during construction, and statutory prohibitions against expenditures of project funds or “management fees” (or successors to management fees) for liquor, parties, lobbying, unnecessary foreign travel, and other abuses.
- Review implementation of the changes and improvements in the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (formerly “Experimental”), or EPSCoR program, prescribed in the AICA, including authorization for the agency, States, and jurisdictions to experiment with new research and development funding models.
- Review AICA-required NSF briefing to Congress about management of the U.S. Antarctic program.
- Review compliance with AICA provisions that address NSF use of “rotator” personnel pursuant to the Intergovernmental Personnel Act, including compensation and potential conflicts of interest.
- Review progress toward the cybersecurity research and development priorities set forth in the AICA, including security of election-dedicated voting system software and hardware.
- Review implementation of AICA provisions that update and strengthen the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development program.
- Evaluate NIST progress toward AICA-required development of a long-range plan for its laboratory program improvements.
- Evaluate the AICA-required NSF review of ongoing mid-scale project investments.
- Review implementation of the AICA’s NIST campus security provisions that transfer to the Department of Commerce Office of Security direct management of NIST law enforcement and site security programs.
- Review compliance with AICA provisions that strengthen investigations and penalties for research falsification.
- Review NSF progress in identifying and eliminating unreproducible and duplicative research projects.

- Review NSF participation in the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neuro-technologies (BRAIN) Initiative.
- Review implementation of the AICA provision which directs the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with OSTP, to establish an interagency working group for reducing administrative burdens on federally funded researchers.
- Review the AICA-required NSF Inspector General audit of grant sub-recipient transparency and oversight.
- Review AICA updates to the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program which increase flexibility and bolster eligibility requirements.
- Review implementation of the AICA provisions which require the NSF Director, Secretary of Education, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to jointly establish an advisory panel to advise the Committee on STEM Education of the National Science and Technology Council.
- Review implementation of changes to the Committee on STEM Education, including an emphasis of bringing forward objective outcomes metrics for all STEM programs.
- Review progress of NSF programs intended to expand STEM opportunities for traditionally under-represented populations (biennial report to Congress).
- Review NIST efforts to support, promote, and coordinate activities and efforts to enhance public awareness and understanding of measurement sciences, standards and technology.
- Review progress of the AICA provision that requires OSTP to consider progress on inclusion in STEM fields and improved undergraduate STEM experiences.
- Review results of AICA-required NSF study of computer science education.
- Review NSF performance of AICA provision to strengthen informal STEM education.
- Review NSF implementation of Section 7033(a) of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o–12(a)), which updates Hispanic-serving institutions undergraduate programs.
- Review implementation of AICA updates to federal agencies' scientific prize competition authority.
- Review implementation the AICA provisions for crowdsourcing and citizen science.
- Review NIST implementation of AICA improvements to the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership improvements, including increase emphasis on providing assistance to small manufacturing concerns.
- Review NSF implementation of AICA provisions to strengthen the Innovation Corps program and continue to support translational research grants.
- Review implementation of the AICA provision which authorizes the President to designate one of the OSTP Associate Directors as United States Chief Technology Officer.
- Review results of AICA-required study by the National Research Council study on technology for emergency notifications on campuses.

## SPACE

- Astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities;
- Civil aviation research and development; National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
- National Space Council;
- Outer space, including exploration and control thereof;
- Scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor.

*National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)*

- Review and conduct oversight of all activities contemplated and authorized by the *National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended, as well as all other laws pertaining to the Committee's jurisdiction under House Rule X.*
- Review, monitor, and conduct oversight of public and private initiatives related to the aeronautical and space activities.
  - Review all activities of NASA.
  - Monitor and conduct oversight of the activities of the National Space Council.
  - Review all activities conducted by the NASA Science Mission Directorate.
  - Review all activities of the NASA Aeronautics Mission Directorate.
  - Review all activities of the NASA Space Technology Mission Directorate.
  - Review all activities of the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate.
  - Review, monitor, and conduct oversight of any and all activities of NASA housed outside of one of the four directorates listed above, including, but not limited to, cyber security; information technology; environmental remediation; construction or facilities; grant, contract, and agreement management; and international coordination.
  - Review all activities of the NASA Space Launch System vehicle development.
  - Review all activities of the Orion vehicle development.
  - Review all activities of Commercial Crew development.
  - Review all activities of Commercial Orbital Transportation Service contracts.
  - Review all activities of the NASA Office of Education.
  - Review funding, management, and spending of the James Webb Space Telescope program.
  - Assess and review NASA's Human Space Flight program focusing particular attention on NASA's plans and priorities relative to the agency's resources and requirements.
  - Monitor and review NASA's space science efforts to prioritize, plan, launch, and operate space science missions within cost and schedule.
  - Review any and all NASA space science programs that exceed cost estimates to ensure they do not adversely impact the development and launch of other missions.

- Evaluate, monitor, and review the ability of commercial providers to, affordably, safely, and reliably deliver cargo and crew to the International Space Station (ISS).
- Review and monitor plans and operation and utilization of the ISS to ensure NASA fully utilizes the unique research opportunities that the facility offers, while exclusively relying on logistical services from commercial and foreign providers.
- Review costs associated with cancellation of the Constellation program, NASA's approach to develop and fund a successor to the Space Shuttle, and investment in NASA launch infrastructure. NASA has not clearly articulated what types of future human space flight missions it wishes to pursue, or its rationale.

#### *Department of Transportation*

- Review and conduct oversight of all activities of the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST), which licenses commercial launch vehicles.
- Review and monitor the emergence of a number of fledgling commercial human suborbital space flight ventures.
- Examine and review the progress of the emerging personal space flight industry, as well focus on the challenges it faces.
- Review and assess efforts related to control of outer space, including international obligations, space situational awareness, space traffic management, and regulations pertaining to space activities.
- Oversee and review all of the FAA's R&D activities to ensure that they lead to improvements in the U.S. Aerospace sector, focusing with particular interest on the FAA's management of its Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) program.

#### *Department of Commerce*

- Examine and review the regulation of commercial remote sensing activities.
- Conduct oversight of the transition of earth science research to operations.
- Assess and conduct oversight of space spectrum allocations, including, but not limited to, impacts on weather forecasting, and position navigation and timing services.
- Review the impact and management of U.S. export control policy on the space industry.

#### *Additional Information related to certain subject matters*

##### **Aeronautics Research**

An important area for oversight will be NASA's aeronautics research and development program. The Committee plans to examine NASA's ability to support the interagency effort to modernize the nation's air traffic management system, the development of unmanned aviation systems (UAS), as well as its ability to undertake important long-term R&D on aircraft safety, emissions, noise, and energy consumption—R&D that will have a significant impact on the quality of life and U.S. competitiveness in aviation.

### **NASA Contract and Financial Management**

A perennial topic on GAO's high risk series, NASA financial management will continue to receive attention from the Committee. The Committee will also monitor NASA's contract management to ensure acquisitions are handled appropriately.

### **Near Earth Objects**

Congress has provided guidance to NASA relating to Near Earth Objects. The Committee will continue to monitor NASA's compliance with that direction, as well as determine whether additional oversight is necessary.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **House Rule X**

#### ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES

#### *Committees and their legislative jurisdictions*

1. There shall be in the House the following standing committees, each of which shall have the jurisdiction and related functions assigned by this clause and clauses 2, 3, and 4. All bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to subjects within the jurisdiction of the standing committees listed in this clause shall be referred to those committees, in accordance with clause 2 of rule XII, as follows:

- (p) Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.
- (1) All energy research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor, and all federally owned or operated nonmilitary energy laboratories.
- (2) Astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities.
- (3) Civil aviation research and development.
- (4) Environmental research and development.
- (5) Marine research.
- (6) Commercial application of energy technology.
- (7) National Institute of Standards and Technology, standardization of weights and measures, and the metric system.
- (8) National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- (9) National Space Council.
- (10) National Science Foundation.
- (11) National Weather Service.
- (12) Outer space, including exploration and control thereof.
- (13) Science scholarships.
- (14) Scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor.

#### *Special oversight functions*

3(k) The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development.



## COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

### LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

FEBRUARY 1, 2017.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,  
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. GREGG HARPER,  
*Chairman, Committee on House Administration,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN,  
*Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,*  
*The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ, CHAIRMAN HARPER AND CHAIRMAN FRELINGHUYSEN: Pursuant to House Rule X (2)(d)(1), I am pleased to enclose a copy of the Authorization and Oversight Plan of the Committee on Small Business. The enclosed document was drafted in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of this Committee and was approved, a quorum being present, by voice vote without amendment during the Committee's organizational meeting on February 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

STEVE CHABOT,  
*Chairman.*

### AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN

Mr. Chabot, from the Committee on Small Business, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Appropriations the following:

#### REPORT

Rule X, cl. 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the House requires each standing Committee to adopt an authorization and oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and to submit the plan to the Committees on Government Reform and House Administration not later than February 15 of the first session of the Congress. Under Rule X, the Committee has oversight authority to investigate and examine any matter affecting small business. This Report reflects that broad oversight jurisdiction.

Pursuant to Rule X, cl. 2(d)(1)(F), this Plan also includes proposals to cut or eliminate programs that are inefficient, duplicative,

outdated, or more appropriately administered by State or local governments.

House Rule X, cl. 2(d)(2) requires that committee oversight plans include a list of programs or agencies within each committee's jurisdiction with lapsed authorizations that received funding in the prior fiscal year, or a program or agency with a permanent authorization which has not been subject to review by the Committee in the prior three Congresses. The Committee has found no Small Business Administration (SBA) programs that fit these parameters. Rule X, cl. 2(d)(2) also requires a description of the programs or agencies to be authorized in the current Congress or the next Congress, and any oversight to support the authorization of those programs or agencies, and recommendations for moving such programs or agencies from mandatory funding to discretionary appropriations where appropriate. The Committee may consider reforms and improvements to various SBA programs as noted throughout this Authorization and Oversight Plan, including the need for SBA to create appropriate metrics to measure efficacy.

#### OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL ACCESS PROGRAMS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations of SBA and other federal agencies that provide capital to America's entrepreneurs that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Effectiveness of the capital access programs to generate jobs in the fastest growing small businesses.
- Whether lenders are meeting their goals to lend to small businesses and create jobs.
- Risk to the taxpayers of the capital access programs.
- Adequacy of SBA oversight of its lending partners to ensure that federal taxpayers are properly protected.
- Capabilities of the SBA information technology to manage the loan portfolio.
- Whether SBA rules, regulations and guidance result in transparent and reasoned decision making with respect to capital access programs.
- Assessment of credit-scoring algorithms as a replacement for individual credit assessment by SBA and its lending partners.
- The exercise of discretion by SBA to create pilot programs and the risk they pose to the taxpayer and whether such authority should be curtailed or eliminated.
- Whether SBA disaster loan program and its oversight ensures that small businesses are able to revive and rebuild communities without unduly placing the federal taxpayer at risk.
- Efficacy and duplication of federal capital access programs offered by the Department of Agriculture to small businesses in rural areas.
- Utilization by small businesses of export capital programs at the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.
- Continued examination of the Small Business Lending Fund and State Small Business Credit Initiative established by

Pub. L. No. 111–240, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, in creating jobs and providing capital to small businesses.

- Impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 111–203, on small business access to capital.
- Implementation of crowdfunding and other provisions of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, Pub. L. No. 112–106.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus on risky aspects of financial assistance programs including, but not limited to, commercial real estate refinancing, premier certified lenders, participating security small business investment companies, small business lending companies, express lenders, and loan programs utilizing simplified lending applications.

#### OVERSIGHT OF SBA AND OTHER FEDERAL ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the SBA programs that provide training and advice to small businesses that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Examining effectiveness of SBA entrepreneurial development programs, including programs for veterans, in creating jobs at startups and traditional firms.
- Determining whether certain programs should be eliminated as a result of their ineffectiveness or duplication of programs provided by other agencies or by the private sector.
- Suggesting methods for enhancing coordination among federal agencies in providing assistance to entrepreneurs, including, but not limited to, businesses located in rural areas and those seeking to provide goods and services in the federal procurement marketplace.
- Enhancing the efficacy and utilization of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at the Department of Commerce, including developments in renewable energy.
- Recommending improvements in assistance to small businesses in rural areas, including those involved in agriculture, forestry, and energy production.

#### OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING MATTERS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal procurement system that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Whether fraud or other problems exist in the federal government contracting programs overseen by the SBA including the 8(a), HUBZone, service-disabled veteran, women-owned contracting, and Small Business Innovation Research programs.
- Effectiveness of SBA contracting programs to increase participation by small businesses in federal procurement.
- Effectiveness of federal agency protections against contract bundling and consolidation.

- The accuracy and utility of SBA size standards and federal procurement databases.
- Operation and effectiveness of federal agency assistance provided to small businesses interested in federal procurement, including that provided by the SBA, Offices of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.
- Development of federal acquisition policies and whether small businesses have sufficiently effective voice in development of such policies.
- Cost-effectiveness of outsourcing government work to private enterprise rather than expanding the government to provide the good or service internally (i.e., government insourcing).
- Implementation and efficacy of changes made in small business federal procurement programs arising from the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Acts for FYs 2012–2016.
- Examination of the Small Business Innovation Research Program as modified by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012, Pub. L. No. 112–81, including, but not limited to, increased efforts at commercializing federally-funded technology.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus its efforts on uncovering abuse and misuse of the small business designation to obtain federal government contracts.

#### OVERSIGHT OF SBA MANAGEMENT

The Committee will conduct the hearings and investigations into the management of the SBA that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- The appropriate mission of the SBA.
- Whether agency employees in the field are empowered to assist small businesses.
- Duplication of offices and missions at SBA headquarters.
- Effectiveness of personnel management to ensure that employees are rewarded for assisting small businesses.
- Capabilities of SBA employees to provide proper assistance to small business owners.
- Agency personnel capabilities to properly manage loan defaults to maximize recovery of collateral.
- Whether SBA improperly utilizes statutory authority to create untested initiatives and the procedures by which the agency develops such programs.

In carrying out this oversight, the Committee will focus particularly on streamlining and reorganizing of the agency's operations to provide maximum assistance to small business owners. Offices that primarily provide assistance or advice to headquarters staff that do not promote the interests of small businesses or protect the federal government as a guarantor of loans will be recommended for cuts or elimination. For some potential offices that the Committee will examine, refer to the section titled "Reductions in Programs and Spending."

## OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL REGULATORY AND PAPERWORK BURDENS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into unnecessary, burdensome, and duplicative federal rules, reporting and recordkeeping requirements affecting small businesses that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- Consumer Safety Products Commission.
- Department of Agriculture.
- Department of Commerce.
- Department of Energy, particularly the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.
- Department of Health and Human Services, particularly the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Food and Drug Administration.
- Department of Interior, particularly the Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Department of Homeland Security, particularly the Transportation Security Administration.
- Department of Labor, particularly the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Wage and Hour Division.
- Department of Transportation, particularly the Federal Aviation Administration and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.
- Department of the Treasury, particularly the Internal Revenue Service.
- Environmental Protection Agency.
- Federal Communications Commission.
- Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council and its constituent agencies.
- Office of Management and Budget, particularly the Office of Federal Procurement Policy.
- Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Committee will identify specific rules and regulations already issued or at the proposed rule stage to assess the impact on small businesses. In addition, the Committee will examine agency compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act and Paperwork Reduction Act. The Committee will pay close attention to the effect that regulations have on startups. Oversight of the regulatory process also will, to the extent relevant, examine the work of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget. Special attention will be paid to the work performed by the Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration to ensure that Office is fulfilling its mission to advocate vigorously on behalf of America's small business owners in regulatory matters at federal agencies. Finally, this oversight will entail an examination of compliance by federal agencies with amendments to Executive Order 12,866 and memoranda on regulatory flexibility and regulatory compliance issued by the President on January 18, 2011 and still in effect as of the approval of this Oversight Plan.

## OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL TAX POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal tax code, its impact on small business, and Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) collection of taxes that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Identification of tax code provisions and proposed rules that hinder the ability of small businesses to create jobs and recommendations for modifying those provisions to boost small business job growth.
- Examination of the structure of the tax code in order to simplify compliance for small businesses.
- Assessment of the recordkeeping and reporting requirements associated with tax compliance and suggestions for reducing such burdens on small businesses.
- Evaluation of the estate tax provisions to determine whether they inhibit the ability of successive generations to maintain successful job creating enterprises.
- Efficiencies at the IRS that improve the interaction between the government and small business owners.
- Inefficiencies at the IRS that force small businesses to divert capital from job growth to tax compliance.

## OVERSIGHT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into federal health care policy (such as Medicare and Medicaid) and the continued implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- The cost of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to small businesses, including the self-employed.
- The availability of health insurance in the federal marketplaces established by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
- The impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid on the ability of physicians, pharmacists, and allied health care providers to offer the best care possible to patients.
- The impact of state tort and insurance laws on the cost of medical care.
- Examination of increases in efficiencies that will improve the provision of health care while reducing costs to small businesses that offer their workers health insurance.

## OVERSIGHT OF ENERGY POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into energy policy to reduce the cost of energy and increase energy independence that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Innovations developed by small businesses that create greater energy independence.

- Federal regulatory policies that increase dependence on foreign sources of energy.
- Policies needed to incentivize production of energy in the United States.
- Examination of commercialization of research in renewable energy.
- Federal regulations or policies that increase energy costs for small businesses.

The primary thrust of the Committee's efforts will focus on efforts to use the innovation of America's entrepreneurs to fuel the drive for greater energy independence, including the development of renewable energy products.

#### OVERSIGHT OF TRADE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into international trade and intellectual property policies of America and its trading partners that may include any or all of the following, as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- Impact of free trade agreements to increase exports by American small businesses.
- Oversight of SBA's Office of International Trade and the agency's efforts to promote small business exports.
- Examination of the impact of illicit actions by foreign entities on small businesses and whether the federal government is doing enough to protect their interests.
- Whether the federal government is doing enough to protect the intellectual property rights of small businesses by foreign competitors.
- The impact of federal intellectual property policies, particularly patents and copyrights, to protect the innovations of American entrepreneurs.
- Efforts to increase exports by small businesses.
- Whether the United States Trade Representative and Department of Commerce sufficiently protect the interests of small businesses in the negotiation of free trade agreements.
- Whether the United States Trade Representative takes positions at the World Trade Organization that sufficiently promote the interests of American small businesses.

The focus of oversight will emphasize the best mechanisms to promote and protect advanced technology innovations of small businesses.

#### REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND SPENDING

In addition to the programs and policies already cited, the Committee will examine any and all offices and programs that fall within the Committee's legislative jurisdiction to find areas that could lead to reduction in the federal deficit. Some programs and offices may include:

- State Small Business Credit Initiative operated by Department of Treasury.
- Express Loan Program overseen by SBA.
- Emerging Leaders Initiative started by SBA.
- Clusters Program initiated by the SBA.

- Innovation and Impact Fund Pilot Programs operated by the SBA.
- SBA Office of Policy.
- SBA Regional Administrators.
- Office of Advocacy Regional Advocates.
- SBA Deputy District Directors.
- SBA Office of International Trade.
- SBA Office of Native American Affairs.

In particular, the Committee will assess whether reorganization and reassignment of employees to more critical functions at the SBA, such as positions in the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development will provide a more effective agency at helping small businesses to generate growth.

#### PROGRAMMATIC DUPLICATION

The Committee notes that § 18 of the Small Business Act prohibits duplication of any effort by the Small Business Administration if a program is already offered by another federal agency unless the Small Business Administration expressly authorizes the duplication. The Committee will continue to monitor the Small Business Administration for programs that duplicate the efforts of other federal agencies.

# **COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

In accordance with Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for determining whether laws and programs within its jurisdiction are being implemented according to Congressional intent and whether they should be continued, changed, or eliminated. In the 115th Congress, the Committee will review the activities of government agencies and entities within its jurisdiction and the public and private interests they affect or regulate. As appropriate, the Committee will investigate ways to improve the overall performance and operation of the agencies and entities it oversees, promote reform and cost savings, and eliminate fraud, wasteful spending, abuse and mismanagement where possible.

The oversight and investigation functions are vested at the Full Committee level. Oversight and investigation activities will be coordinated between the Full Committee and the Subcommittees. This structure will facilitate oversight of issues that cut across the jurisdiction of several Subcommittees. The Committee will continue to exercise its oversight duties through its own staff, as well as through work performed at the Committee's request by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the various Inspectors General (IG) within their respective agencies and departments. Oversight activities will include hearings, briefings, correspondence, reports, media releases, and public statements.

The GAO provides Congress a biennial update on high-risk programs, which are Federal programs and operations that the GAO considers to be at high risk for waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, or in need of broad reform. Consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee will hold hearings on the programs within the Committee's jurisdiction on GAO's "high-risk" list. The rules also require the Committee to hold at least one hearing every 120 days on "waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize." These hearings will focus on "the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement," as documented by any report that the Committee has received from an IG or GAO. Finally, the Committee will hold hearings if any agency has received disclaimers on its agency financial statements.

The Committee has identified several particular areas for oversight and investigation in the 115th Congress. These areas are organized by Subcommittee and discussed below:

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

**1. Implementation of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016.** The FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–190) was signed into law on July 15, 2016. This Act authorizes funding for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through fiscal year 2017, and contains a number of safety-critical and time-sensitive reforms. The Subcommittee will closely oversee the FAA’s efforts to implement the provisions of this Act.

**2. Safety Programs.** The Subcommittee has held numerous safety hearings and will continue its oversight. Maintaining a safe and efficient aviation system is critical to the aviation industry, passengers, the U.S. economy, job creation, and U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace. Issues to be addressed include: general aviation safety, key safety agreements, the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems, pilot and controller training, losses of separation between aircraft, the FAA’s enforcement and certification activities, commercial airline safety, and the FAA’s voluntary reporting and data-sharing and assessment programs.

**3. National Transportation Safety Board.** Authorization for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) expired in 2008. A reauthorization bill passed the House in 2010 but was not enacted.

**4. Airline Financial Position and Customer Service.** The aviation marketplace has gone through many changes and over the next decade, the FAA predicts that air traffic operations will increase. The Office of the Secretary within the Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for economic oversight of the airline industry, including ensuring that air carriers do not engage in unfair and deceptive practices that could harm consumers and ensuring that business agreements among air carriers do not result in harmful effects. The DOT’s actions in this regard may have a dramatic impact on the industry, competition, job creation, and airlines’ obligations to their passengers. The Subcommittee will continue to examine opportunities to improve the airline industry’s competitiveness, review recently established regulations to ensure the aviation system remains safe and accessible to the traveling public, and provide oversight of standards for passenger service.

**5. Oversight of the Commercial Space Industry.** The mission of the FAA’s Office of Commercial Space Transportation is to ensure protection of the public, property, and the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States during commercial launch or reentry activities, and to encourage, facilitate, and promote U.S. commercial space transportation. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the status and future of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry and the role of the FAA in providing safety oversight of the industry.

**6. Evaluation of FAA’s NextGen Air Traffic Control Modernization.** Since the early 1980s, the FAA has been working to modernize the air traffic control system, and its most current effort is the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). The FAA describes NextGen as “a monumental, historic shift forward in the modernization of our air transportation system” and as “[i]ntegrating NextGen capabilities to transform the National Air-

space System". The FAA has stated that NextGen will result in greater airspace system efficiency; reduced noise exposure; reduced emissions and fuel burn; improved safety; increased accuracy and reliability in equipment and software used for navigation and air traffic control; and the capability for future computer enhancements. Over the years, the FAA's NextGen efforts have been behind schedule and over budget. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor and examine the FAA's efforts to establish performance metrics, meet deadlines, stay within budget, ensure an appropriate level of aircraft equipage with NextGen avionics, and pursue solutions to identified challenges.

**7. Cybersecurity of the National Airspace System.** As the FAA modernizes air traffic control technology, and the aviation industry modernizes the aircraft fleet, concerns about the robustness and resiliency of these systems have arisen. Ensuring the cybersecurity of these systems is of critical importance. The FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 directs the FAA to implement a strategic framework for cybersecurity. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the cybersecurity activities of the FAA and relevant stakeholders to ensure appropriate steps are being taken by the FAA to address cyber-threats and complete the strategic framework for cybersecurity.

**8. Implementation of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.** The FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (P.L. 112–95) (FMRA) was signed into law on February 14, 2012. The FMRA authorized funding for, and reformed and revised the safety programs, air traffic control modernization (NextGen) efforts, and operations of the FAA through fiscal year 2015. The Subcommittee will continue to closely oversee the FAA's efforts to implement the remaining mandates contained in the FMRA and to improve aviation safety.

**9. Investment in Aviation Infrastructure.** America's airports are part of a global aviation system, and as such they must remain safe and efficient in order to compete with global hubs of air commerce. Over the next five years, the FAA estimates a need for \$32.5 billion in projects eligible for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants. Airports rely on AIP funding, supplemented with revenue from the statutorily-authorized passenger facility charge, which is capped at \$4.50 per segment and \$18 per round trip. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight as appropriate regarding airport financing and the FAA's administration of the AIP.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

**1. Coast Guard Budget.** H.R. 4188, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016, authorized \$6.98 billion for the Service in each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017, was signed into law on February 8, 2016.

In the 115th Congress, the Subcommittee will hold hearings on the President's fiscal year 2018 and 2019 budget requests and consider legislation to authorize the Coast Guard. The Subcommittee will explore ways to improve Coast Guard operations, and improvements to laws governing maritime transportation.

**2. Coast Guard Acquisition.** The Coast Guard is currently undergoing a major recapitalization of its oceangoing assets. The re-

capitalization will replace or modernize more than 90 ships and 200 aircraft used to carry out the Service's missions beyond near coastal waters. It will also replace antiquated command, control, and communications systems. The program faces serious challenges related to schedule and budget. The longer the acquisition program drags out, the more resources are siphoned off to maintain existing assets. In many cases, those assets are at or beyond projected service life and are more difficult and expensive to maintain. The Subcommittee is concerned that delays in new asset acquisition, competing demands from shoreside infrastructure and other Coast Guard cutter capital needs, and the cost of legacy asset maintenance threaten the ability of the Service to complete this recapitalization and avoid gaps in operational capability.

In the 115th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue to closely review the programs of record, as well as any changes to those programs which may be advisable or necessary to ensure the men and women of the Coast Guard who risk their lives for our Nation have the best equipment possible at the best price for the taxpayer.

**3. Mission Balance.** The Subcommittee continues to have concerns with the Coast Guard's ability to balance funding and focus among the Service's many distinct and competing missions. Since September 11, 2001, significant additional resources have gone to the Service's homeland security activities. Security-related missions such as ports, waterways, and coastal security and migrant interdiction have seen dramatic increases from pre-September 11, 2001 funding levels. Other traditional Coast Guard missions have not seen such increases. Resources and man-hours devoted to missions such as drug interdiction and fisheries law enforcement are well below pre-September 11, 2001 funding levels.

In the 115th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the Coast Guard's mission balance to ensure the Service qualitatively and quantitatively reviews its many missions, makes and justifies decisions about which missions it cannot afford to meet performance measures, identifies and responds to exigencies that divert resources between missions, and plans how it allocates resources appropriately among its many missions.

**4. Maritime Domain Awareness.** The effort to know what is happening at all times on the ocean, coastal and interior waters of the United States, and aboard the vessels that transit in or through waters under U.S. jurisdiction is known as Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). The successful implementation of MDA is critical to maritime safety, homeland security, and the efficiency and reliability of the U.S. maritime supply chain.

The Coast Guard relies on several new and developing technologies to acquire, manage, and disseminate interoperable MDA information. The Subcommittee is concerned with the Coast Guard's apparent inability or disinterest to assess new technologies, such as unmanned, autonomous aerial and underwater vehicles, in order to acquire MDA information in a more cost-effective manner with greater accuracy and efficiency.

In the 115th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the Service's ongoing efforts to assess, develop, and implement new MDA technologies to ensure that Coast Guard operations are informed by the best MDA information possible that is gath-

ered in a timely, reliable manner, and provides high value for the taxpayer. The Subcommittee will also examine the costs imposed on maritime stakeholders as part of the MDA program, and examine methods to reduce those costs without negative impacts to the quality and quantity of MDA information.

**5. Coast Guard Prevention and Response Activities.** The Coast Guard plays major roles in response to oil spills (i.e. DEEPWATER HORIZON) and natural disasters (i.e. hurricanes and flood events). The Service was the Federal On-Scene Coordinator and National Incident Commander for the 2010 DEEPWATER HORIZON spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The Coast Guard was a first responder to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita which devastated New Orleans and the Mississippi River Delta in 2005, and in 2016, the Coast Guard responded to severe flood events in Louisiana and North Carolina. In addition, the Coast Guard enforces domestically the implementation of the National Invasive Species Act, and internationally, U.S. compliance with a convention to prevent invasive species from being introduced into U.S. waters through the discharge of ballast water. Due to a 2008 federal court decision, the discharge of ballast water and other “discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels” such as bilge water, deck wash, and air conditioning condensate are now regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Water Act. A number of states have adopted ballast water standards. Thus far, these standards have been waived because they have proven unenforceable. However, if implemented these standards would severely complicate vessel operations and impede the flow of commerce along our coast, Great Lakes, and inland rivers.

In the 115th Congress, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the Coast Guard’s crisis prevention and response capabilities. Oil spills, natural disasters, and mass migration events can each over-extend the Coast Guard’s prevention and response systems and capabilities. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on Coast Guard prevention and response programs, including its existing regulations authorizing the use of Alternative Planning Criteria. The Subcommittee will also work with the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee to conduct oversight of the Coast Guard’s implementation of its ballast water regulation, including the status of the Coast Guard’s type approval process for ballast water treatment systems, and EPA’s implementation of its Vessel General Permit program for vessel incidental discharges. The Subcommittee will work to set a single nationwide ballast water standard that ensures the efficient movement of maritime commerce, defends seafaring and port jobs, and protects the environment.

**6. Short Sea Shipping.** Short sea shipping is the waterborne movement of commercial freight between two ports in the United States or between ports in the United States and Canada. At the present time, the most highly developed water freight transportation systems in the United States operate on the Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, and the St. Lawrence Seaway, most often carrying agricultural products and other raw materials. However, the Maritime Administration has found these routes are underutilized, carrying approximately 13% of total freight tonnage in the United States. By comparison, nearly 70% of the freight tonnage

transported in the United States is moved by trucks travelling across our Nation's roadways.

Revitalization of our marine highways has the potential to reduce congestion on our highways, improve air quality, and create new maritime industry jobs for Americans. The Subcommittee will examine potential options for increasing the cost-competitiveness and expanded use of short sea shipping in the 115th Congress.

**7. FMC and MARAD Budget.** The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) and the non-defense related programs of the Maritime Administration (MARAD). The FMC is responsible for the economic regulation of U.S. waterborne foreign commerce and unfair shipping practices. MARAD oversees several programs related to defense readiness, as well as programs designed to promote and develop the domestic merchant marine and shipbuilding industries.

The Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of the FMC and MARAD in the 115th Congress. The Subcommittee will explore ways to promote job growth in the domestic fleet while reducing costs at both agencies.

**8. National Maritime Strategy.** Section 603 of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 directed the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, to develop and transmit to the Congress a National Maritime Strategy no later than 60 days after the date of enactment. This comprehensive strategy was to include recommendations to increase the competitiveness and use of U.S.-flag vessels in the U.S. foreign trade, enhance shipbuilding, ensure federal agency compliance with cargo preference requirements, and increase the use of short sea shipping in the United States. Congress is still waiting to receive the Strategy.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Maritime Administration and the Coast Guard to determine the status of the development of this strategy to promote and expand economic opportunities for U.S.-flag carriers and related marine industries and the future of the U.S. Merchant Marine.

**9. Ports Safety and Security.** The Subcommittee will continue oversight of U.S. ports and potential vulnerabilities with respect to dirty bombs and fissile materials and the adequacy of the existing multi-layered, risk-based security strategy. U.S. ports are a critical component in an efficient U.S. marine transportation system since they are the primary portals through which cargo and other goods enter and exit the United States. In 2014, 23.1 million jobs in the United States were supported by the cargo moving through U.S. seaports. Furthermore, marine cargo activity generated around \$4.6 trillion of total economic activity or about 26% of the United States' \$17.4 trillion Gross Domestic Product in 2014. Any incident occurring in U.S. ports will impact the U.S. economy and the flow of goods into and out of the United States.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**1. Emergency Management.** The Subcommittee will continue to examine and evaluate the Nation's ability to prevent, prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from disasters and

emergencies of all types including terrorism. In the 115th Congress, continued oversight will be needed as states continue to be impacted by and recover from prior disasters, such as Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Matthew, and the Louisiana Floods. In addition, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of FEMA's implementation of reforms and additional authorities from the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 and the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006.

The Subcommittee intends to continue its comprehensive review and assessment of how federal disaster assistance has evolved over the past several decades and its continued effectiveness. The purpose is to examine how and why disaster costs and losses have continued to increase, which agencies provide assistance and how that money is spent, what guidance or controls are in place for the effective use of assistance, and the appropriate role for the Federal Government.

**2. Border Security.** During the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee conducted oversight of land ports of entry (LPOEs) construction and the implementation of a Public Private Partnership program created as part of the Fiscal Year 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Additional legislation was moved to make changes and modifications of that program in the 114th Congress. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of LPOE construction projects, the implementation of the Public Private Partnership program and examine additional ways in which private dollars could be leveraged.

**3. Leasing.** During the 113th and 114th congresses, the Subcommittee held hearings and roundtables identifying the large number of GSA leases expiring in the next five years and examining GSA's process for addressing them. GSA currently leases 195 million rentable square feet—more than half of the GSA's total space inventory. The cost of leasing space accounts for more than half of the GSA's Federal Buildings Fund (FBF) annual expenses, totaling more than \$5.4 billion annually. Over the next five years, more than 50% of GSA's leased space will expire, creating an opportunity to significantly reduce leasing costs to the taxpayer. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of GSA leasing and how it is managing the replacement of expiring leases with good deals for the taxpayer.

In addition, in the 112th and 113th Congresses, problems with independent leasing authorities of agencies outside of GSA were made apparent. In 2010, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which has its own independent leasing authority, signed a sole-source 10-year lease for a state of the art building it later determined it did not need, binding the taxpayer to more than \$500 million. The Subcommittee conducted an investigation and held hearings that revealed serious questions about SEC's management of its space and its leasing authority. In the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee continued its oversight by requesting a GAO review of agencies with independent leasing authorities and holding a hearing focusing on how agencies with such authorities were managing them. In addition, questions about how the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has used its leasing authority resulted in VA procurement of leases for its outpatient clinics and centers through

GSA's leasing authorities. Because of these ongoing issues surrounding independent leasing authorities, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of leases outside of GSA.

**4. Real Property Management.** The management of Federal Real Property has been on the GAO's High Risk list since 2003 due to a number of mismanagement issues including the overreliance on costly leasing to meet long-term space needs and underused or vacant space. In addition, with nearly half of GSA's assets over 50 years old, GSA has faced challenges maintaining a balanced inventory, draining Federal resources and costing more to maintain old buildings that are often inefficient. While commercial leasing may be advisable in many cases, GSA is often driven to costly operating leases when ownership may be less costly to the taxpayer. The Office of Management and Budget's budget scorekeeping rules are key drivers on "own vs. lease" asset decision-making. Current budget scorekeeping rules generally leave GSA with only two options for meeting the Federal Government's general purpose space needs: direct appropriations for new construction or long-term leases. In addition, with tight budget constraints and the lack of funds for new construction, GSA has begun exploring alternative arrangements for space acquisition and redevelopment.

During the 113th and 114th congresses, the Subcommittee held roundtables and hearings on how Public-Private Partnerships could be used as alternative methods of financing space. In addition, the Committee established a Public Private Partnership Panel that explored the use of P3's across various types of infrastructure, including public buildings. The P3 Panel recommended, among other things: (1) review and modify budgetary scoring rules for commercially leased office space to enable operating lease treatment of long-term leases and fixed-priced, below market purchase options; and (2) fully utilize existing lease authorities and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) budgetary scoring procedures to proceed with long-term ground lease/lease back arrangements where the federal government retains ownership of leasehold improvements at the end of the ground-lease term.

In 2013, OMB issued a directive to agencies called "Freeze the Footprint" and later modified the directive in 2015 to shrink the space footprint. That directive requires agencies to reduce their amount of office and warehouse space to FY2012 levels. The Subcommittee will continue to conduct investigations and oversight of GSA's management of its real property portfolio and examine ways to ensure cost-effective choices are made. In addition, the Subcommittee will work to ensure GSA maximizes the utilization of existing space, renegotiates existing leases to reduce costs, and sells under-used or vacant properties which will generate revenue. Finally, the Subcommittee will work to ensure GSA fully utilizes its enhanced property management authority to make better use of space it retains, such as out-leasing empty Federal space to generate income for the Federal Buildings Fund and help offset costs. The Subcommittee will conduct close oversight of GSA's use of these authorities to ensure they are managed and used appropriately.

**5. Capital Investment and Leasing Program (CILP).** As part of the Committee's annual work to review and authorize GSA's re-

quests for authority to repair, alter, construct and lease property for use by Federal agencies, the Subcommittee will review each prospectus presented to the Committee and recommend approval only after the Subcommittee is satisfied that the requests are cost-effective and in the best interest of the government. The Subcommittee will work aggressively with GSA and tenant agencies to shrink the space footprint where appropriate.

**6. Federal Courthouses.** In June of 2010, GAO issued a report on the Federal courthouse program and found that of the 33 courthouses built since 2000, there was 3.56 million square feet of extra space, costing the taxpayer \$835 million plus \$51 million annually to operate and maintain. Since that time, the Judiciary developed a new review process to identify the need for new courthouses. In 2013, the Committee requested the Judiciary apply the new process to the courthouses on its 5-Year Courthouse Plan. The Judiciary completed the process in late 2014 and issued an updated Plan in 2015. The Judiciary received funding for courthouse construction in Fiscal Year 2016. The Subcommittee will closely oversee the progress made on courthouses authorized to ensure they are constructed within the limitations placed upon them by the Committee and to ensure they stay below or within budget.

**7. Federal Protective Service (FPS).** As a part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the Federal Protective Service was transferred from the Public Buildings Service of GSA to the Department of Homeland Security. However, responsibility for the protection of federal buildings, generally, remains with FPS within DHS. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor and review the policies, procedures, and requirements of security at public buildings.

**8. Major Development Projects.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters consolidation project was authorized in the 114th Congress. The Committee refused to provide GSA and the FBI a blank check, but set a clear limitation to the costs and other parameters to ensure the project would meet the needs of the FBI, shrink its space by 33 percent, and minimize costs to the taxpayer. Should the project receive funding in the 115th Congress, the Subcommittee plans to conduct aggressive oversight of the project to ensure it stays on time and within budget.

In addition, there are a number of other proposed major construction and development projects that utilize alternative methods of acquiring space, such as GSA's exchange authority. This includes the Department of Labor headquarters building. The Subcommittee plans to conduct close review and oversight of these major development projects, particularly examining how GSA is utilizing its exchange authority in this context.

**9. Architect of the Capitol.** The subcommittee will continue ongoing oversight of projects being undertaken by the Architect of the Capitol pursuant to the Master Plan for the Capitol Complex. Consistent oversight will ensure proper prioritization and cost savings.

**10. Smithsonian Institution Facilities.** The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of projects undertaken by the Smithsonian Institution including the acquisition, construction and use of local and remote museums, research and storage facilities of the

Institution. The Subcommittee will continue to ensure cost-effective solutions to the Smithsonian's space needs such as leveraging private dollars and disposal or effective reuse of underused assets.

11. **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.** As a part of its ongoing oversight of the Kennedy Center's programs, the Subcommittee will regularly review the construction, alteration, and modernization activities of the Kennedy Center that are conducted using federal funds to ensure appropriate management and cost savings.

12. **Economic Development.** In the 114th Congress, the Subcommittee worked to ensure economic development programs focused on their core missions of leveraging private dollars through infrastructure improvements to attract new jobs to distressed communities. The Subcommittee will continue to work to ensure these programs are targeted, effective, and remain focused on their core missions.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

1. **FAST Act Implementation.** The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (P.L. 114-94; FAST Act) reauthorized Federal surface transportation programs through fiscal year 2020. Enacted on December 4, 2015, the FAST Act improves the Nation's transportation infrastructure, reforms Federal surface transportation programs, refocuses those programs on addressing national priorities, and encourages innovation to make the surface transportation system safer and more efficient. A large part of the Subcommittee's oversight activities in the 115th Congress will focus on the implementation of the FAST Act, including the areas of: streamlining project delivery; freight mobility; competitive grant programs; federal credit assistance programs; safety programs and regulations; transit program requirements; and research and transportation technologies activities.

2. **MAP-21 Implementation.** Enacted in July 2012, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141; MAP-21) reauthorized Federal surface transportation programs through fiscal year 2014. While there has been progress made on the implementation of MAP-21, there are still significant provisions that are not fully implemented. As a result, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the implementation of MAP-21, specifically in the following areas: streamlining project delivery; performance management; transportation planning; motor carrier safety regulations; and transit safety oversight.

3. **Sustainability of Surface Transportation Programs.** The Federal highway, highway safety, and public transportation programs are user-fee financed through Federal excise taxes levied on motor fuels and on various highway-related products such as tires and heavy trucks. Revenues from these user fees are deposited into the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and may be used only for eligible transportation projects and activities. By fiscal year 2021, revenues credited to the Highway Account and Mass Transit Account of the HTF will be insufficient to meet its obligations, according to projections by Congressional Budget Office. The Subcommittee will monitor the status and solvency of the HTF, and its ability to fully fund

the programs authorized under the FAST Act and to meet future surface transportation investment needs.

**4. Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 Budget Requests.** The Subcommittee will review and evaluate the Administration's fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 budget requests for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS

**1. Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 Budget Requests.** The Subcommittee will review and evaluate the fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 budget proposals for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Amtrak, the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the Railroad Retirement Board, the National Mediation Board, and the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

**2. Rail Infrastructure and Safety Programs.** The Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 (PRRIA), enacted as Title XI of the FAST Act, reauthorized Amtrak and programs administered by the FRA. PRRIA restructured and consolidated the grant programs administered by FRA to include: Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Grants, authorizing grants for passenger and freight rail projects that improve safety, reliability or efficiency; Federal Partnership for State of Good Repair Grants, authorizing capital grants to reduce the state-of-good-repair backlog for assets used to provide intercity passenger rail service; and Restoration and Enhancement Grants, authorizing operating assistance grants to initiate, restore, or enhance intercity passenger rail service. PRRIA authorized a total of \$2.2 billion for these programs for fiscal years 2016 through 2020. PRRIA also made several improvements to the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) program, which provides long-term, low-interest loans and loan guarantees for railroad-related improvements. While this program is authorized to provide up to \$35 billion in lending, FRA has executed only about \$5.2 billion in loans; \$30.5 billion is currently available in credit authority. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the grant and loan programs and the ongoing construction of projects throughout the country as grantees build-out their projects.

PRRIA also addressed the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the rail industry. The Act included several provisions to improve safety at highway-rail grade crossings, including a requirement that all states develop highway-rail grade crossing safety action plans. The Act emphasized the safety of intercity passenger and commuter rail operations, with requirements that carriers develop action plans to ensure compliance with speed limits on curves and in bridges and tunnels; that the Secretary evaluate track inspection regulations on high-density commuter railroad lines; and that audio and image recording devices be installed in passenger train locomotives. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of FRA's safety programs and the changes enacted as part of the Act.

The work at FRA to implement the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–432) continues, in particular the Act’s requirement for the installation of Positive Train Control (PTC) systems by December 31, 2015, on rail routes carrying passengers or poisonous or toxic-by-inhalation hazardous materials.

In October 2015, the Positive Train Control Enforcement and Implementation Act of 2015, enacted as part of the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–73), extended the deadline for installation of PTC to December 31, 2018. At the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation, the deadline may be extended for individual railroads for up to two additional years. The Act requires each railroad carrier to report annually to DOT on its progress toward implementing PTC systems. PRRIA also made available \$199 million from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund for discretionary grants to public transit agencies and state and local governments to assist them with the costs of installing PTC.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of FRA’s safety programs, grants issued for implementation of PTC, and continued efforts to implement the 2008 and 2015 Acts.

**3. Amtrak.** PRRIA reauthorized Amtrak, Amtrak’s Office of the Inspector General, and the Northeast Corridor Commission through fiscal year 2020. The Act fundamentally changed the authorization structure of Amtrak by providing funding by “lines of business”, (specifically the Northeast Corridor and the National Network) rather than providing separate grants for operating and capital/debt service activities. All costs and revenues of the company must be allocated to the newly created accounts. The Act also reformed Amtrak’s operations, budgeting, and planning processes to reflect the lines-of-business approach. Further, the Act allowed for more private sector participation in stations, rights-of-way, and operations. PRRIA established a State-Supported Route Advisory Committee to help remedy issues pertaining to cost allocation on state-supported routes, and required Amtrak to contract with a third party entity to develop and recommend objective methodologies for Amtrak to use in evaluating intercity passenger rail routes and services. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of Amtrak, Amtrak’s Office of the Inspector General, and the Northeast Corridor Commission, as well as implementation of the 2008 and 2015 Acts.

**4. Surface Transportation Board.** The Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015 reauthorized the STB for the first time since the agency was created in 1995. The Act expanded the Board from three to five members; set expedited timetables for consideration of rate complaints; authorized the STB to initiate investigations on its own initiative; modified the voluntary arbitration process for small rate disputes; and made other changes to improve the STB’s efficiency and responsiveness. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the STB and its implementation of the reauthorization Act.

**5. California High-Speed Rail Program.** The California high-speed rail project involves the construction of a new high-speed rail line connecting the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, and San Diego. To date, federal funding for the project has totaled approxi-

mately \$3.9 billion, most of which was made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The project is the largest recipient of FRA's High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Program and the Federal ARRA funds must be expended before September 2017. Construction has begun in the Central Valley, but funding to complete the project remains uncertain. The Subcommittee will continue to provide oversight of the project and protect taxpayer funding.

**6. Pipeline Safety Programs.** Congress reauthorized PHMSA's pipeline safety program in the 114th Congress by enacting the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2016 (PIPES). The PIPES Act will ensure the agency completes its responsibilities under the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011; provided for a number of assessments of the current safety program; included the establishment of minimum standards for underground natural gas storage systems and liquefied natural gas facilities; provided PHMSA with emergency order authority to impose emergency restrictions, prohibitions, and safety measures on owners and operators of pipeline facilities to abate imminent hazards; and reformed PHMSA to be a more dynamic, data-driven regulator. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Office of Pipeline Safety at PHMSA and its implementation of the Act.

**7. Hazardous Materials Safety Programs.** The Hazardous Material Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2015, enacted as Title VII of the FAST Act, reauthorized the hazardous materials safety program administered by PHMSA. The Act included a number of provisions to enhance the safety of hazardous materials transportation, with a significant focus on the transportation of flammable liquids, including crude oil and ethanol, by rail. The Act requires all new tank cars to be equipped with thermal blankets and protection for top fittings; mandates that all DOT-111 tank cars in flammable liquids service be retrofitted in accordance with new DOT standards; requires railroads to provide states and local responders with advanced notification and information on high-hazard flammable trains; and authorizes grant funding to assist communities in preparing for and responding to hazardous materials accidents. The Act also directs the GAO to conduct an evaluation of Electronic Controlled Pneumatic (ECP) brake systems and directs the Department of Transportation, through the National Academy of Sciences, to conduct tests of ECP brake systems. The Subcommittee will continue oversight of PHMSA's hazardous materials safety program.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

**1. Clean Water Act and Water Infrastructure Programs.** Continued improvement of water quality will likely require a combination of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches, as well as continued investment in the implementation of water quality-related and water infrastructure programs. The Subcommittee's oversight will focus on issues related to these regulatory and non-regulatory approaches and water infrastructure investment.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the implementation of various regulatory and non-regulatory programs under the Clean

Water Act (CWA), including how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) implement these programs in conjunction with the states, and trends on the effectiveness of the CWA on water quality. This includes oversight of issues involving the establishment and implementation of water quality standards, total maximum daily loads, and effluent limitations, dealing with discharges of oil or hazardous substances, permitting of point source discharges of pollutants under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program, permitting of discharges of dredged or fill materials under the CWA section 404 permit program, and how the EPA and Corps assert federal jurisdiction and make jurisdictional determinations under the CWA. Oversight also will include an examination of Federal and state policies and efforts to address the presence of nutrients and other contaminants in waters under the CWA and other Federal statutes, science and data quality issues, the impact of CWA-associated releases on waters that may be used as a source of drinking water, and continued efforts to improve the management of combined and sanitary sewer overflows, stormwater, and nonpoint sources of pollution.

Continued investments in our Nation's water-related infrastructure should prioritize the creation of American jobs and support a healthy economy. In furtherance of this point, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of wastewater treatment and water pollution control funding issues, including levels and sources of funding and management of grant and loan programs; opportunities for utilities to increase their overall efficiency and resiliency; wastewater security; and infrastructure needs.

The Subcommittee also will pursue and examine finding innovative ways to finance new and replacement of old water infrastructure projects; providing states, counties, and towns with additional tools and flexibility to address local environmental challenges; and address local affordability concerns. As part of this, oversight may include a review of the effectiveness of watershed, market, and performance-based approaches to addressing local water pollution concerns.

Further, the Subcommittee's oversight will include a review of the EPA's implementation of integrated approaches to municipal stormwater and wastewater management through EPA's integrated planning approach framework. The Subcommittee may investigate whether non-regulatory approaches, such as water quality trading and other market-based approaches, and other innovative approaches undertaken by state and local governments, could result in improvements to the environment.

Moreover, the Subcommittee may review the implications of addressing, through traditional CWA permitting requirements, certain pollutant discharges, including discharges of pesticides, ballast water and incidental discharges from vessels, stormwater, and water transfers.

**2. Army Corps of Engineers Water Resources Program.** The Subcommittee will review efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization, management, and missions of the civil works program of the Corps, including the selection, planning, and implementation of water resources projects; financing and

maintenance of harbor and inland waterways infrastructure, and utilization of large, medium, and small harbors; the backlog of uninitiated Corps construction projects or deferred Corps maintenance projects, including prioritization of projects; asset management of projects in its operation and maintenance account, including existing and future levels of service; and efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and consistent implementation of the Agency's regulatory programs, including those pertaining to wetlands (including the jurisdictional scope and procedural and substantive requirements of the permitting programs) and dredging activities. The Subcommittee will review the Corps' implementation of provisions of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 and the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, including those that were intended to improve the efficiency of the project planning and project delivery process.

Continued investments in our Nation's infrastructure should prioritize the creation of American jobs and support a healthy economy. The Subcommittee will focus on getting projects for the Nation built more efficiently and cost effectively, thereby more quickly delivering project benefits to the public, while ensuring compliance with existing planning and environmental laws. In addition, the Subcommittee will review Corps' activities under the authority of Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 to ensure that Corps review of proposed non-federal sponsor modifications to federal projects are carried out in an effective manner.

The Subcommittee has initiated a study to be carried out by GAO to review water storage pricing at Corps facilities.

**3. EPA—Superfund/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and Brownfields.** The Superfund program under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) is aimed at cleaning up land in the United States that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and poses a risk to human health and/or the environment. The Brownfields program was authorized under the Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act (which amended CERCLA). The Brownfields program is aimed at enhancing state, local, and private-sector cleanups of properties, the redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a contaminant. Unaddressed brownfields and Superfund sites drive down property values and tax revenues, pose potential human health concerns, and can deter reinvestment in cities and towns. The Brownfields program protects from Superfund liability many parties engaged in voluntary brownfields cleanups, and supports state and local brownfields assessment and cleanup activities, and state voluntary cleanup programs. The Subcommittee's oversight will focus on issues related to implementation of the Superfund and Brownfields programs.

The Subcommittee will review efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the contaminated site cleanup process, the process of assessing natural resources damages, and the efforts to hold responsible parties accountable, consistent with Federal law. In addition, the Subcommittee will review the liability, financing, and settlement mechanisms and procedures under the current Superfund program, including the relation of funding sources and

levels for the Superfund and Brownfields programs to current demands and needs. The Subcommittee will continue to review implementation of the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. This includes evaluating whether there is a need to amend the liability provisions associated with brownfields sites, including those providing protections for innocent parties.

The Subcommittee also will review the role of the states in conducting and financing cleanups, and review the relationships among the states, EPA, and other Federal entities in implementing the Superfund and Brownfields programs. Further, the Subcommittee's oversight will include a review of ongoing Federal, state, and local efforts to revitalize brownfields, including through the implementation of the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Finally, the Subcommittee will work to promote state, local, and private efforts to clean up and redevelop Superfund and brownfields sites.

**4. Tennessee Valley Authority.** The Subcommittee will review the management of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and its programs, including its energy program, operations in the current marketplace, its long-term management of TVA assets, properties, and byproducts of energy generation, and the impact of TVA debt on its long-term goals.

Until mid-2006, the TVA had made significant payments on its long-term debt in an attempt to reduce its total financing obligations. Since 2006, however, TVA's debt has begun to steadily climb to levels that may place the taxpayer at risk. TVA's debt is statutorily capped at \$30 billion and at the end of fiscal year 2014 carried \$23.6 billion in total debt. The Subcommittee may initiate a review of TVA's commitment to long-term financial sustainability to lessen the risk posed to bondholders, ratepayers, and the taxpayer. The Subcommittee may also examine issues related to its management of the TVA workforce.

The 115th Congress may be an appropriate time to revisit TVA's debt reduction activities and variables that impact their debt reduction strategies.

**5. International Boundary and Water Commission.** The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) was established in 1889 with the responsibility for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling any disputes over their application. The body is comprised of both US and Mexican sections, headed by an Engineer-Commissioner who is appointed by the president. The U.S. Section is headquartered in El Paso, TX and operates under the guidance of the State Department. The IBWC carries out, in accordance with their governing treaties, the distribution, regulation, and conservation of water in the Rio Grande and Colorado Rivers for use by both countries; joint construction, operations, and maintenance of international storage dams and reservoirs and hydroelectric plants, flood protection, and sanitation projects for border water quality problems, as well as demarcating the boundary between the U.S. and Mexico.

The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the Amistad Dam in Del Rio, TX. The dam is currently being assessed by a bi-national panel of experts to address a sinkhole that has developed under the

dam and is causing seepage. The Subcommittee will also continue to monitor the ongoing situation in Nogales, AZ at the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), a binational sewer line that carries millions of gallons of waste each day from Ambos Nogales, Mexico to a treatment plant in Rio Rico, AZ. The IOI runs underneath and adjacent to a storm drain/tunnel which is deteriorating. The entire project is in need of major structural repairs, but the parties involved have yet to come to agreement on funding.

AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In the 113th and 114th Congresses, as discussed above, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was responsible for moving major pieces of legislation that were enacted into law, including bills to address our highways, bridges, and transit systems; the passenger rail network; our ports, waterways, locks, and dams; pipeline safety programs; the freight rail economic regulatory agency; the U.S. Coast Guard; the aviation system; and more.

More work remains, and during the 115th Congress, as part of both its oversight and legislative agenda, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will review the authorizations of agencies and programs within its jurisdiction. In addition to the efforts outlined above, the reauthorization activities of the Committee will include legislation regarding the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the General Services Administration, and a bill to authorize water resources development projects.

In addition, under the Committee's jurisdiction a number of programs have lapsed authorizations, but continue to receive appropriations. These programs span across each Subcommittee. To the extent not addressed above, the following measures within the Committee's jurisdiction contain programs or agencies with lapsed authorizations that received funding in Fiscal Year 2016: National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004; National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2006; Marine Debris Act; Predisaster Hazard Mitigation Act of 2010; Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007; Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000; National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2004; Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Act of 2004; Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007; Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2008; Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011; Water Quality Act of 1987; An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend authorization of appropriations for Long Island Sound; Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Act of 2002; Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000; Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (2002); and Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986. The Committee intends to conduct or continue oversight of these programs in the form of hearings, roundtables, site visits, GAO investigations, IG Audits, briefings and meetings with the relevant agency, or oversight letters to the relevant agency, as appropriate. After conducting the necessary oversight, the Committee will work to determine whether these

programs should continue, be updated or reformed, or be terminated in the 115th Congress or 116th Congress, as appropriate.

Further, within the Committee's jurisdiction are several programs contained within the Railroad Retirement Act, the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act, and the Railway Labor Act that are permanently authorized. These programs under the Committee's jurisdiction have not necessarily been subject to a comprehensive review by the Committee in the prior three Congresses. As such, the Committee will work to conduct the necessary reviews of these programs over this and next Congress. Such oversight may include hearings, roundtables, site visits, GAO investigations, IG Audits, briefings and meetings with the relevant agency, and oversight letters to the relevant agency, as appropriate. Upon completion of such review and oversight, the Committee will determine the appropriate next steps with regard to these permanent authorizations.

## COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

### OVERSIGHT PLAN

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducts its oversight with the help of four Subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, the Subcommittee on Health, and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. It is expected that oversight of the issues outlined below will be a shared responsibility of both the full Committee and the appropriate subcommittees.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

- *Appeals Reform*—The Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) reviews benefits claims submitted by veterans who disagree with the decision made on their claim by a VA Regional Office. It currently takes almost three years for BVA to reach a decision due to the backlog of claims. The process often involves a remand by BVA to the Regional Office for additional information which further lengthens the time to a final decision. As VA has reduced the claims backlog, the number of appeals has skyrocketed. Committee staff will continue to pursue options for appeals reform, such as the proposal developed by VA in 2016. That proposal would reform the appeals process by allowing veterans to choose an expedited process in certain circumstances. Under the 2016 proposal, veterans could waive the right to offer additional evidence and have a hearing in exchange for an expedited decision on his or her appeal. However, the proposal noted that those veterans who wish to retain the right to have a hearing or submit supplemental evidence may still do so if the appropriate elections are made within the process.

- *VBA Quality Review*—VA employs a variety of mechanisms to review the quality of initial claims decisions. One of Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) main tools to review the accuracy of claim decisions is the Systematic Technical Accuracy Review (STAR) checklist. The checklist has a very restrictive category of what constitutes as an "error," and a more expansive category of what would be considered a "comment," which is why the VA claims a 98% accuracy rating despite many complaints by veterans and Congress as to the quality of decisions. Moreover, by allowing quality reviewers to simply comment on many errors, VA can sidestep actually holding employees accountable for inaccuracies. The Committee will investigate how VBA has designed its quality review measures and to what extent that design yields accurate results.

- *VBA Training*—Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) training is generally ineffective, resulting in many errors. VBA's

challenge training is poor quality and does not adequately prepare examiners to process claims. Furthermore, the VBA manual is frequently updated and employees are not required to undergo new training or even open the email that explains the changes. The Committee will conduct oversight into how VBA implements training and look for ways to improve training to ensure veterans receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

- *Information Technology*—VBA has mismanaged IT development, particularly the development and implementation of Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). The cost of VBMS has doubled from the original estimate (\$560 million to \$1.3 billion), yet VBMS is still unable to handle appeals or non-rating claims. VA also has not established a timeline to complete implementation of VBMS. This is particularly troubling as the effective functioning of NWQ is premised on the assumption that VBMS is operating properly. VA continues to develop IT systems intended to help improve quality and consistency, however, without proper training, the technology often becomes a crutch, encouraging employees to rely on the system rather than their own knowledge. The Committee will continue to receive briefings and updates on the implementation, usage, and costs of VBA IT systems.

- *National Work Queue (NWQ)*—NWQ is a new process of distributing workload and assigning claims to whichever Regional Office has the capacity to handle it first, rather than the more traditional model of having the Regional Office in a veteran's home state handle the claim. However, VA employees have expressed frustration with how the process is being implemented, and it further obscures the true quality of a given Regional Office. The Committee will conduct rigorous oversight to ensure NWQ improves time of adjudication, accuracy, and transparency.

- *Fiduciary Reform*—The Committee will review the performance of the VBA Fiduciary Program. The program is designed to provide financial security to veterans who have been determined unable to manage their VA benefit payments. Fiduciaries are designated by VA and can be a family member, a close friend, or a professional fiduciary. The review will include oversight of how fiduciaries are appointed, the Department's compliance with provisions in the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Pub. L. 103–159, 107 Stat. 1536, enacted November 30, 1993) that can effectively deny veterans in the fiduciary program of the Second Amendment rights as well as fraud associated with the program. Moreover, in January 2014, the Department issued a proposed rule to provide more oversight of fiduciaries; however, three years later, VA has not yet finalized the rule. Even as VA fails to act to protect veterans, the Office of Inspector General continues to investigate additional cases of fiduciary abuse, such as a fiduciary who served 80 veterans and was indicted for criminal mistreatment and theft of \$211,000. The Committee will review legislation that would better enable VBA to protect and serve veterans in need of fiduciary and ensure their rights of appeal in cases where they have been declared mentally incompetent.

- *National Cemeteries*—The Subcommittee will continue oversight over the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), the American Battle Monuments Com-

mission (ABMC), to include each organization's mission, operations, and inquiries into matters of unclaimed remains, access, and the methodology for determining veteran satisfaction. Each of the above organizations provides a hallowed resting place for veterans. VA alone operates over 150 National Cemeteries to provide an honorable resting place for veterans and certain dependents. The Committee will look into a number of issues including poor cemetery maintenance, destruction of and misplaced grave markers, and overall management issues.

- *Contract Physicians*—Some veterans require a VA medical examination as part of the adjudication of a claim for disability benefits. Unfortunately, there are not enough VA examiners to perform these evaluations in a timely manner, and some veterans experience lengthy delays before VA is able to schedule such examinations. It may be especially difficult for VA to timely schedule these examinations if the veteran needs to see a specialist, such as a cardiologist or orthopedic surgeon. Moreover, veterans who live in rural areas may have to travel many miles to a VA facility in order to see a VA examiner for a disability examination. To provide veterans with more timely examinations, VA has authority to contract with independent physicians to conduct disability examinations. However, such authority expires on December 31, 2017. The Committee will look into whether this program is functioning as intended.

- *Equitable Relief for Administrative Errors*—The Secretary has the authority to provide equitable relief in cases when a veteran has been harmed by a mistake made by VA. For example, a veteran may be asked by the Department to reimburse VA for an overpayment even when the overpayment is due to an error made by the Department. In such cases, the Secretary may exercise equitable relief and cancel some or all of the veteran's debt. The law that requires VA to submit an annual report to Congress regarding cases where the Secretary has exercised equitable relief will expire on December 31, 2017. The Committee plans to assess whether such reports assist Congress in overseeing the Department.

- *Effects of Agent Orange*—VA's authority to contract with the Health and Medicine Division (HMD) (formally known as the Institute of Medicine) of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, a non-governmental organization, to scientifically review evidence on the long-term health effects of Agent Orange expires on December 31, 2017. The Committee will review this authority for this and other VA programs to ensure that veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange receive all the benefits they have earned.

- *Manila Regional Office*—The authorization for the Manila Regional Office expires on September 30, 2017. The Committee will look at whether the Manila Regional Office is providing effective, efficient services to World War II veterans who reside in the Philippines.

- *The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans*—The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans provides advice to the Secretary on the administration of VA benefits for veterans who are minority group members on the topics of health care, compensation, and other services. The authorization for the Advisory Committee on

Minority Veterans expires on December 31, 2017. The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that this program is ensuring that all veterans receive the respect and services to which they are entitled.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- *Effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)*—The Committee continues to be concerned about the effectiveness of the TAP program which is intended to prepare servicemembers for their return to civilian life. The Departments of Defense (DoD), Veterans Affairs (VA), and Labor (DoL) jointly manage and provide content to the five-day course that focuses on skills needed to obtain gainful employment as well as an understanding of the benefits that are available to them from VA and DoL. The U.S. Government Accountability Office is currently undergoing a review of the most recent iteration of TAP, at the request of this Committee, which will be complete by this summer. The Committee will conduct an oversight hearing with GAO, DoD, VA, and DoL to discuss the outcomes of the review, as well as discuss how TAP can be enhanced for transitioning servicemembers and their families. Further, the Committee plans to attend TAP classes to review the curriculum that TAP counselors are teaching at the local levels. Finally, the Committee will work with the Committees on Armed Services and Education and the Workforce to address cross-jurisdictional issues as we make improvements to the TAP program.

- *Accountability and Civil Service Reform*—The Committee will continue to look for ways to increase the number of veterans employed at VA and will examine ways to streamline the hiring process for all VA employees. In addition, the Committee will continue its oversight of disciplinary actions taken against VA employees. Further, the Committee will continue its existing efforts to reform VA's antiquated civil service system. Recent reports from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) have found that it can take six months to a year (and sometimes significantly longer) to dismiss an employee. This system while well intended, is clearly broken and not serving veterans. The Committee will continue its oversight of disciplinary actions at VA and will examine ways to provide true accountability to poor performing employees.

- *Effectiveness and outcomes of Education and Training Programs for Returning Veterans*—The Post-9/11 GI bill, which is administered by VA, is the most generous education program for veterans since the original WWII GI Bill. Based on the length of service, the program funds up to full tuition and fees at public institutions of higher learning and about \$22,000 per year at private institutions as well as a monthly living stipend based on the housing allowance paid to servicemembers at the rank of E-5 (with dependents) and the zip code of the institution. Recent changes to the program have expanded eligibility for surviving dependents and the Committee intends to determine how VA is implementing those changes as well as the performance and value of the Veteran Success on Campus program, which currently stations VA Vocational Rehabilitation staff on 94 campuses. Further, as avenues for learning and training continue to evolve and modernize, the Committee will examine these new programs and how they may fit into the

construct and requirements of the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill program. In addition, the Committee will examine outcome measures for users of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, including graduation rates and job placement data, to ensure the effectiveness of taxpayers' investment in our veterans' education benefits. Finally, the Committee will work with the State Approving Agencies to put in place policies that protect student veterans against predatory or deceitful recruiting practices of some schools, such as providing misinformation about student outcomes or encouraging veterans to take out unnecessary private student loans.

- *Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program*—VA's VR&E program provides education and training benefits for disabled veterans with barriers to employment. The program will fund all costs related to long and short-term education and training as well as immediate job placement services. VR&E also manages the Independent Living (IL) program designed to enable the most severely injured veterans to live as independently as possible. The Committee continues to be concerned about counselor caseloads and outcomes of VR&E programs as well as the administration of the self-employment track of the VR&E program, which can often result in high costs. The Committee will also conduct oversight over management and overall effectiveness of the VR&E program.

- *Loan Guaranty Service*—VA's Loan Guaranty Service provides a loan guaranty benefit to eligible veterans and servicemembers, which enables them to purchase a home at a competitive interest rate often without requiring a down payment or private mortgage insurance. This benefit is highly beneficial to veterans, servicemembers, and their families, therefore the Committee plans to conduct oversight of the home loan program with a focus on their appraisal process as well as a continued focus on the need for an increased, or eliminated, cap on the loan limits for a VA-backed loan. The Loan Guaranty Service also administers grants under the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program and the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) program. These grants, provided to eligible veterans with permanent and total service-connected disabilities, enables the veteran to adapt their home or construct a new home that allows them to live in a home that is not obstructive to them due to their disabilities. Grants under SAH and SHA for FY 17 may not be more than \$77,307 and \$15,462, respectively. These grants are beneficial for the most severely injured veterans, and the Committee intends to examine if it would be best for veterans to consolidate these two different grants into a single grant, as well as evaluate the overall grant amounts and what is needed to adapt a home. The Committee will also examine whether VA can better interact with and track the contractors that veterans use to make adaptations to their homes. There is also a smaller grant under the SAH program, the SAH Assistive Technology (SAHAT) grant program, which is authorized to award grants up to \$200,000 per fiscal year per grantee to make certain technical adaptations to the veteran's home, such as voice recognition operations and adaptive feeding equipment. SAHAT is authorized \$1 million and the authorization expires on September 30, 2017. The Committee will examine the SAHAT program and how it is administered.

- *Adaptive Sports Program*—This is a program administered by VA, which provides grants to qualifying organizations who provide adaptive sports activities and opportunities at the local, regional and national levels, including Paralympic activities, to disabled veterans and servicemembers. This program is authorized at \$8 million. The authorization for the Adaptive Sports Program expires on September 30, 2017. The Committee will continue to examine how VA awards grants under this program and the organizations who are receiving funding, as well as how VA is working with local communities and the Paralympic community to promote and enhance adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and servicemembers.

- *Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE)*—VA's CVE is responsible for vetting the applications of veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses wanting to participate in the program designed to increase the amount of procurement dollars spent with veteran and disabled veteran-owned small businesses. CVE's vetting program continues to approve companies that are not qualified for multiple reasons as well as disapprove qualified companies. The Committee will hold an oversight hearing to review CVE's performance and coordinate with the Small Business Committee to determine appropriate alternatives.

- *Licensing and Credentialing Issues*—DoD spends billions of tax dollars to provide servicemembers with the skills needed to complete DoD's mission. The vast majority of those skills translate well to civilian jobs. Unfortunately, few states recognize and give credit for military training to qualify for state-licensed positions and therefore, the training provided by DoD is essentially wasted. The Committee will review efforts by states and other entities to provide appropriate licenses and credentials to qualified veterans whose military training make them eligible for such credentials or licenses, as well as the progress that states are making to make certain licenses and credentials transferable across state lines.

- *Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP)*—HVRP is a program administered by DoL's Veteran Employment and Training Service (VETS), which provides grants to state and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, and tribal governments, including faith-based and community organizations. The organizations that compete and receive these grants provide homeless veterans with occupational, classroom and on-the-job training as well as job search and placement assistance. The authorization for HVRP expires on September 30, 2017. The Committee will conduct an oversight hearing to examine the organizations that are receiving these grants as well as conduct oversight of VETS awarding of these grants, and how the program can be enhanced at the federal and state levels to place more homeless veterans in careers. Further, the Committee will evaluate whether any duplication exists among homeless programs both at the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor. The Committee will also work with the Committee on Education and Workforce to examine how HVRP harmonizes with other areas of the Department of Labor, including the Employment and Training Administration, and the legislative changes made in the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*.

- *Performance of the VETS State Grant program including performance of the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist/Local Veterans Employment Representative (DVOPS and LVERs) use of employment outcome measures*—The DVOPS/LVER program is administered by DoL VETS and funds state employment service staffs who are dedicated to placing veterans in good-paying jobs. There are significant issues surrounding the inconsistent performance of this program across the states and the outcome measures used to determine performance continue to be inadequate. The Committee will continue to review this program and the performance outcomes of DVOPS and LVERs as well as conduct oversight of the National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI), which trains DVOPS and LVERs on job placement and training skills for veterans.

- *Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education*—The Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education provides advice to the VA Secretary on the administration of education and training programs for veterans, servicemembers, reservists, and dependents of veterans under Chapters 30, 32, 35, and 36 of title 38, and Chapter 1606 of title 10. The authorization for the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education expires on September 30, 2017. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of this advisory Committee and the advice it provides to the Secretary to better the administration and effectiveness of these education programs.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

- *Choice, Community Care Consolidation, and Health Care Reform*—The Committee will consider needed actions to improve the Choice program, consolidate the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) disparate community care programs and authorities, and reform the VA healthcare system to ensure the timely, efficient delivery of high-quality care to veteran patients both inside VA medical facilities and in the community. Community care is a critical component of the VA health care system as, without effective partnerships with community providers, VA would be unable to provide timely, accessible care to veteran patients. As part of this effort, the Committee will examine how to organize a high-performing network of primary care providers in the community, per the recommendation of the Commission on Care, as well as other means of empowering veteran patients to control their own care. The Committee will also examine how to modernize VA's claims processing system to ensure that community providers receive prompt, accurate reimbursement for the services they provide to veteran patients on VA's behalf.

- *Capital Asset Review*—The Committee will continue aggressive oversight of VA's major medical facility construction and leasing program and consider needed actions to address VA's vast and aging capital asset portfolio. It has been well-established that VA major medical facility construction projects are consistently over-budget and behind schedule. The Committee will also address ways to move forward with VA major medical facility lease authorizations, which have been prevented from moving forward due to Congressional budgeting rules.

- *Mental Health and Suicide Prevention*—The Committee will continue to closely oversee VA’s mental health and suicide prevention efforts. In 2016, VA released the most comprehensive analysis of veteran suicide data to date. That report found that the suicide rate among veterans is approximately twenty percent higher than the rate among civilians and that about two-thirds of veterans who commit suicide do not use VA services. In light of these findings, the Committee will continue aggressive oversight of VA’s mental health programming and outreach efforts, to include the Readjustment Counseling Service. As part of this effort, the Committee will address a number of recent concerns that have arisen around the operations of the Veterans Crisis Line and evaluate the effectiveness of actions VA has taken to rectify those concerns. The Committee will also continue overseeing VA’s implementation of Public Law 114–2, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, which—among other things—requires VA to partner with community organizations to improve the transition process for veterans.

- *Organizational and Management Structure*—The Committee will closely examine the organizational and management structure of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), which manages the VA healthcare system. Several recent analyses of the VA healthcare system have found fault with VHA’s current governance structure. For example, the Commission on Care found weak governance on the part of VHA to be a contributing factor of recent VA health care scandals, including the 2014 access and accountability crisis. According to the Commission on Care, “VHA currently lacks effective national policies, a rational organizational structure, and clear role definitions that would support effective leadership of the organization.” This sentiment was echoed in a 2016 Government Accountability Office report on VHA’s organizational structure, which recommended significant restructuring of VHA. Accordingly, the Committee will thoroughly evaluate any and all organizational impediments to care throughout VHA and assess structural changes needed to improve the provision of timely, quality care to veteran patients.

- *Staffing, Recruitment, and Retention*—The Committee will closely examine VA’s staffing, recruitment, and retention programs and take action to correct deficiencies within VA’s overly bureaucratic and lengthy hiring processes that hinder VA’s ability to efficiently and effectively recruit and retain high-quality employees to treat veteran patients. A 2016 Government Accountability Office report on VA’s human capital management found that VHA suffers from limited human resources capacity and weak internal control practices, both of which have undermined VA’s ability to improve the delivery of care to veteran patients. As part of this effort, the Committee will assess how VA identifies staffing needs at the local level, prioritizes recruitment and retention in high-need areas, and addresses existing staffing shortages as well as if and how the significant increase in the total number of VA employees over the last several years has led to improvements in care and benefits for the veterans VA serves.

- *Pain and Medication Management and Complementary and Integrative Health*—The Committee will examine the increasing use

of prescription medications to treat veterans experiencing acute and chronic pain. The effective management of pain is a critical issue for the veteran population as data suggests that veterans are a particularly high-risk population for prescription misuse, substance use disorder, accidental overdose, accidents, and/or self-inflicted injury and recent studies have shown that those veterans with the highest-risk conditions are also the most likely to receive the highest-dose, highest-risk opioid therapies. Public Law 114–198, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016, makes a number of changes to VA pain management programs and protocols. Accordingly, the Committee will examine VA’s implementation of P.L. 114–198 and evaluate further actions needed to improve pain and medication management for veteran patients. The Committee will also assess the use and efficacy of complementary and integrative health treatments and techniques for veterans with pain or other conditions.

- *Caregiver Correction, Eligibility, and Expansion*—The Committee will continue to address issues with the Family Caregiver Program to ensure an efficient delivery of benefits and services to eligible veterans and their caregivers. VA’s authority to provide assistance and support to caregivers expires on September 30, 2017. The Committee continues to receive anecdotal reports from veterans, caregivers, VA employees, and veterans service organizations indicating that the Family Caregiver Program is overburdened and not effectively serving those it aims to. As part of this effort, the Committee will also examine eligibility for the Family Caregiver Program and whether and how to expand eligibility to pre-9/11 veterans and caregivers. The Committee has been encouraged by early reports of success with the Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services and will continue to examine the availability of geriatric home health programs that rely on and support critical aspects of family caregiver support.

- *Telehealth*—The Committee will assess the effectiveness of VA’s telehealth programs. Telehealth is an increasingly important tool to increasing access to care for veteran patients. In fiscal year 2015 alone, VA completed two million telehealth appointments, many of those to rural veterans. The Committee will assess the effectiveness of VA’s telehealth program as well as VA’s response to challenges such as a lack of reimbursement structure for telehealth appointments and ambiguity surrounding VA providers’ ability to practice telehealth across state lines and evaluate the need for further actions in those areas.

- *Long Term Care*—The Committee will conduct oversight over the myriad of VA long-term care programs. VA’s authority to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities expires on December 31, 2017. The aging veteran population increasingly requires a plethora of long-term and geriatric care resources and interventions. VA currently provides long-term care through a variety of programs in both institutional and non-institutional settings and the Committee will assess those programs.

- *Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Long Term Rehabilitation*—The Committee will continue to examine the treatment provided to veterans with TBI and actions needed to ensure the availability of

long-term, age-appropriate rehabilitation for veterans with TBI or other conditions. Identifying and implementing innovative treatments to aid wounded veterans in their recovery and allow them to regain functionality and quality of life has been a long-standing Committee priority and will continue to be. As part of this effort, the Committee will conduct continued oversight regarding the ongoing community-based brain injury residential rehabilitative care pilot program.

- *Rural Veterans*—The Committee will assess VA's efforts to provide timely and accessible care to veterans in rural and hard-to-reach areas through tools like telehealth, community partnerships, and other means. Of the over eight million veterans enrolled in VA healthcare system, more than three million of those veterans live in rural areas and, as such, face unique challenges to accessing VA care.

- *Homeless Veterans*—The Committee will thoroughly examine the actions VA has taken to reduce veteran homelessness by providing homeless and at-risk veterans with appropriate housing, healthcare, and supportive services. Since the implementation of the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness in 2010, veteran homelessness has decreased by 47 percent and VA funding for homeless veteran programs has grown to over \$1.5 billion. In addition, VA's authority to provide referral and counseling services for veterans at risk of homelessness transitioning from certain institutions, to provide housing assistance to homeless veterans, to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low income veteran families in permanent housing, to operate a grant program for homeless veterans with special needs, to provide treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans, and to operate an Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans expires in 2017. The Committee will conduct oversight of these authorities and will work to ensure that the progress that VA has made in lessening the number of veterans who are homeless continues to be successful and sustainable and that VA efforts address the myriad factors that underlie veteran homelessness, rather than just increased housing opportunities. The Committee will also continue to oversee VA's efforts to support vulnerable veterans by facilitating access to benefits, care, and services for eligible veterans through the Veterans Justice Outreach program.

- *Toxic Exposure*—The Committee will examine VA's efforts to improve research and treatment for veterans who may be experiencing negative health effects due to toxic exposure during military service. Public Law 114-315, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016, requires VA to improve research regarding the descendants of individuals with toxic exposure. Subsequently, the Committee will evaluate the implementation of that law as well as further action needed to improve care and services to veterans who may have been impacted by toxic exposure during military service.

- *Third Party Revenue Collection*—VA's authority to recover the cost of care and services provided for non-service connected conditions to veterans with health plan contracts from third parties expires on October 1, 2017. The Committee will assess the effective-

ness of VA's revenue collection programs and the potential need for an extension of authority.

- *Child Care Pilot Program*—VA's authority to carry out a pilot program on child care for certain veterans receiving VA care expires on December 31, 2017. The Committee will assess the effectiveness of this pilot program in increasing access to care for veterans with small children and the potential need for an extension of authority.

- *Transportation Grants*—VA's authority to make grants to veteran service organizations for transportation for highly rural veterans expires on September 30, 2017, and VA's authority to transport individuals to and from VA facilities expires on December 31, 2017. The Committee will assess the effectiveness of these authorities in increasing access to care for veteran patients and the potential need for an extension of authority.

- *Pilot Program on Counseling in Retreat Settings*—VA's authority to carry out a pilot program on counseling in retreat setting for women veterans newly separated from service expires on December 31, 2017. The Committee will assess the effectiveness of this pilot program in addressing transition issues among women veterans and the potential need for an extension of authority.

- *VA Research*—The Committee will aggressively oversee the totality of VA's medical and prosthetic research program to identify and eliminate redundancies and ensure the dissemination of best practices and a veteran-centric research focus. VA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) conducts an extensive research program that is tasked with conducting research to advance the health care provided by VA and to the nation. Outside of ORD, VA also operates a number of Centers of Excellence across the country that conduct research on specific issues concerning veteran patients.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

- *Whistleblowers*—Whistleblowers continue to be a vital source of accurate and timely information. Protecting an employee's legal right to communicate with Congress, and report to the Inspector General alleged violations of laws, rules or regulations, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and safety issues is essential for investigations and effective oversight of the executive branch. This Committee looks to protect whistleblowers from reprisal by developing legislation in addition to existing federal whistleblower protections.

- *Financial Management Systems*—VA's financial and accounting systems are antiquated, disconnected, reliant on manual processes, and do not meet basic standards. This creates a risk of malfeasance, and contributes to inaccurate budgeting, and emergency appropriations requests. In 2016, VA selected the Department of Agriculture as a Federal Shared Service Provider to implement a replacement IT system to better address VA's financial management needs. Although a replacement IT solution is necessary, concerns exist regarding the concurrent replacement of VA's contract writing system with implementation of the new VA financial management system, and whether adequate planning has occurred to implement both systems and train the VA workforce. In the 115th Congress, the Committee will monitor VA's implementation of the financial

management IT system and continue to review the level of fiscal responsibility demonstrated by VA.

- *VistA Replacement*—The Commission on Care recommended replacing the Veterans Health Information Security and Technology Architecture (VistA), VA’s health information system, with commercial software because it is several generations behind the state-of-the-art or industry standard. VA estimates replacement would cost significantly more than carrying out another internal modernization effort that seeks to create a uniform national version of VistA. This VA-developed modernization would add new functionality, but not substantially transform its capabilities. Due to VA’s history of failed internal IT modernizations, the Committee will continue to monitor this effort and seek to prevent additional wastes of taxpayer dollars, and examine whether commercial replacement options would result in cost savings, improved capabilities and functionality, interoperability with Department of Defense electronic health records and community providers, and efficient scheduling for patients. A key decision point comes in 2018 when the current VistA modernization effort is scheduled to be completed, and the Department of Defense reports progress in its effort to replace its own health information system with commercial software.

- *Fully Interoperable Electronic Personal Health Information between VA & DoD*—Congress has mandated VA–DoD development of interoperable health records or systems. The Committee will continue to evaluate new initiatives, timelines, costs, and progress in this effort, following numerous failed attempts for the agencies to achieve full interoperability. VA’s authority to provide an annual report on the DoD–VA Interagency Program Office expires on December 31, 2017. The Committee will assess this report and the potential need for an extension of authority.

- *Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS)*—VA continues to characterize VBMS as the panacea to solving the claims backlog. This IT and business process redesign project has expended over \$1 billion to date and achieved mixed results, with no clear indication that the system has increased claims processing efficiency or contributed to a reduction in the claims backlog. The Committee will continue to monitor implementation, as VA carries out incremental fixes to problems created by its lack of a sound implementation plan and indefinite project scope.

- *VA Information Technology Programs and Organization*—The Committee will continue its oversight of VA’s IT programs to review progress being made with implementation of its integrated enterprise architecture plan, a large scale structural reorganization, a new “Buy First” strategy, data center consolidation, and efforts to improve its internal and external cyber security.

- *VA’s Acquisition Process*—VA continues to spend more than \$20 billion annually for the procurement of pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, prosthetic devices, information technology, construction, and services. VA still faces major challenges implementing a more efficient, effective, and coordinated acquisition function. The Committee will continue to scrutinize VA’s procurement practices and pursue possible legislative remedies. The

Committee will give particular scrutiny to recent reorganization efforts that risk entrenching existing problems.

- *Next Generation-Medical Surgical Prime Vendor Program*—NG-MSPV is the largest procurement program in VA. It is an effort to reduce and standardize the catalog of medical and surgical products used by VHA clinicians and achieve major cost savings by buying in bulk. This program, which is coming online, has been hampered by a lack of clinician involvement and inability to award the necessary contracts in a timely fashion. The Committee will continue examining this effort as it moves from design to implementation.

- *Construction*—During the last Congress, the Committee led the effort to strip VA of construction management authority, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers now performs this function. The Committee will closely monitor remaining construction projects designed or commenced before the Army Corps' involvement through completion. The Committee will also monitor the relationship between the VA and the Army Corps to ensure cooperation and coordination between the agencies, and improve VA's activation of newly built hospitals.

- *Leasing*—Leasing land and buildings for new VHA facilities is fraught with delays and bureaucratic roadblocks. Leasing is carried out through a complicated interplay of the VA Central Office, local offices, and real estate broker contractors. Jurisdictional battles within VA and poor management of broker contracts have contributed to inefficiencies and delays in the system. The Committee will work to uncover the root causes of these problems.

- *Payment of Community Providers*—VA continues to struggle with its failure to promptly pay community providers. This is caused in part by a failure to implement updates to its software and a reliance on dozens of decentralized claims processing centers. VA has similar challenges reimbursing Choice Program Third Party Administrators for claims payments because VA relies on inefficient manual adjudication processes. The Committee will continue to evaluate the root causes of VA's payment deficiencies and consider remedial actions to improve efficiency.

- *Credentialing and Screening of VA Healthcare Employees*—The Committee will continue to scrutinize VA's implementation of Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations that indicated serious flaws in screening the professional credentials of VA health care practitioners. Additionally, the Committee will examine VHA's peer review process and provider competency reviews.

- *Affiliations Agreements*—The Committee will investigate the relationship of VA medical facilities and personnel with affiliated medical institutions, especially academic centers and those involved in research. The Committee will also evaluate the extent to which agreements between these entities promote an efficient allocation of VA resources for the welfare and health care of veterans. Further, the Committee will analyze VA's contracted care with academic affiliates in order to monitor the negotiation of costs for services and payment amounts to affiliates for medical and dental services.

- *Technology Transfer Program (TTP)*—Questions arose during the 114th Congress regarding the invention of the Hepatitis-C cure,

Sofosbuvir, and whether it was invented in part through the use of (or related to the use of) VA resources. The Committee will continue to monitor VA's assertions of ownership regarding inventions developed by VA employees or with VA resources, and investigate VA's procedures and policies both centrally and locally for disclosing inventions and determining ownership rights.

- *Medications and Suicide*—The Committee will scrutinize VA's medication prescription program to determine what medications are being over-prescribed, what efforts VA is undertaking to reduce the prescription of opioids and other medications, and whether the over-prescription of some medications is related to the veteran suicide epidemic. Further, the Committee will continue to monitor VHA participation in states' prescription drug monitoring programs and VA's ongoing policy changes regarding suicide prevention.

- *VHA Controlled Substance Program*—Improved oversight to prevent drug diversion within VHA facilities is needed. The Committee will examine VHA's controlled substance program, including the review of VHA's policies for tracking and managing controlled substances within inpatient units.

- *Alternative Treatment*—The Committee will continue to review VHA options for alternative treatment for substance abuse, pain management, and mental health disorders. This work will also include funding for VHA research into these areas.

- *Recovery Support Programs*—The Committee will examine recovery support programs within VHA. Some of these programs are provided via contract by community providers. The Committee will monitor VHA's oversight of these contracted residential homes for drug and alcohol dependency and abuse.

- *Vet Center Program*—The Committee will examine staffing, documentation standards, utilization, and outcome measures for Vet Centers.

- *VA Inspector General & Budget and Performance*—The Committee will review the budget of the VA Inspector General (IG) and review how VA uses the recommendations of the IG to increase efficiency and effectiveness in providing services to veterans. The Committee will further scrutinize the annual audit of VA's financial statements, occurring under IG supervision, which has revealed a degenerating financial state in recent years.

- *Unauthorized or Expiring Authorities*—The Committee will conduct oversight regarding unauthorized appropriations and expiring authorizations under the Committee's jurisdiction to identify those in need of authorization.

# COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

## II. OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY REVIEW

### A. OVERSIGHT AGENDA

#### LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

---

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, January 21, 2015.*

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,  
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight & Government Reform,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,  
*Chairman, Committee on House Administration,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN CHAFFETZ AND CHAIRMAN MILLER: In accordance with the requirements of clause 2 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is a list of oversight hearings and oversight-related activities that the Committee on Ways and Means and its Subcommittees plan to conduct during the 114th Congress.

#### **Matters under the Committee's Federal Budget Jurisdiction**

- **Economic and Budget Outlook.** Oversight hearings with various Administration officials to discuss current economic and budget conditions, including the long-term outlook, the state of the economy, prospects for short- and long-term growth, our economic competitiveness, private sector job creation, and limits on the public debt.

#### **Matters under the Committee's Tax Jurisdiction**

- **Tax Reform.** Hearings and other activities related to tax reform.

- **Priorities of the Department of the Treasury.** Hearings with the Treasury Secretary and other Administration officials to receive information regarding the Administration's tax-related priorities for the 114th Congress. Specifically, discuss and consider legislative and administrative proposals contained in the President's fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budgets.

- **Appropriate Tax Relief for Individuals, Families, and Employers.** Hearings and other activities regarding appropriate tax relief measures for individual taxpayers, families, and employers of all sizes.

- **Highway Trust Fund (HTF).** Oversight of the HTF and its financial condition, as well as the revenue streams that finance expenditures out of the HTF.

- **Tax Provisions Contained in the “Affordable Care Act” (ACA).** Hearings and other activities regarding various tax provisions contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111–148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–152), known collectively as the ACA. Continued oversight and other activities related to ACA tax provisions, including especially those scheduled for implementation in 2014, such as the individual mandate, the employer mandate, the Exchange subsidies, the medical device tax, and the 3.8 percent surtax on capital gains, dividends, and other investment income.

- **Internal Revenue Service Operations/Administration of Tax Laws.** Oversight of the major Internal Revenue Service programs, including enforcement, collection, taxpayer services, returns processing, and information systems. Continue enforcement of major operating areas of the agency to ensure the nation’s tax laws are being administered in a fair and impartial manner. Consider analyses and reports provided to the Congress by the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), and the GAO. Oversight of IRS funding and staffing levels needed to provide taxpayer assistance and enforce the tax law effectively and efficiently. Evaluate tax return filing seasons, including electronic filing, and improper payments levels and fraud prevention efforts. Discuss proposed funding and staffing levels for the IRS, and legislative proposals and administrative proposals contained in the President’s fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budgets. Continue investigation related to the TIGTA audit report “Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review.”

- **IRS Audit Selection Procedures.** Oversight of the processes the IRS uses to select individuals and groups for audit. Continue coordination with GAO regarding ongoing audit work assessing IRS audit selection procedures and safeguards across all IRS business units.

- **Tax-Exempt Organizations.** Oversight of Federal tax laws, regulations, and filing requirements that affect tax-exempt organizations, particularly charities and foundations. Evaluate overall IRS efforts to monitor tax-exempt organizations, identify areas of non-compliance, prevent abuse, and ensure timely disclosure to the public about tax-exempt organization activities and finances. Review IRS tax-exempt application process and agency oversight of new exempt organizations.

- **Tax Code and Tax Form Simplification.** Oversight of tax code and tax form complexity, particularly for individuals, with the goal of simplification. Review areas where taxpayers and professional return preparers have difficulty, including areas where they make the most errors, and consider solutions. Evaluate simplification of information returns to assist taxpayers in determining taxable income. Examine proposals to close the “tax gap” by simplifying compliance with our tax laws.

- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).** Oversight of the refundable federal income tax credit designed to assist low to moderate

income working individuals and families. Evaluate the participation and improper payment rates within the program, and IRS efforts to eliminate EITC abuse.

- **Tax Scams and Improper Payments.** Oversight of the latest tax scams and tax fraud activities with a goal of protecting taxpayers and preventing identity theft. Examine IRS initiatives and efforts to curb tax fraud and the abuse of tax credits, specifically improper payments in the administration of tax credits. Review IRS processes designed to identify and remedy identity theft.

- **Federal Excise Taxes.** Oversight review of Federal excise taxes, credits, and refunds, including the trust funds financed by these taxes.

- **Pensions and Retirement Security.** Oversight review of the financial condition, operations, and governance of the Pension Benefit Corporation (“PBGC”), including financial exposure of the PBGC.

#### **Matters under the Committee’s Health Jurisdiction**

- **Priorities of the Department of Health and Human Services.** Oversight hearing with the Health and Human Services Secretary to discuss priorities for the 114th Congress and concerns related to the delivery of health services and reimbursement under Medicare. Specifically, discuss and consider legislative and administrative proposals contained in the President’s fiscal year 2016 and 2017 budgets.

- **Health Provisions Contained in the “Affordable Care Act” (ACA).** Hearings and other activities regarding various health provisions contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111–148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–152), known collectively as the ACA. Continued oversight and other activities related to ACA health provisions, including its changes to the annual updates to Medicare Fee-For-Service’s payment rates, changes to Medicare Advantage’s payment rates, benefit changes to fee-for-service and Medicare Advantage, and creation of the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

- **Medicare Part A and Part B (Fee-for-Service Providers).** Oversight of the major Medicare programs to ensure efficient use of resources, quality of care, and access to providers for Medicare beneficiaries. Specific topics include: adequacy and appropriateness of provider reimbursements, including incentive payments and reforming physician payment systems; program benefits; cost sharing; workforce supply; the doctor-patient relationship; treatment of specific populations such as people with disabilities and low-income beneficiaries; quality improvement efforts; and waste, fraud, and abuse activities.

- **Medicare Advantage.** Oversight of Medicare health plans, including: enrollment; reimbursements; benefit packages; quality; beneficiary choice; and recent statutory and regulatory changes affecting Medicare health plans and their enrollees.

- **Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Plans).** Oversight of the Medicare prescription drug program, including: drug pricing; benefits; beneficiary premiums and cost-sharing; beneficiary choice; impacts of recently enacted legislation and regulations and their

impact on the Part D program; and access to retiree prescription drug coverage.

- **Medicare Entitlement.** Oversight of program changes on the Medicare Trust Funds; premium and copay levels; provider payments; and benefit design, and improving the program's long-term sustainability

- **CMS Administration.** Oversight of CMS, including issuance of regulations and their impact on Medicare beneficiaries and providers; the adequacy and use of CMS' budget and staff; contracting activities; communications with beneficiaries; adherence to the Administrative Procedures Act; and general agency accountability.

- **Private Health Insurance Coverage.** Oversight and review of private health coverage, including: cost, access, subsidies to purchase insurance, benefit design, coverage options, pooling mechanisms, and employer-sponsored benefits; COBRA; HCTC; health savings accounts and flexible spending arrangements; options to reduce the cost of health coverage, expand coverage, and address the rate of increase in health care costs; the impact of the ACA and related regulations on those with private insurance, the uninsured, employers, the economy, and state budgets; and adherence to the Administrative Procedures Act.

#### **Matters under the Committee's Human Resources Jurisdiction**

- **Welfare Reform.** Review proposals designed to better assist low-income families in increasing their work and earnings so they can escape poverty, including by developing innovative efforts to improve cooperation between and the performance of TANF, child care, social services and multiple other benefit programs. As part of this process, ensure that programs are rigorously evaluated and held accountable for achieving measurable performance goals, including substantive work and activity requirements for adult recipients, such as the TANF program has applied since 1996 reforms. Also review opportunities to prevent duplication, overlap, and fragmentation, in order to improve the overall effectiveness of efforts to serve low-income individuals. Examine associated barriers to increasing self-sufficiency among low-income families with children, and how changes may better address the needs of adult beneficiaries who face barriers to employment.

- **Unemployment Compensation.** Provide oversight of the nation's unemployment compensation benefits and employment security systems, especially those designed to accelerate returns to work, prevent inappropriate benefit payments, and improve overpayment recovery.

- **Child Welfare.** Provide oversight of the nation's child welfare programs, including foster care, adoption assistance, and child and family service programs under Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. Review State efforts to promote adoption, strengthen family connections, and successfully address the health and educational needs of foster children, including through the implementation of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014.

- **Low-Income Disabled and Aged Individuals.** Provide oversight of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program to exam-

ine trends in the program, agency program integrity efforts, the implementation of the ABLE Act of 2014, and options to improve recipient outcomes and reduce administrative complexities in order to target program resources to those most in need. Review SSI interactions with the Social Security Disability Insurance program, as reforms required to restore the solvency of that program are considered.

#### **Matters under the Committee's Social Security Jurisdiction**

- **Securing the Future of Social Security.** Examine the role of Social Security benefits in ensuring retirement security for today's and future retirees, financing challenges facing Social Security, the cost to taxpayers and beneficiaries of delay in addressing those challenges, and options to strengthen Social Security, including how the program is meeting the needs of today's and tomorrow's beneficiaries.

- **Strengthening the Disability Insurance (DI) program.** Examine the effectiveness of DI benefits in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities today and the process for both determining eligibility for benefits and appealing denied applications, along with options to strengthen the program and examine how best to improve work incentives in the DI program. Additionally, examine the interactions between the DI program and the Supplemental Security Income and Medicare programs.

- **Stewardship of Social Security programs.** Provide oversight of the management performance, and long-range strategic planning related to Social Security programs.

- **Deployment of Resources.** Oversight of the SSA's deployment of tight resources to serve the public and taxpayers, including evolving service delivery approaches, policy administration and program implementation impacts, and the SSA's role in supporting other Federal programs through interagency and data sharing agreements.

#### **Matters under the Committee's Trade Jurisdiction**

- **Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).** Consideration of legislation to renew Trade Promotion Authority, strengthening the role of Congress in trade negotiations by specifying Congressional negotiating objectives and directions for the Administration, establishing requirements for consultation with Congress, mandating transparency, and providing a clear framework for Congressional consideration and implementation of trade agreements.

- **Role of Trade in U.S. Job Creation.** Oversight of the role of trade in creating U.S. jobs and how to create new market access for U.S. manufactured goods, agriculture, and services.

- **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Negotiations.** Continued consultation with the Administration and U.S. stakeholders concerning the negotiations and specifying Member views on U.S. negotiating positions, with the goal of concluding a comprehensive and high-ambition agreement.

- **Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Negotiations.** Continued consultation with the Administration and U.S. stakeholders concerning the negotiations and

specifying Member views on U.S. negotiating positions, with the goal of concluding a comprehensive and high-ambition agreement.

- **Other Bilateral, Regional, and Plurilateral Negotiations.** Continued consultation with the Administration and U.S. stakeholders concerning the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) negotiations, bilateral investment treaty negotiations, and other potential negotiations.

- **World Trade Organization (WTO).** Oversight of implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), and negotiations for the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA). Oversight of U.S. goals in the WTO, dispute settlement, and WTO accessions.

- **Preference Programs.** Oversight and renewal of major U.S. trade preference programs, including the Generalized System of Preferences (expired July 2013) and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (expiring September 30, 2015).

- **Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB).** Consideration of legislation concerning noncontroversial bills to eliminate or reduce duties on products not made in the United States, in accordance with bipartisan transparency guidelines and House Rules.

- **Enforcement.** Oversight of enforcement of U.S. rights and rights under trade agreements, including the WTO Agreements and bilateral and regional free trade agreements, to hold U.S. trading partners accountable. Particular oversight of continuing barriers imposed by China and India. Oversight of administration of U.S. trade remedy laws, including border enforcement. Oversight of whether the United States is in compliance with its obligations, particularly where the United States is facing retaliation.

- **Trade Sanctions.** Oversight concerning import sanctions with, among others, Iran, Russia, Cuba, North Korea, Syria, and Burma.

- **Implemented Trade Agreements.** Oversight of implemented agreements with Colombia; Panama; Korea; Peru; Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras (CAFTA–DR); Oman; Bahrain; Singapore; Chile; Australia; Morocco; Jordan; Canada and Mexico (NAFTA); and Israel.

- **Trade Adjustment Assistance.** Oversight concerning the Trade Adjustment Assistance programs for workers, firms, communities, and farmers.

- **Priorities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).** Oversight over USTR to evaluate priorities for the 114th Congress and the trade agenda.

- **Priorities of the United States International Trade Commission.** Oversight over the Commission concerning overall priorities and operations.

This list is not intended to be exclusive. The Committee anticipates that additional oversight hearings and activities will be scheduled as issues arise and as time permits. Also, the Commit-

tee's oversight priorities and particular concerns may change as the 114th Congress progresses over the coming two years.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,  
*Chairman.*

