

# Union Calendar No. 36

119th Congress, 1st Session — — — — — House Report 119–59

## AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLANS

FOR ALL

## HOUSE COMMITTEES

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BY THE

## COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Required by House Rule X, Clause 2)



APRIL 14, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on  
the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, April 10, 2025.*

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with Rule X, clause 2(5) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I am submitting the authorization and oversight plan of each specified standing committee. Each authorization and oversight plan was adopted by its respective committee and it is recommended that the work outlined is pursued accordingly.

Sincerely,

JAMES COMER,  
*Chairman.*



## Union Calendar No. 36

119TH CONGRESS 1st Session	} HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	{ REPORT 119-59
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### OVERSIGHT PLANS FOR ALL HOUSE COMMITTEES WITH ACCOMPANYING RECOMMENDATIONS

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APRIL 14, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of  
the Union and ordered to be printed

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

#### R E P O R T

### COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

### 119th CONGRESS

#### A RESOLUTION

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 119-9

#### Resolution Establishing the Oversight and Authorization Plan for the 119th Congress

*Be it resolved*, that the Oversight and Authorization Plan for the  
Committee on House Administration for the 119th Congress is  
hereby adopted, as follows:

#### OVERSIGHT & AUTHORIZATION PLAN FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

##### HOUSE OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS, GENERALLY

- ***Increase Member and Campus Security***
  - *Undertake efforts to mitigate threats against Members of Congress.*
  - *Realign the U.S. Capitol Police's mission to the National Capitol Region and bolster efforts to increase coordination with local law enforcement.*

- *Explore the potential of emerging technologies that can bolster the missions of the House Sergeant at Arms and the U.S. Capitol Police.*
- *Prioritize proactive and thorough penetration testing of IT systems for House Offices and Legislative Branch entities.*
- **Increase Legislative Branch Independence, Capacity, and Efficiency**
  - *Empower Legislative Branch IGs to detect waste, fraud, and abuse while proactively implementing their recommendations.*
  - *Collaborate with the U.S. Government Accountability Office to improve efficiency and reduce costs within the Legislative Branch.*
  - *Leverage existing and emerging technologies to optimize congressional and staff operations.*
  - *Ensure the Copyright Office remains responsive to stakeholders navigating rapid technological changes.*
- **Cut Costs and Eliminate Burdensome Regulations**
  - *Eliminate unnecessary printing requirements for the Government Publishing Office.*
  - *Streamline and modernize the Federal Depository Library Program.*
  - *Focus on the Copyright Royalty Board & efficiency in royalty distributions.*
  - *Enhance IT and HR system efficiency within Legislative Branch.*
  - *Re-establish regular budget hearings with major agencies.*
  - *Identify and eliminate redundant or outdated Offices and agencies.*
- **Promote ‘Made in the USA’ for the Legislative Branch.**
  - *Examine House Procurement Guidelines to ensure they meet the needs of Congress.*
  - *Require House Vendors to disclose foreign ownership interests at time of their contract award and throughout performance of contract.*
  - *Encourage CAO to work with tech partners to create internal AI environments for testing innovative products.*

#### *Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)*

- Implement outstanding recommendations from the House Inspector General to CAO.
- Strengthen internal controls in IT procurement to prevent foreign ownership and influence over House software systems.
- Ensure CAO proactively combats cybersecurity threats, provides training, and implements failsafe procedures to maintain operational continuity.
- Collaborate on reviewing the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Program to enhance House security and resilience.
- Encourage CAO to explore enterprise-wide agreements that reduce costs and improve efficiency across the House.
- Coordinate with CAO to ensure House-offered products align with workforce needs and that resource availability is effectively communicated across D.C. and district offices.
- Support the continued development of House Digital Services and the AI Center of Excellence.



- Refine the House’s AI policy as legislation evolves, the vendor landscape shifts, and Member and staff expertise grows.
- Engage with CAO to establish enterprise-level AI tools for widespread use by House staff in the near term.
- Continue oversight of modernization initiatives including CaseCompass, SalarySense, LegiDex, and FlagTrack while also working collaboratively on new innovation ideas and platforms.
- Work with CAO to establish additional collaborative staff workspaces and to develop processes for managing and monitoring reservable rooms.
- Capitalize on the innovative approach taken with the House’s food services contract renewal to improve the dining experience, pricing, and offerings for visitors, members and staff.
- Capitalize on innovative approach taken with the House’s food services contract renewal to address how the House structures procurements and contracts.

#### *Clerk of the House*

- Continue collaborating with the Clerk to oversee, support, and implement policy and modernization initiatives that ensure congressional continuity, improve efficiency, strengthen cybersecurity, and enhance workplace health.
- Support the continued adoption of the e-Hopper and the Comparative Print Tool, two key initiatives that assist Members and staff in legislative activities.
- Support efforts to expand Electronic Voting Stations (EVS) on the House floor.
- Support the Clerk’s ongoing work to build a committee portal to better manage committee memberships, vote tallying, and hearing-related material.
- Support the continued efforts of the Congressional Data Task Force and the Bicameral Legislative Systems Forum.
- Standardize formatting and data-sharing practices to improve public access to House legislative resources.
- Partner with the Clerk to identify administrative functions that could be more effectively managed by other House entities, increasing the Clerk’s operational capacity and effectiveness.

#### *House Sergeant at Arms (HSAA)*

- Direct the HSAA and CAO to review potential operational disruptions that could be caused from emerging technologies and provide recommendations for mitigation.
- Collaborate with the HSAA to identify and implement innovative technologies that modernize services, enhance campus and Member security, and better the House complex.
- Continue fostering cultural changes that promote honor, accountability, retention, and professionalism within the organization.
- Maintain close coordination with the Sergeant at Arms to ensure accountability and transparency in the Capitol Police Board’s actions.

### *House Inspector General*

- Explore Memoranda of Understanding between the House Inspector General and other Legislative Branch IGs to improve IT audit support and oversight of interconnected software systems.
- Continue coordinating with the House Inspector General to strengthen accountability across the House.
- Establish priorities for the House Inspector General, including the focus and scope of management advisories.
- Ensure management advisories, audits, and investigations align with risk assessments to protect House operations.

## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND OTHER ENTITIES

### *Architect of the Capitol (AOC)*

- Support the new Architect of the Capitol in re-establishing a culture built on accountability and excellence in the work of AOC.
- Continue oversight of the Cannon House Office Building renovation.
- Ensure that future Capitol Construction projects are undertaken with a firm commitment to adopt lessons learned from prior construction projects.
- Align AOC with best practices regarding contracting, building code compliance, ADA accessibility, historic preservation standards, and strategic planning to address deferred maintenance.
- Coordinate with the Senate Rules Committee of increase the bicameral and bipartisan oversight of AOC's full scope of activities across its jurisdiction.
- Coordinate the beginning stages of the Rayburn Renovation Program scope and expectations while incorporating the lessons learned from the Cannon Renewal Project.
- Continue working with AOC to improve campus accessibility.
- Work collaboratively with AOC and Senate Rules to modernize and improve the transparency and accountability of the Dome Tour Reservation program.

### *Government Publishing Office (GPO)*

- Overhaul outdated government printing and binding regulations.
- Oversee GPO's efforts to digitize the Federal Depository Library Program.
- Support GPO's tradesmen apprenticeship program to enhance workforce recruitment, development, and retention.
- Collaborate with GPO on modernization initiatives to streamline the legislative posting process while considering all stakeholders.
- Oversee GPO operations, including those of the Superintendent of Documents.
- Reduce printed material distribution to congressional offices and promote more accessible, cost-effective digital alternatives.

### *Library of Congress (LOC)*

- Ensure LOC remains focused on its core mission as Congress' Library, providing enduring knowledge to Congress and the American public.

- Support LOC's strategic shift into the digital age, ensuring nationwide access to its 176 million physical items and expanding access to its digital collections.
- Collaborate with the Library to secure, modernize, and optimize large IT systems like USCO's E-Copyright System and CRS's IRIS System, to ensure these systems are trusted by users and responsive to current needs.
- Ensure USCO releases AI reports promptly to aid congressional understanding and continues monitoring AI advancements and the copyright implications of emerging technologies.
- Address structural inefficiencies in the Copyright Royalty Board's authority and improve the timeliness of some components of the royalty rate setting processes.
- Oversee the Visitor Experience Initiative to prevent cost overruns and delays, facilitating coordination between LOC and AOC to keep the project on track.
- Monitor LOC's strategic plans and operations, with a focus on the USCO, Law Library, CRS, NLS, and international initiatives.

#### *U.S. Capitol Police (USCP)*

- Collaborate with congressional stakeholders to identify and mitigate emerging technologies that pose physical threats to the Capitol and Congressional community.
- Work with USCP to address rising threats against Members of Congress and improve coordination with local law enforcement in Members' districts.
- Ensure the Department fulfills all outstanding recommendations.
- Advocate for greater independence of the USCP Inspector General from the Capitol Police Board.
- Urge the Department to prioritize long-term strategic planning, particularly in implementing its Concept of Operations Plan.
- Encourage the Department to enhance training initiatives and establish accountability structures to ensure mandated training is effectively executed.
- Require the Department to submit semi-annual reports on operations and structure to Congress and publicly release detailed, structured arrest data.
- Maintain oversight of the Department through regular engagement with its leadership.

#### *Smithsonian Institution*

- Engage the Smithsonian Institution on its initiatives related to *America 250*.
- Address storage capacity concerns and deferred maintenance with the Smithsonian Institution.
- Increase accountability in site selection for the future National Women's History Museum and the National Museum of the American Latino, ensuring realistic and appropriate recommendations.
- Reinforce the Smithsonian's responsibility to be accountable and responsive to congressional oversight.
- Ensure proper inventory management across all Smithsonian collections.

- Ensure the Smithsonian meets public expectations in preserving and communicating America’s history and telling the American story.
- Work with Smithsonian to ensure a full return to pre-COVID–19 pandemic policies.
- Review appointments to the Board of Regents as needed.

*Congressional Office of International Leadership (COIL)*

- Institute regular standing oversight meetings with COIL leadership, ensuring Congressional insight into its operations.
- Require regular reporting on COIL’s programming to ensure its program adequately portray Congress, its values, and priorities.
- Explore and implement reforms to COIL’s Board of Trustees to ensure the organization’s operations properly reflect its status as a Congressional office.

*Office of the Attending Physician (OAP)*

- Review OAP’s operations and determine the necessary authorities for the office’s operations that ensure accountability and efficacy.
- Make strides to modernize OAP fee payment structure to streamline accounting and improve customer experience.

*Office of Congressional Accessibility Services (OCAS)*

- Oversee the management and operations of Office of Congressional Accessibility Services in conjunction with Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. Continue coordination regarding the needs of the office to accomplish long-term strategic plans that increase Americans’ accessibility of the Capitol Campus and events.
- Continue to build connections between OCAS and AOC to ensure that construction activities and future building upgrades are undertaken in an accessibility conscious way.
- Continue to utilize new and emerging technologies and platforms to increase accessibility offerings around the campus.

*Other Offices*

- Evaluate current recommendations from NAPA and civil society around the Office of Technology Assessment and assess deauthorization.

## ADVICE AND GUIDANCE, MEMBER SERVICES

*Members Services*

- Continue to consistently engage in a timely and customer service-focused manner on Member, Committee, Leadership, and staff requests.
- To continue to work across the institution to support Members and their constituents.
- To be agile and effective at communicating all of the resources and development opportunities the House offers to Members, Committees, and staff to improve institutional knowledge, expertise, and capacity.

### *Members' Representational Allowance*

- Oversee Members' Representational Allowance (MRA), including amounts, structure, regulations and calculations to ensure that all Members have sufficient resources to effectively represent their constituents.
- Oversee the timely processing of vouchers and direct payments, including those for payroll.
- Continue to monitor the implementation of My Expenses and other advancement that streamline operations while increasing accountability.
- Ensure that the Members' Congressional Handbook sets clear, effective guidance for the appropriate use of the Members' Representational Allowance.

### *Official Communications*

- Continue close oversight and compliance enforcement of all official communications submitted to the Commission for review; ensuring all actions align in accordance with House Rules, Commission Rules, and the Communications Standards Manual.
- The Communications Standards Commission staff will continue meeting with Member offices and Committee Staff to provide advice and guidance on all items related to official communications standards and rules. The end goal being to increase transparency and accountability of all mass communications sent using the Congressional Frank and all other official resources.

### *New Member Orientation*

- Proactively plan, implement, and oversee the New Member Orientation program for newly elected Members of Congress. Ensure that programming emphasizes bipartisanship and communicates relevant information that adequately prepares new members to hit the ground running.
- Review the management and planning of the Congressional Research Service's New Member Issues Seminar.

### *Intern Program*

- Continue and expand the Gregg and Livingston Harper congressional internship program for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Continue oversight of the House Paid Internship program, including oversight of paid interns in district offices.
- In coordination with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, organize, administer, and oversee the intern lecture series.

## CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

- Conduct general oversight of the Office of Workplace Rights, Office House Employment Counsel, Office of Employee Assistance, and the Office of Employee Advocacy.
- Evaluate resources available to OCWR and House employing offices to facilitate implementation of the Congressional Accountability Act.
- Monitor the development and deployment of the biannual climate survey.

## FEDERAL ELECTION LAW AND PROCEDURES

- Examine all aspects of election security practices and consider proposals to strengthen election integrity.
- Consider proposals to improve voting methods for those serving and living abroad.
- Examine the role and impact of political organizations and non-profit organizations on federal elections.
- 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.
- Review federal campaign-finance laws and regulations, including presidential and congressional public financing, and consider potential reforms.
- Review operations of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency and improve implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).
- 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.
- Protect federalism and constitutional principles that instruct that States play the primary role in determining the “the Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives”, as provided for in Article I, Section 4, of the Constitution.
- Investigate and monitor HAVA waste, fraud, and abuse (including, but not limited to, allegations of official funds going toward partisan “get-out-the-vote” efforts, lack of transparency in the contract bidding process, and ex parte communications between vendors and state contracting officials).
- Investigate how states and localities that allow non-citizens to vote ensure that federal funds are not used to facilitate non-citizen voting.
- Review and strengthen methods to improve the enforcement of existing federal law that requires States to maintain their voter registration lists to improve the accuracy and integrity of the elections process.
- Review and examine the 2024 election with a focus on ensuring all lawful ballots in congressional races were counted fairly, accurately, and according to law.
- Review and examine the 2024 Congressional Election Observer Program, which helped the House and Senate gather evidence to fulfill their constitutional responsibility to “be the judge of the Elections, Returns, and Qualifications of its own Members” as provided for by Article I, Section 5 of the Constitution.
- Restore voter confidence in our elections by highlighting states and localities that are administering elections in an open, fair, and transparent way.

## MINORITY VIEWS

### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OVERSIGHT

#### INTRODUCTION

On February 21, 2025, former Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio was arrested and charged with assaulting a woman on Capitol grounds.<sup>1</sup> Tarrio had previously been convicted of seditious conspiracy for orchestrating the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol and was sentenced to 22 years in prison. However, he was released by President Donald Trump—along with every other violent criminal who attacked the Capitol that day. The security implications for the country, the Congress, and the Committee on House Administration are extremely dangerous and without precedent.

One of the Committee’s most critical responsibilities is to oversee Capitol security and ensure the safety of Members, staff, and visitors. Member offices—both in Washington, D.C. and in districts around the country—have become increasingly threatening environments. Since 2016, threats against Members have increased over 1,000 percent, with investigations by the United States Capitol Police (USCP) Threat Assessment Section (TAS) increasing from 902 cases in 2016 to 9,474 cases in 2024.

This situation was exacerbated on January 20, 2025, when President Donald Trump pardoned or otherwise granted clemency to every individual charged or convicted for their role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, including those convicted of violently assaulting police officers. Many individuals released from prison have returned to the Capitol since their release. For example, Stewart Rhodes, founder of the far-right extremist group the Oath Keepers, had been serving an eighteen-year sentence for seditious conspiracy related to his role in planning the attack. He returned to the Capitol on January 22, 2025, held an impromptu press availability in the Longworth House Office Building basement,<sup>2</sup> and participated in a press conference at the Capitol with Enrique Tarrio on February 21, 2025, the day Tarrio was arrested by USCP for allegedly striking a woman.

President Trump’s actions make the Congressional community less safe by undermining the rule of law, encouraging future attacks, and emboldening violent extremists. It also re-traumatizes Members and staff of both parties, along with nonpartisan institutional staff. It is incumbent on this Committee to provide rigorous oversight of and work with USCP and the House Sergeant at Arms

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<sup>1</sup>Kyle Cheney, *Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio arrested at Capitol after scuffle with protester*, POLITICO, (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/21/proud-boys-leader-enrique-tarrio-arrested-00205513>.

<sup>2</sup>Michael Kunzelman and Lisa Mascaro, *Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes visits Capitol Hill after Trump clemency*, A.P., (Jan. 22, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/capitol-riot-pardons-trump-2e2275ff164550de29c34de8d12886ab>.

to ensure the threat is adequately mitigated and Members and staff can perform their duties free of intimidation or threats of violence. The Committee Minority hopes the Majority will join in these efforts.

The oversight and authorization activities of the Committee on House Administration also extend beyond Capitol security to all Legislative Branch operations. While there are policy issues in which the Minority ardently disagrees with the Majority, the Minority appreciates the Majority's partnership in efforts to both strengthen and modernize the House, particularly through the Subcommittee on Modernization and Innovation. We are grateful that the Majority is continuing the practice started by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress in the 116th and 117th Congresses and continued by the Subcommittee on Modernization in the 118th Congress to treat the Subcommittee as a bipartisan entity with an even number of Majority and Minority Members.

Due, in large part, to recent actions taken by both the Executive and Judicial Branches, these efforts are occurring at a critical moment for the House. The Trump Administration has, over the course of its first month in office, improperly frozen Congressionally appropriated funds and dismantled Congressionally authorized federal agencies. Under Article I of the U.S. Constitution, the Congress is the only authorizer and appropriator of federal dollars, and it is imperative that the House continue to expand and reinforce the tools at its disposal to assert its authority.

In addition, the Supreme Court in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*<sup>3</sup> overruled the *Chevron* doctrine, which, for nearly four decades, required federal courts to defer to a federal agency's reasonable interpretation of ambiguous statutory provisions the agency administers. As a result, Congress now must draft legislation with more specificity and make policy at a more granular level. This will require increased capacity in the House, including continued development of advanced drafting tools and the addition of supplementary subject matter experts to House offices.

The Minority looks forward to working with the Majority to ensure Members of the House have the resources needed to carry out their Constitutional duties, including conducting oversight of the Executive Branch, drafting sufficiently detailed legislation, appropriating federal funds, authorizing federal programs and agencies, and providing constituent services.

#### HOUSE OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

##### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO)

The Chief Administrative Officer provides vital administrative, operational, and technical support to House offices. It is staffed by a wide range of professionals, including skilled craftsmen, cybersecurity experts, accountants, audio/visual experts, and more. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's CAO oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Oversee the CAO's new Human Capital Office, including its efforts to diversify the House workforce to better reflect the

<sup>3</sup>*Loper Bright Enterprises, et al. v. Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce, et al.; Relentless, Inc. et al. v. Department of Commerce, et al.*, 603 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2024).



demographic makeup of the nation, facilitate diversity working groups and mentoring programs, and follow through on its commitment to perform the duties formerly within the purview of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

- Oversee after action reviews of the 119th Congressional transition—including New Member Orientation—and plan the 120th Congressional transition, implementing lessons learned.

- Oversee services provided to district offices, including the implementation of enterprise-wide district office WiFi.

- Oversee and provide direction on the House’s continued development of its Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy and use cases, with a particular focus on: the impact on the legal rights currently protecting Member and constituent data; Speech or Debate protection implications; the importance of data quality and integrity; transparency and ethics; and prevention of so-called “Habsburg AI,” a phenomenon wherein outputs become less accurate and more biased over time.

- Continue oversight of vendor compliance with the House’s AI Policy (HITPOL 8), particularly regarding the safeguarding of sensitive data.

- Oversee the continued rollout of the updated HouseNet website, including ensuring URLs are correct and the search function is improved.

- Oversee the House’s relationship with the General Services Administration (GSA) and ensure Members can effectively serve their constituents through district offices in GSA-owned buildings while controlling for relevant separation of powers issues.

- Oversee operations of the House Child Care Center, including continued efforts to expand access, reduce wait list times, and identify efficiencies to mitigate the need for tuition increases.

- Expand the Congressional Staff Academy and CAO Coach Program, including by adding coaches and classes tailored to committee staff and administration/management of Congressional offices.

- Oversee award and implementation of new food services contract(s).

- Continue efforts to improve customer service and communications across all CAO functions and business units.

- Continue oversight of House technology upgrades, including MyExpenses and MyDelivery.

- Support the transition of the per diem pilot program into a permanent support program for official travel.

- Review proposed reforms to the Office of Finance and Payroll and Benefits, including potential implementation of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress recommendation to shift to bimonthly pay periods.

- Oversee the House Retention through Educational Advancement Program (REAP) (formerly known as the Student Loan Repayment Program), including implementation of new reimbursable expenses, such as educational/professional development expenses, credentialing, and certain private student loans.

- Facilitate implementation of open House Office of Inspector General recommendations.
- Review and oversee information technology services provided, maintained or hosted by House Information Resources (HIR), including the Technology Partner Program and IT support for international travel.
- Continue oversight of Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery and failsafe procedures to guarantee continuity of operations.
- Continue oversight of House cybersecurity practices, including network security and threat prevention.
- Provide oversight of the House Disaster Recovery Program.
- Oversee web services activities, including new Member website development, with a focus on accessibility, particularly of external vendor-managed websites, which lag significantly behind House managed websites.
- Oversee continued efforts to move toward cloud computing.
- Work with the Office of Cyber Security, law enforcement partners, and the House's IT vendors to stay apprised of and defend against emerging threats to the House network.
- Collaborate with CAO Vendor Management and other relevant teams to improve transparency, efficiency, and effective communication between stakeholders in the House's acquisitions and contract negotiation processes.
- Collaborate with the CAO to train institutional staff on unique needs of Member and committee offices.

#### HOUSE SERGEANT AT ARMS (HSAA)

The House Sergeant at Arms is the chief law enforcement official and protocol officer in the House. They are responsible for maintaining security on the House floor and the House side of the Capitol. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's House Sergeant at Arms oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Oversee continued implementation of the Residential Security Program initiated during the 117th Congress, including potential expansion thereof to account for rising costs of home security systems, monitoring services, and installation of security features recommended by USCP.
- Advocate for substantial expansion of the Residential Security Program's \$1,000 cybersecurity allocation, focusing on enhanced data privacy protection and dark web monitoring capabilities for Members and their families.
- Support enhancement of the Law Enforcement Coordination program to improve real-time communication between Capitol Police, local law enforcement, and Members' offices during district events and public appearances.
- Support expanded District Office Security Program funding to support enhanced visitor screening equipment and protocols.
- Continue to review the effectiveness of the District Office Security and Law Enforcement Coordinator Programs and recommend reforms based on lessons learned.

- Review the HSAA role on the Capitol Police Board and study potential reforms to the Board.
- Partner with the HSAA to identify, pilot, and procure new technologies that enhance security and modernize service offerings.
- Monitor implementation of security recommendations made by various security experts in the aftermath of the January 6, 2021, attack, including those made by Lt. General Russel Honoré's task force, the USCP Office of Inspector General, Government Accountability Office, and Architect of the Capitol Office of Inspector General.
- Oversee efforts to improve emergency preparedness training for Members and staff, both in Washington, DC and in their respective districts.

#### CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Clerk of the House has many responsibilities related to the legislative process in the House, including calling Members-elect to order at the beginning of a Congress, certifying the passage of all bills and joint resolutions, receive messages from the President and Senate, and more. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's Clerk oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Monitor the development and implementation of the Committee Votes Portal to ensure it captures comprehensive markup data, hearing transcripts, and amendment processes while maintaining accessibility for both Congressional staff and the public.
- Advocate for expanded integration between House and Senate legislative systems, focusing on standardizing data formats and improving the efficiency of concurrent resolution processing between chambers.
- Support the continued development and use of the Comparative Print Suite.
- Review the Clerk's current IT configuration and redundancy posture.
- Oversee the House Document Repository.
- Oversee the House Office of Employment Counsel (OHEC).
- Oversee lobbying disclosure process, including ways to make data more easily accessible for the general public.
- Review standards for the electronic exchange of legislative information among the chambers of congress and Legislative Branch agencies.
- Coordinate on matters under the jurisdiction of the House Fine Arts Board and the Capitol Preservation Board.
- Continue review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Clerk.
- Continue efforts to increase legislative capacity within the Office of the Clerk, along with other relevant institutional offices.
- Oversee installation of additional electronic voting stations on the House Floor.

- Review of 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.
- Review the application programming interface incorporated in the Clerk's website.
- Oversee preparation of congressionally authorized publications.
- Oversee participation in the Congressional Data Task Force.
- Continued oversight of official reporter participation in field hearings.

#### HOUSE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The House Office of Inspector General provides recommendations for improving House financial, administrative, and technology operations by performing independent and nonpartisan audit, advisory, and investigative services. The Committee Minority agrees, in general, with the Committee Majority's oversight priorities for the House Office of Inspector General and looks forward to providing direction on audits and management advisories on a bipartisan basis. The Minority also looks forward to selecting a new permanent House Inspector General.

#### OFFICE OF WHISTLEBLOWER OMBUDS

The Office of Whistleblower Ombuds is a nonpartisan office that promulgates best practices and provides training for whistleblower intake in House offices. The Committee Minority looks forward to overseeing this important office established during the previous Democratic Majority and encourages the House community to engage with it for trainings and best practices in working with whistleblowers.

#### NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

The Committee looks forward to planning orientation for Members-elect on a bipartisan basis so that newly elected Members can perform their constitutional duties immediately upon taking their oath of office.

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AGENCIES

##### ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL (AOC)

The Architect of the Capitol is responsible for maintaining and preserving the buildings and grounds that make up the Capitol complex, along with the Supreme Court. The AOC also plays a role in the physical security of the Capitol and sits on the Capitol Police Board. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's AOC oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Oversee the newly appointed Architect's efforts to reform the agency culture and build out his senior leadership team.
- Oversee AOC hiring practices, with an emphasis on improving diversity across the AOC, including the C-Suite.

- Oversee continued restoration, repairs and security improvements necessitated by the January 6, 2021, attack at the Capitol.
- Review AOC efforts to improve discipline program and accountability systems, including those applicable to exempt personnel.
- Maintain rigorous oversight of the final phase of the Cannon House Office Building renovation.
- Continue planning for the Rayburn House Office Building renovation, including identifying potential swing space.
- Review plans and proposals for future projects in the House Office Buildings and on the House side of the Capitol.
- Oversee implementation of utility system upgrades for food service facilities, including renovations to the Capitol Carryout and Members' Dining Room.
- Continue oversight of life safety measures and improved evacuation mechanisms in House buildings.
- Continue to improve the accessibility of the Capitol Campus for individuals with disabilities.
- Review workplace safety and health efforts.
- Oversee the pest management practices of the AOC, including in the Capitol, House Office Buildings and House Child Care Center.
- Ensure the existence of a professional workplace culture.
- Oversee the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC), including labor agreements, security concerns set forth by Guides, and Exhibition Hall and any changes to exhibit content.
- Oversee improvements to the visitor experience at the CVC, including tour and Exhibition Hall updates.
- Oversee the United States Botanic Garden, including potential security upgrades.
- Advocate for increased resources to support AOC's comprehensive data center modernization program, including the migration to tier III secured facilities and implementation of enhanced disaster recovery protocols.

#### LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world. Its collection includes millions of books, films, audio recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps, and manuscripts. The Library is also home to the Congressional Research Service—the main research arm of Congress—and the U.S. Copyright Office. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's Library of Congress oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Continue detailed oversight of the Copyright Office:
  - Review the use of technology generally in Copyright Office operations, and specifically its modernization efforts. This includes continued oversight of the development and implementation of the Enterprise Copyright System, including the recordation and registration systems, updated application process and updated user experience platform.

- Continue to review the Copyright Office's efforts to communicate its modernization efforts to stakeholders, including the Copyright Public Modernization Committee.
- Continue to review security measures and processes for e-deposits submitted to the Copyright Office and Library of Congress.
- Continue to oversee Mechanical Licensing Collective (MLC) redesignation.
- Oversee the Copyright Office's series of publications on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on its operations.
- Oversee the Copyright Royalty Board, including identifying any royalty or licensing fees held by the Library and owed to rights-holders, whether those fees are unreasonably delayed, and whether reforms are necessary to mitigate such delays.
- Continue detailed oversight of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) operations and consider any need to modify management and organizational structure of the service. Areas of focus to include:
  - Diversity and inclusion
  - Staff morale and attrition rates
  - Work environment
  - Technology and innovation, including AI-driven analytical tools like TAP 2.0 and streamlined bill summaries and additional data for Congress.gov
  - Potential reauthorization and/or changes to authorizing statute
  - Resource allocation
  - Administrative support for subject matter experts
  - Telework policies
  - Response time to Member requests
- Plan New Member Seminar in conjunction with CRS.
- Oversee the Visitor Experience Master Plan and related projects and facilitate a productive relationship between the Library and Architect of the Capitol.
- Continue oversight of Library IT modernization consistent with the guidance from the Government Accountability Office, including efforts to overhaul records storage, utilize the cloud, stabilize the core IT structure, improve IT governance and develop a more centralized and professional IT workforce.
- Oversee Library storage facilities, including the shelving replacement project in the Law Library.
- Oversee a timely and secure transition from the Library's legacy search and collections database systems to its cloud-based Library Collections Access Platform.
- Continue oversight of the Library's technology hosting environment transition.
- Oversee the operation and security of the Library's various websites, including Congress.gov and Copyright.gov.
- Review and propose changes to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Joint Committee on the Library.
- Conduct a review of the progress that the Library has made in providing public access to government information, especially in electronic form.

- Continue oversight of Library of Congress operations, including inventory cataloguing systems, preservation efforts and plans to grow collections.
- Continue oversight of Law Library operations.
- Review the use of technology generally in Library of Congress operations, and specifically the ongoing work to centralize technology operations.
- 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.
- Oversight of supervisor and employee conduct, workplace environment and culture, discipline and other human resources matters.
- Oversight of overseas offices.
- Continue oversight of the National Library Service's efforts to provide the most effective service to their library partners, explore ways to increase the number of users under 65.
- Continue oversight of collection development programs and digital collection plans.
- Continue oversight of the Contracts and Grants Directorate, including acquisition workforce training and acquisition planning.
- Continue oversight of Library capital projects.
- Oversee gift shop financial management and accounting.

#### UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE (USCP)

The United States Capitol Police protects and secures the Capitol complex and Members of Congress so that Congress can fulfill its constitutional duties in a safe, secure and open environment. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's USCP oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Continue encouraging USCP to shift from a traditional law enforcement agency to a force protection entity, focusing more acutely on its core mission.
- Oversee efforts to improve security for Members of Congress outside Washington, DC, including in their districts and in transit.
- Support USCP recruitment, with particular emphasis on growing the Dignitary Protection Division to meet increasing threat levels and expanding protective mission requirements.
- Ensure full implementation of the Protective Intelligence Operations Center's capabilities, including enhanced integration of civilian intelligence analysts and expanded access to threat assessment resources.
- Expand integration of the Threat Assessment Section with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to improve intelligence sharing and coordinate protective responses.
- Ensure accountability for lapses at security screening checkpoints and provide oversight of ensuing subsequent to training and related USCP policies.
- Oversee efforts to improve officer wellness, including continued development and operations of the Howard C. Liebengood Center for Wellness.

- Support the training & equipment needs of USCP's new Rapid Response Team, ensuring readiness for large-scale security events and emerging threats to the Capitol complex.
- Continue to oversee the overhaul of the Department Training Services Bureau, including opportunities for in-service training and leadership training, as well as procedures in place for quality control.
- Pursue opportunities to strengthen relationships between Member offices and local law enforcement via the Law Enforcement Coordination Program, including through the hiring and training of additional liaison officers.
- Monitor continued compliance with recommendations made by the Department Office of Inspector General in its series of flash reports issued after the January 6, 2021, attack.
- Oversee the Contract Security Officer program to ensure that all security service providers meet USCP's standards and that the program adequately addresses force strength requirements.
- Oversee efforts to improve recruitment and retention of sworn officers while ensuring adequate sworn to civilian ratios.
- Identify whether legislation is necessary to effectuate USCP's c-UAS program.
- Oversee USCP field offices.
- Oversee implementation of the USCP Concept of Operations (ConOps).

#### GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE (GPO)

The Government Publishing Office creates and distributes information products for all three branches of government, including passports for the Department of State, as well as the official publications of Congress, the White House, and other Federal agencies. The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's GPO oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Review and adopt legislative proposals to reform government printing by eliminating redundancies and unnecessary printing, increasing efficiency, and enhancing public access to government publications.
- Continue efforts to reform title 44, United States Code, particularly provisions related to the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).
- Oversee the digitization of the FDLP.
- 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 GPO labor practices and compliance with labor agreements.

#### SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex. It includes 21 museums, 14 education and research centers, and the National Zoo, and seeks to preserve heritage while discovering and spreading new knowledge.



The Minority agrees with many of the Majority's Smithsonian Institution oversight priorities. In addition, the Minority intends to prioritize the following:

- Collaborate with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and other relevant stakeholders to authorize the construction of the National Museum of the American Latino and American Women's History Museum on the National Mall, as recommended by the Smithsonian Board of Regents.
- Support implementation of H.R. 7764, the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act.
- Ensure the Smithsonian Institution maintains curatorial independence.
- Oversee efforts to protect Smithsonian facilities and collections from the impacts of climate change and associated flooding, including the Smithsonian's 2021 Climate Change Action Plan.
- Oversee the continued renovations to the National Air and Space Museum.
- Continue to monitor the Smithsonian's administration of its return of human remains policy and encourages continued outreach to the ancestors and communities of individuals stored in Smithsonian collections.
- Monitor efforts to strengthen Smithsonian cybersecurity practices.
- Oversee efforts to increase access to the Smithsonian, including through traveling exhibits and digital resources.
- Oversee the Smithsonian Institution Affiliates Program.
- Oversee the operations of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI).

#### OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (OCAS)

The Office of Congressional Accessibility Services provides adaptive tours, sign language interpreting services, wheelchair loans, and other services for individuals with disabilities. The Committee Minority believes strongly in improving accessibility at the Capitol complex, and looks forward to collaborating with the Majority to continue making it easier for all Americans to visit their elected officials.

#### FEDERAL ELECTION LAW AND PROCEDURES

Under the authority of clause 1(k)(12) of House Rule X, the Committee is responsible for oversight of federal elections, including the "[e]lection of the President, Vice President, Members, Senators, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner; corrupt practices; contested elections; credentials and qualifications; and Federal elections generally." *Id.*

Congress, and by extension the Committee, pursuant to Rule X, has broad authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of congressional elections under the Elections Clause of the Constitution,

article I, section 4, clause 1.<sup>4</sup> The Supreme Court has affirmed that the “substantive scope” of the Elections Clause is “broad”; that “Times, Places, and Manner” are “comprehensive words which embrace authority to provide for a complete code for congressional elections”; and “[t]he power of Congress over the Times, Places and Manner of congressional elections is paramount, and may be exercised at any time, and to any extent which it deems expedient; and so far as it is exercised, and no farther, the regulations effected supersede those of the State which are inconsistent therewith.” *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona*, 570 U.S. 1, 8–9 (2013) (internal quotation marks and citations omitted); see also “The Elections Clause: Constitutional Interpretation and Congressional Exercise,” Hearing Before Comm. on House Administration, 117th Cong. (2021), written testimony of Vice Dean Franita Tolson.

Indeed, “Congress has plenary and paramount jurisdiction over the whole subject” of congressional elections, *Ex parte Siebold*, 100 U.S. (10 Otto) 371, 388 (1879), and this power “may be exercised as and when Congress sees fit,” and “so far as it extends and conflicts with the regulations of the State, necessarily supersedes them.” *Id.* at 384. Among other things, the Elections Clause was intended to “vindicate the people’s right to equality of representation in the House.” *Wesberry v. Sanders*, 376 U.S. 1, 16 (1964).

Congress also has broad authority pursuant to Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to enforce, through legislation, the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment, including its protections of the right to vote and the democratic process. Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment protects the fundamental right to vote, which is “of the most fundamental significance under our constitutional structure.” *Ill. Bd. of Election v. Socialist Workers Party*, 440 U.S. 173, 184 (1979); see *United States v. Classic*, 313 U.S. 299 (1941) (“Obviously included within the right to choose, secured by the Constitution, is the right of qualified voters within a state to cast their ballots and have them counted . . .”). As the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed, the right to vote is “preservative of all rights.” *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356, 370 (1886). Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment also protects the right to vote, granting Congress additional authority to reduce a State’s representation in Congress when the right to vote is abridged or denied. Congress also has authority to legislate to eliminate racial discrimination in voting and the democratic process pursuant to both Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment, which grants equal protection of the laws, and Section 2 of the Fifteenth Amendment, which explicitly bars denial or abridgment of the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Furthermore, Congress has the power to protect the right to vote from denial or abridgment on account of sex, age, or ability to pay a poll tax or other tax pursuant to the Nineteenth, Twenty-Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments.

Congress has both the authority and responsibility, as the legislative body for the United States, to fulfill the promise of article IV,

<sup>4</sup>The Elections Clause, in its entirety, provides: “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing [sic] Senators.” U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.

section 4, of the Constitution, which states: “The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government[.]” U.S. Const. art. IV, § 4. Congress’s authority and responsibility to enforce the Guarantee Clause is clear given that Federal courts have not enforced this clause because they understood that its enforcement is committed to Congress by the Constitution.

Finally, Congress has an obligation to fulfill a central aim of the United States Constitution, ensuring meaningful self-governance by citizens in our representative democracy. *See* Stephen Breyer, *Our Democratic Constitution*, 77 N.Y.U. L. REV. 245, 247 (2002) (“[T]he Constitution, considered as a whole,<sup>4</sup> creates a framework for a certain kind of government. Its general objectives can be described abstractly as including . . . democratic self-government.”).

In its campaign finance decisions, the Supreme Court has repeatedly acknowledged the connection between political transparency and democratic self-governance. *Buckley* recognized that disclosure “provides the electorate with information as to where political campaign money comes from and how it is spent by the candidate in order to aid the voters in evaluating those who seek federal office.” *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 66 (1976) (footnote and quotations omitted). Similarly, *Citizens United* described how disclosure promotes self-governance by supplying information that “enables the electorate to make informed decisions and give proper weight to different speakers and messages.” *Citizens United v. Fed. Election Comm’n*, 558 U.S. 310, 371 (2010). Importantly, the Supreme Court has credited the value of disclosure by candidates and by independent sources of political speech, both of which “help[] voters to define more of the candidates’ constituencies” and “promote[] informed choices in the political marketplace.” *Id.* at 369; *Buckley*, 424 U.S. at 81.

#### OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Committee Democrats intend to further these constitutional prerogatives through federal election-related oversight. This oversight is especially vital at a time when the current President has upended longstanding practice and precedent regarding the independence of various federal agencies, including those overseen by the Committee. Oversight activities will include various forms of Committee activity, including, but not limited to, regular oversight meetings with Committee staff, Member-level meetings, briefings, events, correspondence, studies, reports, and cooperation with relevant inspectors general, as well as federal, state, and local election officials.

#### GENERAL ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT

The Committee’s Minority plans to build upon the extensive oversight of the federal elections process conducted during the 116th, 117th, and 118th Congresses. Over the past six years, examining all facets of the voting experience, the Committee and Sub-

<sup>4</sup>The Elections Clause, in its entirety, provides: “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing [sic] Senators.” U.S. Const. art. I, § 4, cl. 1.

committee on Elections held numerous hearings and sent oversight letters gathering critical information on the U.S. election process.

During the 119th Congress, Committee Democrats plan to engage in the following oversight activities:

- Exercise the Committee’s oversight authorities and obligations to monitor partisan manipulation at the independent agencies under the Committee’s jurisdiction—the FEC and the EAC.
- Use authority under Article 1, Section 4 of the United States Constitution to provide free, fair, equitable, and secure opportunities for all voters to participate in federal elections.
- Examine all aspects of election security practices and consider proposals to improve and strengthen election integrity, and bolster security, both cyber and physical, to protect election workers, poll workers, and elected officials.
- Continue examining the proliferation of election-related mis-, dis-, and malinformation to ensure voters have access to accurate information.
- Examine the impact of amendments made by the Help America Vote Act (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 (NVRA) to identify potential improvements to voter registration and education programs and reductions to the costs of compliance for state and local governments.

#### FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Committee Democrats are deeply alarmed by President Trump’s actions related to the Federal Election Commission (FEC). President Trump’s February 18 Executive Order (EO) “Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies” portends a dangerous impact on the work of the Commission FEC. This Order quickly followed the President’s unprecedented firing of Chair Ellen Weintraub and serves as another example of this Administration’s disregard for the laws and procedures that ensure independent federal agencies work as Congress intended.

The FEC was created over 50 years ago in the wake of the Watergate Scandal when Congress took steps to weed out political corruption by creating an agency independent of the politicians it would regulate. That the President would fire Chair Weintraub, hampering the efficiency and efficacy of the FEC at a time when the agency is reviewing several open matters against his campaign and his close associates, suggests the President is seeking to disrupt any investigation into his blatantly corrupt campaign finance practices.

Committee Democrats are deeply committed to ensuring the FEC is best positioned to fulfill the mission Congress imparted, “to protect the integrity of the federal campaign finance process by providing transparency and fairly enforcing and administering federal

campaign finance laws.” FEC, “Mission and history,” available at <https://www.fec.gov/about/mission-and-history/>.

Committee Democrats will continue to conduct oversight of the FEC—including the agency’s independence—by, for example, reviewing the operations of the FEC and evaluating possible changes to improve efficiency, improve enforcement of the Federal Election Campaign Act, and improve procedures for the disclosure of contributions and expenditures. Committee Democrats will also consider authorization issues and make recommendations on the FEC’s budget. And Committee Democrats will examine the role and impact of political organizations and non-profit organizations on federal elections, reviewing federal campaign-finance laws and regulations, including presidential and congressional public financing, and considering potential reforms.

Finally, Committee Democrats will be acutely aware of efforts by the Trump Administration to weaponize the FEC for partisan purposes by, *inter alia*, directing the Commission to pursue an enforcement action against a particular candidate, party committee, or other individual or organization

#### ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Likewise, Committee Democrats are alarmed by President Trump’s February 18 Executive Order (EO) “Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies” and the impact it may have on the work of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). The bipartisan EAC is not a regulatory agency. The EAC was created over 20 years ago in the bipartisan *Help America Vote Act* and was designed to preserve independence from political interference as it serves the officials responsible for administering our elections. Election officials—nonpartisan and across the political spectrum—rely on the helpful assistance and resources that the EAC provides to ensure the secure, fair, and successful administration of elections.

Committee Democrats will continue conducting oversight of the EAC—including the agency’s independence—by, for example, reviewing operations of the EAC and evaluating possible changes to improve efficiency and improve implementation of the *Help America Vote Act* and related election grant programs.

#### ELECTION-RELATED AUTHORIZATIONS

The Committee on House Administration oversees agency budgets for the EAC and the FEC. During the 119th Congress, Committee Democrats remain committed to reviewing the authorizations of agencies within its jurisdiction to ensure the EAC and FEC receive the budgets necessary to fully carry out their missions. Further, Committee Democrats will be acutely aware of efforts by the Trump administration to exercise the impermissible authority over apportionment purposely granted in the February 18 EO.

The Committee also oversees the expenditure of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant funding. Since 2018, Congress has appropriated more than \$900 million in funding to support federal election administration and improvements. Congress also appropriated \$400 million in elections funding through the CARES Act for conducting elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding appropriated in 2018 was the first time since 2010 that Congress had

made resources available through HAVA to support federal elections. More funding is needed.

Election infrastructure was designated as part of the nation's critical infrastructure in January 2017, and it should receive a level of funding commiserate with this designation. President Biden's fiscal year 2022 budget called for an investment of \$10 billion over the next ten years in our nation's elections. Additionally, state, and local election officials have consistently called on Congress to provide a consistent, sustainable stream of funding for elections to assist in administration and allow for more predictable, long-term planning.

Committee Democrats will continue to engage with election officials at the Federal, state, and local level to examine the need for continued funding for federal election administration, election security—both cyber and physical, voting equipment and election technology upgrades and maintenance, and the safety and security of election officials and voters.

Furthermore, Committee Democrats will examine new funding needs, examine ways appropriations language may be revised to allow states and local jurisdictions more flexibility in utilizing HAVA funds. Committee Democrats will also explore options for enacting and authorizing new and innovative programs to better assist election officials and voters, including funding for election administration policies and procedures that allow voters free, fair, equitable, and secure access to the ballot—such as, but not limited to, automatic voter registration systems, same day voter registration, implementation of online voter registration systems, development and implementation of ballot tracking systems, improved voter accessibility, and post-election audits.

In recent years, election officials and election workers have faced an unprecedented number of threats, significant harassment, and a barrage of election-related mis- and disinformation, often directed by political candidates<sup>5</sup>—all of which require additional resources and add new and complex layers to the jobs of election officials. Committee Democrats remain committed to ensuring election officials receive the support and resources they need to ensure the safety of themselves, their staffs, the voters, and election infrastructure.

Finally, Committee Democrats is supportive of efforts to use election-related authorizations for certain other democracy promotion activities. For example, Committee Democrats support authorizations modeled on Title VIII of the *Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act*, which passed the House in January 2022 and would have established a democracy advancement and innovation program to provide states funding to carry out the following activities:

- (1) Activities to promote innovation to improve efficiency and smooth functioning in the administration of elections for Federal office and to secure the infrastructure used in the administration of such elections, including making upgrades to voting equipment and voter registration systems, securing voting locations, expanding polling places and the availability of early and

<sup>5</sup> *Campaign of Fear: The Trump world's assault on U.S. election workers*, REUTERS (2021–22), <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/section/campaign-of-fear/>.

mail voting, recruiting and training nonpartisan election officials, and promoting cybersecurity.

(2) Activities to ensure equitable access to democracy, including enabling candidates to receive payments through a small-donor matching system or for a state to operate a democracy credit program.

(3) Other activities to ensure equitable access to democracy, including a reformed Congressional redistricting process.

(4) Activities to increase access to voting in elections for Federal office by underserved communities, individuals with disabilities, racial and language minority groups, individuals entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and voters residing in Indian lands.

Funding such activities would empower states to promote free, fair, equitable, and secure elections.





**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20515**

January 23, 2025

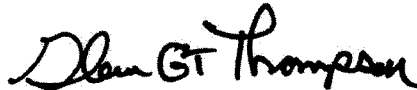
The Honorable James Comer, Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer,

This authorization and oversight plan is filed pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 119<sup>th</sup> 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 consolidation 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn GT Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Chairman

# **COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

## **119TH CONGRESS**

### **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

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

#### **2018 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 Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;
- 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 of the market situation, including effect of crop reports and projections;
- Review USDA's implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards and U.S. Warehouse Acts;
- Review how Administrative Pay-Go is affecting Department actions;
- Review discretionary actions by USDA that are not directly authorized by legislation, including the Secretary's use of the Commodity Credit Corporation; and
- Review the National Appeals Division (NAD) at USDA.

#### **Conservation and the Environment**

- Review implementation of all of USDA's conservation programs;
- Review USDA's implementation of the conservation compliance provisions in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;
- Review budget and program activities of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), including efforts to ensure adequate personnel and staffing needs;
- Review the regulatory activities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and how such activities affect agricultural productivity, including EPA's regulations under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Clean Air Act (CAA);
- 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 regarding crop protection tools on production of agriculture in the U.S.;

- Review regulatory activities by the Securities and Exchange Commission, specifically the Rules to Enhance and Standardize Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors and how such activities affect agriculture producers;
- Review ongoing discussions and potential consequences for American agriculture under the United Nations Climate Change Conference;
- Review EPA's implementation of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA V), and the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA);
- Review EPA's regulation of Animal Feeding Operations;
- Review Total Maximum Daily Load strategies and effects on production agriculture.
- Review USDA's implementation, distribution, and evaluation of activity under the Climate Smart Commodities Pilot Program;
- Review USDA's use of funding provided for the department's conservation programs provided through the Inflation Reduction Act;
- Review USDA efforts to improve soil health, including the remediation of PFAS in soil.

### **Federal Crop Insurance, Commodity Policy, and Risk Management**

- Review USDA's implementation of crop insurance provisions of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;
- Review the implementation of ad hoc disaster and economic assistance programs funded by Congress;
- Review implementation and effectiveness of Commodity Title programs, including the Agriculture Risk Coverage program, the Price Loss Coverage program, and marketing assistance loans;
- Review the role and effectiveness of Federal crop insurance;
- Review the Risk Management Agency's (RMA) administration and oversight of Federal crop insurance;
- Review the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) and the terms and conditions for private sector delivery, including reimbursement rates for Administrative and Operating (A&O) expenses, agent commissions, and discretionary actions taken by Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) with regard to agent contracts and policy offerings;
- Review the availability of crop insurance as a risk management tool;
- Review the adequacy and availability of risk management tools for the livestock, dairy, and specialty crop industries;
- Review USDA's activities established to identify and reduce crop insurance waste, fraud, and abuse;
- Review USDA's crop insurance rating methodology;
- Review RMA's yield and revenue protection crop insurance products;
- Review RMA's progress in approving crop insurance products for underserved commodities, underserved producers, and underserved regions;

- Review the operation and effectiveness of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and its ability to foster the development of new federal crop insurance policies.
- Review implementation and effectiveness of standing disaster programs including the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) as well as ad hoc disaster assistance programs including the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+), the Emergency Relief Program (ERP), and the Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP); and
- Review data sharing between FSA and RMA.

### **The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Derivatives Markets**

- Review the general operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to provide a reauthorization of the Commission;
- Review enforcement and oversight policies and their implementation by the CFTC;
- Review rulemakings, guidance, and other actions taken by the Commission and its staff for consistency and compliance with the Commodity Exchange Act and Congressional intent;
- Review the impact of emerging commodity markets and financial technologies and examine the authority of the Commission to deter fraud and manipulation, promote market integrity, and protect investors in digital commodity derivatives and at organized digital commodity trading platforms;
- Examine existing and novel derivatives market structures, including the vertical integration of market structures, and their potential benefits and risks to market integrity, competition, end-user needs, and access to risk management tools;
- Examine the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on derivatives and related financial markets, and assess the Commission's ability to effectively respond to AI's influence on these markets;
- Examine digital asset markets and the impact on customers, intermediaries, and the market of a regulatory framework for certain firms offering services to retail customers in digital commodity spot markets;
- Examine decentralized finance services and explore how these services can register under the Commodity Exchange Act when engaging in activities subject to its provisions;
- Review the impact of global events and increasing commodity market volatility on derivatives markets;
- Review international treatment of the U.S. derivatives industry, including market participants and infrastructure;
- Review the coordination of derivatives rules across international jurisdictions, and efforts by U.S. and foreign regulators to harmonize requirements, provide equivalence or substituted compliance determinations, and reduce conflicting or duplicative regulatory requirements; and
- Review the risk-mitigation, resilience, and recovery planning of the Commission, registered entities, and registrants.

### **Agriculture Trade and International Food Aid**

- Review tariff and non-tariff trade barriers currently applied by agricultural product producing countries around the world;
- Review ongoing multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations and dialogues (including World Trade Organization accession agreements) to assess their potential effect on U.S. agriculture;
- Review implementation of existing trade agreements and commitments as well as proposed frameworks, 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;
- Monitor the impact of tariffs on all U.S. agricultural imports and exports and the cost of agricultural inputs.
- Monitor the impact of tariffs on domestic food prices.
- Review statutory and Executive Agency 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 and impact on resiliency;
- Review monitoring and evaluation activities carried out by USDA and USAID;
- Review sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) barriers and other technical barriers to U.S. agricultural exports and examine efforts to eliminate such barriers; and
- Review U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in preparation for action on USMCA in 2026.

### **Agricultural Research and Promotion**

- Review USDA’s implementation of research, education, and extension programs authorized in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;

- Review the administration of the Agricultural Research Service research stations and worksites;
- Review USDA's foreign animal disease research, training and diagnostic programs at the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility;
- Review USDA's regulation of organic standards and the 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 grant programs;
- Review efforts to leverage Federal research investment with state, local, and private sources of funding;
- Review coordination between ARS, the Economic Research Service (ERS), NIFA and other USDA agencies to prevent duplicative research across the department;
- 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 marketing and promotion programs;
- Review coordination between USDA and the Department of Energy on carbon sequestration and 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;
- Review activities funded by the Biomass Research and Development Act (BRDA) and input from the external BRDA Advisory Board;
- Conduct oversight of the research grant process to coordinate and prevent overlapping research;
- Review USDA procurement to examine efforts to support local purchasing; and
- Review how the Farm Bill can incentivize agricultural innovation at land-grant and non-land-grant colleges of agriculture.

### **Biotechnology**

- Review current regulations and research regarding animal and plant biotechnology;
- Review the Administration's efforts to modernize the regulatory framework for genetically engineered animals;
- Assess USDA's efforts to develop and promote the benefits of biotechnology for increasing agricultural productivity and combating hunger globally; and
- Review USDA's implementation of biotechnology labeling standards.

### **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 the wood products industry and its infrastructure needs now and in the future.
- 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 utilize public-private partnerships that promote active forest management and forest health;
- Review the impact of invasive species and disease on forests and landscapes;
- Review USFS efforts to promote utilization of National Forest biomass for renewable energy purposes;
- Review USFS efforts to ensure adequate personnel and staffing needs across the National Forest System;
- Review USFS's management tools contained in the Farm Bill and other recent legislation; and
- Review USFS's use of funding provided through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

### **Dairy**

- Review USDA's implementation of the dairy risk management provisions in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;
- Review the ratification and implementation of changes to federal milk marketing orders, including through the 2023 National Federal Milk Marketing Order Pricing Formula Hearing;
- Review options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dairy programs; and
- Review the effectiveness of the federal milk marketing order system.

### **Outreach and Civil Rights**

- Review the operations of the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement;
- Review of the operations of the office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights;
- Review USDA's process for evaluating and settling discrimination claims; and
- Review the current status of the Agricultural Census and efforts to reach undercounted farmers and ranchers.

### **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 current staffing plan and related infrastructure;

- 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 growing consolidation within the FCS and the potential impact on services to farmers and rural communities;
- Review ability and capacity of FCS to provide additional lending services for needed infrastructure and other services in rural communities;
- 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 access to essential utility services in rural America;
- Review implementation of rural development policies and authorities contained in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act;
- Conduct oversight and assess effectiveness of provisions impacting USDA credit programs enacted via the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act;
- Conduct oversight of the USDA's rural broadband programs;
- Review the modernization of technology, processes, and controls at Rural Development to increase program access, improve application evaluation, and speed application decisions;
- Conduct oversight of the implementation of USDA's telecommunications programs;
- 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, business needs, workforce development, and job creation;
- Review agricultural lending practices;
- Review public-private partnerships in lending through guaranteed loans;
- Review the definition of "rural" under rural development programs;
- Review USDA's programs to support rural access to health care and health services;
- Review USDA Rural Development's use of the funding provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, the American Rescue Plan, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act;
- Review rural development loan programs and default rates; and
- Review the success of rural development programs in persistent poverty areas.



### **Energy**

- Assess energy programs authorized by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;
- Review availability of agriculture and forestry feedstocks for renewable energy production;
- Review current status of research on energy crops and feedstocks;
- Review current provisions in existing law that support agriculture-based energy production and use;
- Review USDA's biofuel initiatives;
- Review USDA's guidance and regulations related to the clean fuel production tax credit (45Z);
- Review implementation of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS);
- Review renewable fuel programs and their effect on agriculture; and
- Review USDA Rural Development's use of the funding for energy programs provided through the Inflation Reduction Act.

### **USDA Food and Nutrition Programs**

- Review food and nutrition programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), fruit, vegetable, and dairy incentive initiatives, the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) program, and other commodity distribution programs;
- Review the interaction between SNAP and other low-income assistance programs;
- Review the process by which the Thrifty Food Plan is updated;
- Review the integrity and implementation of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans;
- Review the efficiency and accountability of the SNAP Employment & Training program;
- Review educational initiatives such as SNAP Ed and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP);
- Review efforts by USDA and states to promote program integrity and combat error, duplicative participation, fraud (including skimming), and abuse within nutrition programs;
- Review efforts by USDA to hold accountable food retailers, including integrity issues;
- Review efforts by USDA and states to promote healthy families;
- Review efforts by USDA to promote technology improvements and encourage innovation in the electronic benefits transfer system; and
- Review efforts by state SNAP administrators to modernize and streamline their programs.

### **Food Loss and Waste**

- Review current activities, including collaboration with other Executive agencies, and future opportunities within USDA programs to reduce food loss and waste.

### **Specialty Crops**

- Review implementation of the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act;
- Review the Specialty Crop Block Grant program to ensure the grants awarded are enhancing the specialty crop industry;
- Review the Local Agriculture Market Program and other farmers market programs;
- Review the administration of the IR-4 Project to ensure specialty crop growers have access to the latest innovations in crop protection;
- Review the Specialty Crop Research Initiative and the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program; and
- Review implementation of the Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops program.

### **Food Safety**

- Review USDA's administration of meat, poultry, and egg product inspection laws to ensure the maintenance of scientifically sound systems for food safety assurance;
- Review USDA's efforts to educate consumers regarding safe food handling practices and streamline the assessment and approval of food safety technologies;
- Review development and implementation of new protocols for meat, poultry, eggs, or seafood safety inspection that promote scientific and technological innovation;
- Review USDA's response to litigation regarding the implementation of food safety inspection programs;
- Review rulemaking concerning the Food Safety Modernization Act and the impact those rules have on production agriculture in the U.S.; and
- Review the mechanisms to establish scientifically based international food safety standards.

### **Plant and Animal Health**

- Review USDA's implementation and enforcement of the Plant Protection Act, Animal Health Protection Act, and Animal Welfare Act;
- Review U.S. animal health threats and related prevention and response capabilities including animal health programs established in the 2018 Farm Bill;
- Assess federal efforts to reduce threats to plant health due to invasive species;
- Review implementation and effectiveness of cooperative plant health programs, including Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention and the Clean Plant Network;
- Review efforts to reduce and resolve livestock predation, conflicts between wildlife and people, and wildlife damage; and
- Review USDA's efforts to modernize animal disease traceability.
- Review of USDA's efforts to combat HPAI, Screwworm, and other animal health risks.

### **Livestock Marketing**

- Review USDA's implementation of the Packers and Stockyards Act including the promulgation of new rules under such Act;
- Review the implementation of USDA efforts to enhance market transparency including the cattle contracts library pilot program;
- Review USDA efforts to diversify and increase processing capacity; and
- Review and reauthorize USDA's livestock mandatory reporting program.

### **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 protect against foreign animal disease;
- Review agricultural inspection activities under the Department of Homeland Security; and
- Review implementation of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act and related oversight of foreign investments in U.S. agricultural land.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Review the effects of sequestration on USDA operations and programs;
- Review staffing needs and ability to hire across the Department;
- Review the cost and impact of appropriations and programming related to the Inflation Reduction Act;
- Review the labor needs of production agriculture and the impact federal immigration policy and actions have on those needs.
- Review the effect of transportation infrastructure issues on agriculture and forestry.
- Review the use of precision agriculture technology; and
- Review the agriculture supply chain and its impact on food prices.

### **Consultation With Other Committees To Reduce Duplication**

- With Natural Resources on forestry issues, ESA issues and other public land issues;
- With Science, Space, and Technology 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 biodefense, cybersecurity, and border inspection and security measures related to agriculture;
- With Armed Services on global and military food security;
- With Judiciary on immigrant agricultural labor;
- With Energy and Commerce on food safety, biomass energy, and broadband programs, both existing and new;
- With Transportation and Infrastructure on certain Clean Water Act compliance issues, livestock hauling, and food aid delivery;

- With Financial Services on Dodd-Frank Act, digital assets, and emerging financial technology 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**

### **119TH CONGRESS**

Most of the programs and authorities under the purview of the House Committee on Agriculture are reauthorized every five years through the Farm Bill. The current Farm Bill expires on September 30, 2025. During the 119th Congress, the Committee intends to conduct a thorough review of all Farm Bill programs culminating in the reauthorization of the Farm Bill. 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.

Though historically not part of the Farm Bill negotiations, the Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) program is also set to expire on March 14, 2025. This authority has been subject to several short-term extensions during the 118th Congress and the Committee remains committed to the reauthorization of this program to give much needed certainty to the livestock industry.

The U.S. Grain Standards Act is also set to expire on September 30, 2025. The Act was last reauthorized in 2020. The Committee intends to work with stakeholders to assess the need for any changes to the underlying Act and intends to reauthorize the program in a timely manner.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission was last reauthorized in 2008, and that authorization lapsed in 2013. Since then, the House Committee on Agriculture has produced and reported four separate reauthorization bills, three of which have passed the House. During the 119th Congress, the Committee again intends to conduct a thorough review of the Commission's operations and authorities, culminating in a legislative package reauthorizing the Commission. With the engagement and cooperation of the Senate, the Committee's goal is to reauthorize the Commission before the end of the 119th Congress.

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U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-6035  
ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

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January 22, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

Pursuant to rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I am submitting to you a copy of the authorization and oversight plan of the Committee on Armed Services for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

I look forward to working with you in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,



Mike Rogers  
Chairman

MR: zs  
Enclosure

# **COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

## **119TH CONGRESS AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Providing for the common defense of the United States is one of the fundamental duties of Congress. Members of the Committee on Armed Services acutely understand this responsibility. The committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities are critical to the security of our country and that of its partners and allies around the world. That is why the committee will continue to work in a bipartisan manner to conduct oversight of the national defense.

Oversight of the national defense enterprise is complex. Each day, critical decisions are made by military and civilian personnel leading hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located at thousands of facilities throughout the world. It is the committee's Constitutional duty to conduct oversight of these decisions to ensure they are consistent with federal law and Congressional intent. The complexity of the current threat environment, with an ongoing conflict in Europe and the Middle East, strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party, and shifting policy priorities at the Department of Defense makes the committee's oversight even more essential.

Comprehensive oversight is instrumental in the committee's development of the annual national defense authorization bill (NDAA), which covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense (DoD), as well as the defense activities of the Department of Energy and related agencies. The committee believes that regular oversight and reauthorization of these programs and activities through enactment of an annual NDAA best supports Congress' Article I prerogatives. For over 60 years, the committee has led Congressional efforts to enact an NDAA. The annual enactment of the NDAA provides robust opportunities for congressional review and ensures national security programs and activities are carried out as Congress intends.

### **JURISDICTION**

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).

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

1. Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; and Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Space 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, Air Force, and Space 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, 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.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

The committee carries out its oversight of the DoD and its subordinate departments and agencies, as well as portions of the Department of Energy (DoE), through public hearings, classified briefings, roundtables, and other activities involving the full committee and its standing subcommittees. Pursuant to House Rule X, clause 2(b)(2), 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 may be assigned to a task force or panel pursuant to committee rules to allow for focused or cross-cutting examination. Subcommittees will be assisted by staff from the full committee at the Chair or Ranking Member's discretion to ensure that appropriate resources are available to carry out oversight activities.

#### LAPSED AUTHORIZATIONS

The annual NDAA authorizes the DoD activities that require recurrent authorization. The current NDAA for fiscal year (FY) 2025 was enacted on December 23, 2024 (P.L. 118–159). It authorizes the programs and activities of the DoD through FY2025. As a result, there are currently no lapsed authorizations within the committee’s jurisdiction receiving appropriated funding in FY2025.

#### PROGRAMS TO BE AUTHORIZED IN THE CURRENT CONGRESS

The committee anticipates authorizing a wide range of DoD and DoE programs and activities in the 119th Congress. Annual funding authorizations in the FY2025 NDAA totaled over 2,700 line items, each reflective of the national security priorities of Congress. These items include procurement programs and accounts, operations and maintenance programs and accounts, military construction projects, research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E) programs and accounts, nuclear weapons and associated activities, military personnel programs and accounts, military health programs and accounts, military justice programs and accounts, intelligence programs and accounts, Joint Staff and Combatant Commander accounts, and various other matters relating to the national defense. Each of these authorizations expire at the end of FY2025. The committee anticipates reviewing each these authorizations to determine whether to reauthorize them as part of the FY2026 NDAA.

#### OVERSIGHT TO SUPPORT AUTHORIZATIONS

In support of the enactment of annual NDAA’s during the 119th Congress, the committee will conduct numerous oversight hearings, classified briefings, roundtables, and other activities. The committee anticipates holding public hearings and classified briefings with the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, individual service secretaries and chiefs of staff, combatant commanders, other officials of the DoD 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 DoE. In addition, the committee will seek views and perspectives from outside experts in industry, associations, advocacy organizations, and those in private life with expertise on matters of national security. The committee will work closely with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Inspector Generals (IG) from DoD agencies to eliminate waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement at the DoD. Finally, the committee expects that it will continue to receive credible reports from whistleblowers that it intends to investigate and take appropriate action when warranted.

#### DISCRETIONARY AND MANDATORY SPENDING

As part of its annual oversight and authorization process, the committee carefully reviews and determines whether changes need to be made to the manner in which discretionary and mandatory national security programs are carried out. If the committee deter-



mines that certain mandatory programs would be better administered through discretionary appropriations, the NDAA would carry out that change consistent with Congressional Budget Act rules and regulations. The committee will continue to conduct rigorous oversight of the mandatory programs under its jurisdiction and will implement reforms when necessary to protect beneficiaries, eliminate waste, and improve administration.

#### REDUNDANT PROGRAMS AND AGENCIES

One of the focuses of the oversight process the committee undertakes annually to produce the NDAA is identifying redundant programs or agencies in the defense enterprise. The committee has a record of enacting laws to realign, streamline, or eliminate these programs and agencies when necessary. The committee will continue to work with GAO and the DoD IG on efforts to uncover redundant and wasteful programs and to pursue legislative remedies in the NDAA.

#### OTHER OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

The national security enterprise spans beyond the jurisdiction of the committee and includes matters in the jurisdiction of several other committees of the House of Representatives. As the committee has in past Congresses, it will continue to work closely with these committees to conduct important oversight on national security matters of shared jurisdictional interest.



JODEY C. ARRINGTON, TEXAS  
CHAIRMAN

BRENDAN F. BOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA  
RANKING MEMBER



**U.S. House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
Washington, DC 20515-6065

January 31, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

Pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I am submitting the Oversight Plan of the Committee on the Budget for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Oversight Plan was adopted during our Committee's organizational meeting on January 23, 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Arrington".

Jodey C. Arrington  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget

Attachment: 119<sup>th</sup> Congress Budget Committee Oversight Plan

# **COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET**

### **119TH CONGRESS**

The Committee on the Budget, pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, adopts as the Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress the following:

### **COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERSIGHT**

Under clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, each Committee is required to adopt and submit to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration an authorization and oversight plan by March 1 of the first session of each Congress. The Committee on the Budget's oversight responsibilities are determined by both the breadth of the federal budget and the Committee's legislative jurisdiction.

Under clause 1(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the primary responsibility of the Committee on the Budget is to develop a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year. This concurrent resolution sets aggregate levels on spending and revenue and across budget functions (a set of programs that serve a shared purpose or activity, such as agriculture, health, or national defense).

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 focuses on laws governing the budget process and the agencies responsible for administering elements of those laws. Under clauses 1(d)(1)–(3) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, 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 Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, the Budget Control Act of 2011, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, and the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. The two agencies with primary responsibility for administering elements of these laws and hence which fall under the Committee's jurisdiction are the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

In addition to these general oversight responsibilities, the Committee on the Budget has special oversight responsibilities under clauses 3(c) and 4(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, including studying the effect on budget outlays of existing and proposed legislation, requesting and evaluating con-

tinuing studies of tax expenditures, reviewing the conduct by CBO of its functions and duties, and studying proposals designed to improve and facilitate the congressional budget process, among others.

## **OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 119TH 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, and expert witnesses to review the budget and economic outlook, the President's budget submissions, other budget priorities, and evaluate evidence on the state of the economy and the nation's long-term economic outlook.

The Committee will also review the congressional budget process, including topics such as strengthening constitutional authority, including Congress' power of the purse by ensuring spending and revenue decisions are transparent and effectively carried out by the Executive Branch; controlling automatic spending; increasing transparency; and advancing fiscal sustainability.

The Committee will also continually 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 also assess OMB's legal authorities to manage federal spending, including the Impoundment Control Act of 1974, and review budget rules and processes.

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

The Committee will draw on the authorizing committees' Views and Estimates, which are submitted to it pursuant to section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, to coordinate development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

### **Budget Enforcement**

The Committee will provide 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, and other applicable laws.

The Committee will also ensure compliance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 in addition to the budget-related provisions of H. Res. 5. 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.

The Committee will also work with the Appropriations and authorizing committees to ensure that spending and tax legislation does not breach the levels set in the budget resolution, as required under sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the budget-related provisions of H. Res. 5. The Committee will also monitor compliance with the House Cut-As-You-Go (CUTGO) rule requiring direct spending increases be offset with direct spending reductions.

### **Federal Spending and Tax Expenditures**

The Committee will evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures and spending by the federal government and consider whether changes are warranted.

### **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 and plans to invite relevant, key witnesses to testify.

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

CBO was established by the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide Congress with economic and budgetary analysis and cost estimates for proposed legislation. The Committee will provide oversight of CBO's work, including scoring of legislation considered by Congress, production of baseline estimates, and other projects on important budgetary issues.

CBO has not been comprehensively reauthorized since the enactment of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. It operates under a permanent authorization. The Committee plans to exercise its oversight responsibility over CBO through hearings and other activities.

### **Oversight of the Office of Management and Budget**

OMB's responsibilities include administering elements of several laws within the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee will provide oversight of OMB, including its legal authorities to manage federal spending, implementation of the President's budget submission, control, budget execution, and enforcement procedures under current law.

## **OVERSIGHT SCHEDULE**

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

#### *First Session (2025)*

Winter 2025—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook: Director of CBO.

Spring 2025—Hearings on the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request.

Spring 2025—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Fall 2025—Hearing on Budget Priorities and Budget Process Reform: Members of Congress.

Additional hearings on topics to be announced.

*Second Session (2026)*

Winter 2026—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook: Director of CBO.

Winter 2026—Hearings on the President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request.

Winter 2026—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Additional hearings on topics to be announced.





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COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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January 23, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

Please find enclosed the Oversight Plan of the Committee on Education and Workforce for the 119th Congress. On January 15, 2025, the Committee on Education and Workforce met in open session and adopted these Committee Rules by voice vote with a quorum present.

Sincerely,

Tim Walberg  
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: House Committee on Education and Workforce  
Ranking Member Bobby Scott  
  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly

# **COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE**

**119TH CONGRESS**

## **SUBMISSION OF OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE**

Mr. Walberg, from the committee on Education and Workforce, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following.

### **Preparation and Submission of Oversight Plan**

Each standing committee of the U.S. House of Representatives (other than the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ethics, and the Committee on Rules) is required to prepare and submit 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:

(d)(1) Not later than March 1 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ethics, and the Committee on Rules) shall, in a meeting that is open to the public, adopt its authorization and oversight plan for that Congress. Such plan shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration—

### **Jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Workforce**

Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives vests in the Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) jurisdiction over issues dealing with students, education, workers, and labor 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.
- (13) Work incentive programs.
- (14) Organization, administration, and general management of the Department of Education.
- (15) Organization, administration, and general management of the Department of Labor.

### **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.

(2) Each committee to which subparagraph (1) applies having more than 20 members shall establish an oversight subcommittee, or require its subcommittees to conduct oversight in their respective jurisdictions, to assist in carrying out its responsibilities under this clause. The establishment of an oversight subcommittee does not limit the responsibility of a subcommittee with legislative jurisdiction in carrying out its oversight responsibilities.

### **Exercise of Oversight Responsibilities**

The Constitution of the United States vests in Congress the authority and responsibility to make laws and ensure that those laws are properly enforced and enacted. Oversight is a constitutional prerogative, an important responsibility of the Congress, and a core objective of the Committee. Accordingly, the Committee will thoroughly oversee and investigate the various departments, agencies, 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 included as part of the official record. Among other investigative techniques, the Committee will visit relevant sites, correspond with affected parties, request briefings by federal agencies and departments, review assessments and analyses by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), and review audits and investigations by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Offices of the Inspectors General of the U.S. Departments of Education (ED), Labor (DOL), Health and Human Services (HHS), Agriculture (USDA), and Justice (DOJ); and independent agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction including the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), the National Council on Disability, and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

The Committee will lead aggressive oversight in its areas of jurisdiction, which include programs and statutes administered and enforced by ED, DOL, HHS, USDA, DOJ, and various independent agencies as well as the organization, administration, and general management of ED and DOL. The Committee will work to ensure that these programs and statutes are administered consistent with constitutional requirements of faithful execution of laws passed by Congress and long-established principles of federalism. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that programs are operated and executed in an effective, efficient, and transparent manner, as well as follow congressional intent in their scope, activities, and operations.

The Committee has identified priority areas for oversight and investigation in the 119th Congress. These areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Americanism in the Education System:** The Committee will continue to conduct oversight on the explosion of virulent antisemitism and anti-Americanism at our educational institutions across the United States and widespread failures by these institutions to meaningfully address and correct these problems. The Committee will examine institutions' failures to uphold their obligations under Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act* and other federal laws, institutions' failures to enforce their own rules and to maintain safe and uninterrupted learning environments, and how colleges, universities, and K-12 schools receiving substantial fed-

eral support have become incubators of antisemitism and anti-Americanism.

- **Parental Rights:** The Committee will monitor and conduct oversight of state and school district recipients of federal funding, including policies and procedures that fail to provide for, or otherwise limit, parental notification when minor students share certain personal information with a guidance counselor, teacher, or administrator.

- **Student Aid Administration.** The Committee will monitor the Department's efforts to return all borrowers back into repayment as well as continue to monitor the process of applying for and distributing federal student aid. As part of this, the Committee will monitor the administration of the Office of Federal Student Aid to ensure it's running efficiently and effectively.

- **National Labor Relations Board (NLRB):** The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that the NLRB is properly implementing and enforcing the *National Labor Relations Act* (NLRA). Following four years of the Biden-Harris administration, the NLRB and its Office of General Counsel are in need of scrutiny to ensure the NLRB is interpreting and implementing the NLRA in a manner that supports workers and employers.

- **Union Accountability and Transparency:** Approximately 7.4 million private sector workers are represented by unions, and these workers are entitled to accountability and transparency from their unions. The Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS) is the primary federal agency responsible for protecting union members against anti-democratic procedures within labor organizations and safeguarding labor union funds and assets. The Committee will monitor OLMS's implementation of the *Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act* and conduct oversight on unions, as needed, to ensure they are respecting the democratic rights of their members and properly managing their members' dues, education funds, and pension programs. The Committee will also examine unions' efforts to honor religious exemption requests and how they notify members about their right to opt out of paying for nonrepresentational union activity.

- **Wage and Hour:** The Committee will engage with workers, employers, and other stakeholders to consider how best to modernize federal wage and hour laws. The Committee will also monitor the DOL Wage and Hour Division's enforcement activity, compliance assistance, and proposals to revise rules under the *Fair Labor Standards Act* and other relevant statutes.

- **Retirement Security and Pensions:** The Committee will engage with workers, employers, retirees, and other stakeholders to consider how best to strengthen laws governing retirement security. The Committee will review the Employee Benefits Secretary Administration's enforcement activity and rulemakings implementing the *Employee Retirement Income Security Act* (ERISA) and other relevant statutes. The Committee will also closely examine the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's (PBGC) stewardship of single-employer premium

excesses and whether a reduction in those premiums would appropriately reflect the single-employer program's reduced risk and how such a reduction might impact the federal budget. The Committee will monitor PBGC's recovery efforts of amounts improperly paid under the Biden-Harris administration's Special Financial Assistance program to multiemployer plans on the basis of deceased participants. In addition, the Committee will conduct oversight on public pension funds' use of retirement trust funds for diversity, climate, labor, and political impact while sacrificing investment returns.

- **Health Care:** The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that employers have the flexibility and tools to offer workers and their families affordable, employer-sponsored health care coverage that fits their individual needs. The Committee will closely oversee the implementation of laws governing mental health and substance abuse treatment coverage and banning surprise medical billing. The Committee will also closely monitor attempts to coerce employers to provide abortion or transgender benefits. Finally, the Committee will conduct oversight to maintain the protection of ERISA preemption of state insurance law.

- **Equal Employment Opportunity:** The Committee will monitor the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and DOL's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) to ensure proper implementation and enforcement of employment non-discrimination laws. Specifically, the Committee will monitor EEOC's implementation of the 2024 final rule on the *Pregnant Workers Fairness Act* and of the 2024 enforcement guidance on harassment in the workplace. The Committee will also oversee OFCCP's policies concerning religious organizations seeking to participate in federal contracting.

- **Workplace Safety and Health:** The Committee will monitor the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) efforts to ensure safe and healthy workplaces by properly setting standards and providing education, outreach, and assistance to workers and employers. In particular, the Committee will monitor OSHA's efforts to end or modify Biden-Harris administration regulatory efforts that burden job creators while doing little to improve workplace safety.

- **Mine Safety and Health:** The Committee will review the Mine Safety and Health Administration's implementation of federal mine safety laws to ensure it is properly promoting safe and healthy workplaces and working to eliminate mining fatalities.

- **Workers' Compensation:** The Committee will monitor DOL's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) and its administration of the Federal Employees' Compensation Program, the Energy Workers Program, the Black Lung Program, and the Longshore Program. Specifically, the Committee will look for opportunities to improve the Federal Employees' Compensation Program management, simplify administration, and strengthen the program's integrity so that it can better serve the needs of injured federal workers. In addition, the Committee will oversee OWCP's implementation of the *Federal*

*Firefighters Fairness Act*, which creates a new presumption of eligibility under the *Federal Employees' Compensation Act* for federal firefighters with certain occupational illnesses. The Committee will also monitor OWCP's efforts to ensure the solvency of the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund for miners and their families.

- **Labor Statistics:** The Committee will consider needed reforms to ensure the integrity of labor statistics. Specifically, the Committee will review the Bureau of Labor Statistics' collection, analysis, and dissemination of labor data to determine possible updates to improve procedures and laws.

- **Labor Certifications for Temporary Guest Workers:** The Committee will monitor DOL's Office of Foreign Labor Certification to ensure DOL processes applications for foreign worker labor certifications in a timely and appropriate manner. The Committee will also conduct oversight on the Biden-Harris administration's final rules affecting the H 2A temporary agricultural guest worker program.

The Committee reserves the right to review and investigate general legislative, administrative, and regulatory issues affecting its jurisdiction.

### **Expired Authorizations**

The following is a list of the major laws that have authorizations of appropriations that have expired but continue to receive funding under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Workforce. Along with the oversight objectives previously outlined, the Committee will work to conduct oversight of these laws and determine the appropriate next steps.

- **Carl D Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 1998**

- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
- Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990
- Child Nutrition Act of 1966
- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973
- Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
- Family Violence Prevention Services Act
- Head Start Act
- Higher Education Act of 1965
- Individuals with Disabilities Act (Parts C and D)
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981
- National and Community Service Act of 1990
- National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965

1965

- Older Americans Act
- Richard B Russell National School Lunch Act
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
- Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.





BRETT GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY  
CHAIRMAN

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

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Majority (202) 225-3641

Minority (202) 225-2927

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Jamie Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on House Administration  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

Pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House, please find enclosed the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress, adopted February 25, 2025.

Sincerely,



Brett Guthrie  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

# **COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

### **U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 119TH CONGRESS**

(Adopted February 25, 2025)

Rule X, clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House requires each standing Committee to develop an oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and to submit the plan to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration not later than March 1 of the first session of the Congress.

This is the oversight plan of the Committee on Energy and Commerce for the 119th Congress. It includes areas where the Committee expects to conduct oversight during the 119th Congress, subject to staff and resource limitations, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters. The Committee will continue to consult with other committees that have jurisdiction over the same or related laws, programs, or agencies with the objective of ensuring maximum coordination and cooperation. Specifically, the Committee will continue to work with other committees to facilitate expiring programs, coordinate with the Congressional Budget Office regarding lapsed authorizations and upcoming expirations, and hold member and staff-level meetings with relevant committees and House and Senate conferences.

During the 119th 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 HEALTH CARE ISSUES

### BIOLOGICAL THREAT PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The Committee will conduct oversight of the federal government's policies and procedures relating to pandemic prediction, prevention, preparedness, and response.

The Committee will conduct oversight of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the role of federal agencies in research and grantmaking policies and procedures, including how the federal agencies approve and monitor grants and subgrantees and the use of indirect costs to ensure the safe, appropriate, and efficient use of federal tax dollars.

The Committee will also examine issues related to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This will include CDC's role in preparing for and responding to emerging biological threats and infectious diseases.

In addition, many of the authorities used by the federal government to prepare for and respond to chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear threats expired at the end of fiscal year (FY) 2023. The Committee intends to examine those authorities and reauthorize those necessary with appropriate changes to reflect the abuse of power and lack of transparency in scientific recommendations witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee also plans to examine the overarching pandemic and biodefense leadership structure, and how it could be strengthened to ensure we are best prepared for future public health security threats.

### ILLICIT DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE

Illicit fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances are the deadliest drug threat in the history of the U.S. Currently, fentanyl is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. Oversight of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is necessary to gain insight into the fentanyl trafficking problem, including both precursor production in Mexico that has migrated from China, and trafficking in the U.S. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight of the role of social media in facilitating fentanyl distribution throughout the U.S., particularly in transactions involving minors.

While Congress made inroads last year in expanding access to treatment for substance use disorders by lifting the institutions for mental diseases (IMD) exclusion for substance use disorder treatment, further review of the IMD exclusion and its impacts on access to mental health care are needed. The Committee will conduct oversight of the Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act) and reauthorize those expiring authorities with any changes necessary if such authorities should be reauthorized.

### HEALTH CARE COSTS

The Committee will continue to examine issues related to the affordability of health care, including areas where federal govern-

ment intervention has contributed to increased costs for patients and families. The Committee will work with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to address fraud and streamline our health care system on behalf of American patients. HHS plays a critical role as the primary regulator of the commercial health insurance market, in addition to promulgating Medicare and Medicaid payment rules, and implementing policies that improve health cost transparency. Ensuring that these protections are implemented in line with congressional intent will result in lower costs for families, employers, and taxpayers alike. It is also crucial that the Committee work with HHS to identify regulations contributing to market dynamics—such as consolidation—that are increasing health care costs.

Chronic diseases account for most illness, disability, and death in the U.S. and are significant contributors to health care costs. Currently, ninety percent of U.S. annual health care expenditures are for people with chronic and mental health conditions. The Committee will examine the factors contributing to the rising prevalence of chronic disease in the U.S., as well as analyze efforts to treat and prevent chronic disease.

### **ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS**

The Committee will review Medicare and Medicaid, two of the most significant drivers of the federal budget deficit and resulting debt. The total number of beneficiaries and the average spending per beneficiary in each program have grown significantly over the past decade. Making sure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely is imperative to ensuring the long-term sustainability of each program so that it can continue to support the most vulnerable, especially pregnant mothers, children, seniors, and the disabled. 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. Ensuring responsible stewardship of each program can also help protect beneficiaries from unscrupulous actors seeking to defraud the program rather than improve the health of their enrollees.

In addition, with the granting of sweeping authority for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to set the prices for drugs for seniors, the Committee will work to ensure the program is operating transparently with the public. The Committee will work to ensure the program is achieving value for current and future seniors and identify ways to protect and promote seniors' access to innovative new cures and treatments. The Committee will also inform the public of the consequences recent changes have generated not just on critical medical innovation, but Part D plan design and patient choice, and access to lower cost generic and biosimilar alternatives. The Committee will also continue to monitor CMS's process and decisions with respect to Medicare coverage policy, including national coverage determinations, and take action, if necessary, to ensure seniors and people with disabilities can access drugs that their doctors determine are best for them.

## FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The Committee will work to ensure that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is fulfilling its mission to ensure that regulated drugs and medical devices are safe, effective, and available to American patients in an expeditious fashion. Further, the Committee will examine supply chain resilience, and opportunities to incentivize and promote domestic manufacturing.

The Over-The-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee program (OMUFA) expires at the end of FY 2025 and must be reauthorized for FY 2026 through FY 2030. The Committee will consider the proposed agreement for OMUFA's timely reauthorization of these authorities and examine how the program is working to ensure that patients may continue to rely on safe and effective medications and products.

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

### NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

During the 119th 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, renewable energy, and geothermal. The Committee will examine the impact of government policies and programs on the efficient and effective 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, distribution, and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The Committee will conduct oversight of the administration's energy policies and the impact these policies are having on supply chains, critical minerals, dependence on China and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and domestic production of energy.

### ELECTRICITY SYSTEM AND ELECTRIC UTILITY MARKETS

During the 119th Congress, the Committee will undertake a 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) relating to competitive wholesale power markets, transmission, generation infrastructure upgrades, and compliance with relevant statutes. The Committee will also examine the activities of the DOE, FERC, and states relating to electric industry restructuring, consumer protection, and the development of wholesale markets for electricity. Furthermore, the Committee will 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 electricity grid reliability. In addition, the Committee will examine threats to the U.S. electric grid, including cybersecurity and physical threats.

#### 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 and other products, crafted by the 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 to create jobs, reduce costs for businesses and consumers, and improve our nation's energy security. This may include federal programs setting energy efficiency standards for motor vehicles, appliances, and other products, to ensure that the programs are implemented in a manner that rewards innovation, ensures benefits for consumers and businesses, enhances U.S. energy security, and protects the environment. In addition, the Committee will continue its oversight of waivers under the Clean Air Act in connection with motor vehicle emissions standards, to ensure that a national marketplace of affordable vehicles is available to consumers.

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

The Committee will oversee the governance, management, and operations at the DOE, including oversight, management, and operations of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the national laboratories. The Committee's oversight work will include the continued review of security and safety reforms at NNSA and the 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 and include programs across the DOE to safeguard technology and intellectual property from transfer to foreign adversaries.

#### YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The Committee will continue to examine the actions of the DOE and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in connection with the 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, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), 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 sup-

ply, manufacture, and commercial deployment of clean and advanced energy products and other technologies. The Committee will also conduct oversight over the DOE's grant and loan programs that fund production in foreign jurisdictions, particularly in facilities controlled by China and the CCP.

#### THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

#### EPA ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, AND OPERATIONS

During the 119th Congress, the Committee will undertake a review of the EPA's mission and purpose, including a review of Reorganization Plan 3 of 1970, which established the EPA as an independent agency, and implementation of the principles of cooperative federalism embedded in the environmental statutes within the EPA's jurisdiction. The Committee will also conduct general oversight of the EPA, including review of the agency's funding decisions, resource allocation, grants, research activities, compliance and enforcement actions, public transparency, implementation of new statutory authorities, such as the IIJA and IRA, and respect for economic, procedural, public health, and environmental standards in regulatory actions. Further, the Committee will review the government's activities in cross-cutting policy areas, such as hydraulic fracturing and carbon capture, utilization, and storage research and regulation.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT

The Committee will continue to review significant rulemakings under the Clean Air Act (CAA) 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 benefits of the regulations. The Committee's review will include oversight of the EPA's decisions, strategies, and actions to meet CAA standards, and the current role of cost, employment, and feasibility considerations in CAA rulemakings. The Committee will also continue to review the EPA's regulation of motor vehicles, airplanes, locomotives, and other mobile sources, which includes federal and state mandates on the use of electric vehicles and the implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

The Committee will continue to examine the EPA's efforts to regulate domestic emissions under the CAA, including the regulation of greenhouse gases based on its endangerment findings. The Committee will consider whether such agreements and regulatory ef-

forts are scientifically and statutorily well-grounded and carried out in accordance with federal law. The Committee will also review the activities undertaken in this area by the 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. Further, the Committee will continue to monitor international negotiations on efforts to control and regulate global emissions and assess the need for U.S. engagement in light of the related decisions made by adversarial nations such as China.

#### 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, the use of chemical risk analysis in environmental assessment programs, and the EPA's implementation of these programs in accordance with the law. The Committee will also review deadline management and consistency of implementation, ensuring that confidential business information is protected from unwarranted disclosure, and make certain that EPA provides the appropriate consideration of risks and the societal impacts of 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 EPA involvement in state functions and 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. The Committee will also examine the EPA's ability to promote resource efficiency, recycling, and reuse with respect to hazardous materials. Further, the Committee will review the EPA's air emission standards under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

#### CERCLA (SUPERFUND) AND BROWNFIELDS

The Committee will monitor the EPA's implementation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and 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, including any designations



made by EPA under CERCLA. Furthermore, the Committee will 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 or removed to better meet the communications needs of the country and ensure its citizens enjoy cutting-edge services and the economic benefits they bring.

### **FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

During the 119th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), including 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, media, public safety, broadband mapping, and security of our networks. The Committee will also investigate any cases of waste, fraud, and abuse.

### **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION**

During the 119th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), including its administration of broadband grant programs created in the IIJA and efforts to bring transparency and accountability to NTIA's processes. Further, the Committee will review NTIA's authorities to determine whether NTIA is keeping pace with the technological advancement of the communications marketplace. The Committee will also investigate any cases of waste, fraud, and abuse.

### **SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT**

The Committee will conduct oversight of the FCC's and the NTIA's management and allocation of the nation's spectrum for commercial and government use. Wireless technology utilizing a broad range of spectrum frequencies 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 NTIA's implementation of the National Spectrum Strategy, which required studies intended to make more spectrum available for commercial wireless services.

#### 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, the \$42.45 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grant program created in the IIJA, and other federal grant programs that could be awarded for broadband deployment. 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 multistakeholder governance with domestic regulation and international multilateral institutions and will continue to support U.S. leadership in these international standards setting bodies.

#### 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 among 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. In addition, the Committee will conduct oversight related to 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.

## COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE

### CONSUMER PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

In the 119th Congress, the Committee will examine issues relating to data privacy and security, including what information about Americans is collected by service providers and the how to improve consumer protections and security, without stifling beneficial innovations, such as artificial intelligence applications and other digital products and services. Further, the Committee will continue to review the manner in which fraud and other criminal activities affect e-commerce. The Committee will also explore privacy and cybersecurity policies surrounding the Internet of Things and blockchain technologies.

The Committee will investigate the impact of social media, including the algorithms used by social media companies to cause the ever-increasing use of and dependence on these platforms, particularly by children. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight of social media and technology companies' policies and procedures regulating publication, appeals processes regarding censorship and deplatforming, censorship, and handling of claimed misinformation.

The Committee will investigate and conduct oversight of the collection and use of data by social media platforms, technology companies, and data brokers particularly by applications owned by or influenced by the CCP.

### AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

The Committee will examine the policy framework being developed for autonomous vehicles. Autonomous vehicles hold the promise to reduce traffic fatalities greatly, while at the same time expanding mobility options for senior citizens and Americans living with disabilities. The U.S. must lead in setting the standards for the development of this technology and its deployment, along with ensuring that the potential of revolutionary change to the sector is not damaged by frivolous litigation and unnecessary regulation with no benefit to Americans.

### MANUFACTURING

The Committee will explore the state of manufacturing in the U.S. to identify factors that are hampering or furthering U.S. competitiveness, especially against the growing CCP threat. The Committee will review the issues presented by the globalization of production and manufacturing networks, the availability of critical minerals and resiliency of supply chains, the integrity of products and components assembled overseas, and the impact on national security. For example, the Committee will examine ways to promote domestic manufacturing, such as drug and medical device manufacturing, to minimize the CCP's role in these processes and products. The Committee will also examine how artificial intelligence and emerging technology can help the U.S. maintain its competitive edge in advanced manufacturing.

## TRADE

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

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will work with the Department of Commerce to promote U.S. manufacturing, including but not limited to semiconductors and microelectronics, emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies. This also includes export and trade-related efforts to lower or eliminate non-tariff barriers and harmonize regulation of products sold internationally, such as cross border data flows, 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, the effectiveness of the agency's structure, research activities, investigations, import surveillance, and enforcement actions relating to the safety of consumer products.

## NHTSA MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will continue oversight of NHTSA, including the effectiveness of the agency's structure, regulations, research activities, investigations, and enforcement actions pertaining to motor vehicle safety. The committee will examine how NHTSA is working on requirements established in the IIJA, and their Standing Government Order.

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) management and operations, including the impact of its decisions and actions on the general public and the business community, with a particular focus on how the FTC conducts its business while not creating undue burdens for legitimate businesses, its determination of priorities, and the need, if any, for refinement of its authorities. The Committee will explore the FTC's role relative to emerging technologies and sectors of the economy. Additionally, the Committee will examine how the agency is utilizing specific bureaus, or lack thereof, including the Bureau of Economics, while pursuing enforcement and regulatory action.

## MISCELLANEOUS

## CYBERSECURITY

The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over cybersecurity to ensure the country is well protected while at the same time avoid-

ing 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. 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, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework.

#### 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 the 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—now in Title XXI of the Homeland Security Act. 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 119th 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, objectivity, validity, 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 ensure 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 119th 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 statutory and other activities of DOE, FERC, EPA, and other federal agencies related to the physical and cybersecurity of the nation's critical infrastructure within the jurisdiction of the Committee. 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 DOE'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 119th 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 to gather the necessary information to support these determinations.

The Committee's authorization work will include, but not be limited to, the following departments and agencies: Consumer Product Safety Commission; Department of Energy; Department of Health

and Human Services; Environmental Protection Agency; Federal Communications Commission; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Federal Trade Commission; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; National Telecommunications and Information Administration; Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration.





# COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

## AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

Pursuant to clause 2(d) 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 119th Congress. It identifies areas in which the Committee and its subcommittees intend to conduct oversight during this Congress; it does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters or programs. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction on any of the subjects listed below.

### OVERSIGHT PLAN

#### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

*Financial Supervision and Regulation.* The Committee will conduct oversight of the federal financial regulators' supervision and examination of the banking, credit union, and thrift industries, with the goal of ensuring regulators are able to define, identify, and promptly address safety and soundness deficiencies, systemic risks, or other structural weaknesses in the financial sector. The Committee will also conduct oversight of any misuse of regulatory or supervisory authority to debank individuals or businesses, such as under Operation Choke Point. In addition, the Committee will explore the closely related issues of bank capital and liquidity regulation, including the guidelines developed by the international Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) and how domestic financial regulators implement those guidelines in the United States.

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

*Deposit Insurance.* The Committee will monitor the operations of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and the scope and solvency of their respective deposit insurance funds.

*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 to

gether with ensuring the safety and soundness of financial institutions.

*Consumer Protection and Financial Education.* The Committee will oversee the regulatory, supervisory, enforcement, and other activities of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (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 in light of recent Supreme Court decisions.

*Access to Financial Services.* The Committee will examine ways to expand access to mainstream financial services among traditionally underserved segments of the U.S. population. This will include issues related to credit reporting and the effectiveness of regulators' fair lending oversight and enforcement efforts.

*Mortgage Credit.* The Committee will closely review actions by the CFPB and other agencies on mortgage-related issues to determine the impact CFPB's rules have on the cost and availability of mortgage credit for American homeowners.

*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.

*Payments Systems.* The Committee will examine policies that impact money transmission and payments industry practices.

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

*Community Reinvestment Act.* The Committee will monitor the implementation of the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977.

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

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

## CAPITAL MARKETS

*Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).* The Committee will monitor all aspects of the SEC including its operations, activities, and initiatives to ensure that it fulfills its statutory 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 administration of the "Jumpstart Our Business Startups" or "JOBS" Act (P.L. 112-106) and the effect of the law on capital formation and investor protection. The Committee will also explore how to strengthen the JOBS Act to expand access to capital.

*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 and 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 SROs, including the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), and the SEC's oversight of these SROs.

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

*Market Structure.* The Committee will review recent developments in the U.S. equity and option markets, American 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.

*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 undertaken by advisers to private funds in the U.S. financial marketplace and their interaction with investors, financial intermediaries, and public companies.

*Accounting Standard-Setters.* The Committee will review the operations, initiatives, and activities of the following accounting standard-setters: Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB). In addition, the Committee will review efforts by the SEC, FASB, and the International Accounting Standards Board to achieve robust, uniform international accounting standards.

*Securities Litigation and Arbitration.* 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. 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

*Federal Programs and Housing Affordability.* The Committee will conduct oversight of the mission, operations, and budgets of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service (RHS), with the goal of modernizing outdated programs and encouraging greater affordability efforts. This includes: (1) investigating affordability and availability challenges, particularly the effect that local regulations and barriers to development have on housing; (2) monitoring the operations of the current public housing agency (PHA) system to ensure units are maintained in decent, safe, and sanitary condition and that no person is subject to illegal discrimination in housing practices; and (3) conducting ongoing oversight of federal rental assistance, Public Housing, homelessness, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Native American Housing Assistance and

Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) block grant, and other housing programs.

*Housing Finance and the Secondary Mortgage Market.* The Committee will examine the role of the federal government in our housing finance system and review opportunities to encourage robust private sector participation in the secondary mortgage market. This includes examining proposals affecting the operations of Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) and their ongoing conservatorships; monitoring the status of the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) system; and reviewing the role private mortgage insurance plays in increasing consumer choice and protection. The Committee will also conduct oversight of the status and activities of the federal housing finance agencies, including the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), and the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae).

#### INSURANCE

*McCarran-Ferguson Act and Insurance Affordability and Availability.* The Committee will uphold the primacy of the McCarran-Ferguson Act and its principle of state-based regulatory authority over insurance except where federal law expressly provides otherwise. This includes monitoring the developments affecting the affordability and availability of insurance to consumers at the state level, the impacts of natural disasters and other weather-related phenomena, the benefits of expanded use of reinsurance, and the ongoing actions of the Treasury Department's Federal Insurance Office (FIO).

*National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).* The Committee will conduct oversight of the NFIP, the authorization of which is currently set to expire on March 14, 2025, including proposals to increase the participation of the private sector in the flood insurance market.

#### MONETARY POLICY

*The Federal Reserve System.* The Committee will oversee 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.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY, ILLICIT FINANCE, & INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

*International Economic Conditions.* The Committee will conduct oversight of the Department of the Treasury's Office of International Affairs (IA) and its efforts to improve the global economic environment for U.S. economic growth; prevent and mitigate global financial instability; and manage key global challenges through economic tools including the activities of the international financial institutions, coordination within the G-7 and G-20, and technical assistance.

*U.S. Oversight over the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).* The Committee will consider any Administration request that the U.S. subscribe to capital or contribute to the replenishment of the concessional lending windows at the World Bank and other multilateral development banks. It will assess progress made on achieving development results through the MDBs, including graduating the People's Republic of China from MDB assistance and ensuring the transparency of Chinese official credit.

*Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).* The Committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 and actions taken by CFIUS to identify and address foreign investments that pose threats to national security, and the effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate those threats.

*Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT).* The Committee will conduct oversight of the Treasury Department's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI) and its development and implementation of U.S. government strategies to combat terrorist financing.

The Committee will monitor the implementation of financial sanctions and proposals to expand or remove such sanctions or impose new ones. This includes assessing their effectiveness at achieving national security objectives. As part of this oversight, the Committee will monitor the efforts of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

The Committee will examine the operations of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and its ongoing efforts to implement its regulatory mandates to ensure its policies are effective at stopping illicit activity while respecting the data privacy of law-abiding Americans.

*International Trade.* The Committee will examine the operations of the Export-Import Bank and the new procedures implemented since the most recent reauthorization in September 2019.

*Defense Production Act (DPA).* The Committee will monitor the effectiveness of the DPA, which was reauthorized in 2018, and its individual authorities in promoting national security and preparing for global threats.

*Coins and Currency.* The Committee will conduct oversight of the printing and minting of U.S. currency and coins and 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. The Committee will also examine commemorative coins and medals, including potential reforms related to the process for funding the production of such items.

## DIGITAL ASSETS

*Digital Assets.* The Committee will examine current rules and regulations for entities operating in the digital asset ecosystem. The Committee will also review and examine policy and legislative recommendations put forth by the President's Working Group on Financial Markets, FSOC, and other government agencies and reg-

ulators. Additionally, the Committee will examine financial regulators' previous oversight and enforcement with respect to entities operating in the digital asset ecosystem.

*Operation Choke Point 2.0.* The Committee will investigate the misuse of regulatory authority to prevent digital asset firms from accessing and maintaining banking services.

*Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs).* The Committee will monitor and evaluate the Federal Reserve's previous efforts to research and develop a CBDC.

#### FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY

*Innovative Consumer Financial Products and Services.* The Committee will review the existing regulatory framework for licensing and overseeing innovative products and services and will examine what legislative changes may be needed to promote financial innovation.

*Supervisory Technology (SupTech) and Regulatory Technology (RegTech).* The Committee will examine the evolution of Regulators' offices of innovation and whether they have been used to encourage innovation in financial services.

*Payment System Innovations.* The Committee will review efforts to achieve greater innovations and efficiencies in the payments system.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

*Artificial Intelligence.* The Committee will examine the growing role of artificial intelligence across the financial services and housing industries, including the range of benefits and potential risks the technology poses and the hurdles to adopting the technology.

### **AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES**

With respect to capital markets matters, several lapsed programs received appropriations in Fiscal Year 2024. The SEC received \$2.149 billion in appropriations in FY 2024, despite its authorization lapsing in fiscal year 2015. Additionally, notwithstanding the SEC Office of the Inspector General's authorization lapse after FY 2011, it received over \$20.05 million in FY 2024 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 its Office of Inspector General.

The Committee will take appropriate action relating to oversight and authorization of programs within the Committee's jurisdiction. This includes programs that are authorized but not appropriated; appropriated but not authorized; and authorized and appropriated. Non-exhaustive lists of such programs may be found in *House Report 118-556* and the Congressional Budget Office's January 12, 2024, report titled "*Expired and Expiring Authorizations of Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024—Information for Legislation Enacted Through September 30, 2023.*"

With respect to housing matters, virtually all HUD programs within the Committee's jurisdiction requiring authorization have lapsed authorizations but received FY 2025 appropriations through

the continuing resolution. These programs include the largest portions of HUD's annual budget authority, the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs authorized by the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (P.L. 75-412), as well as 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. 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. Additionally, HUD's Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery (CDBG—DR) program has never been authorized but frequently receives funding through supplemental appropriations measures enacted by Congress for disaster relief. The Committee will review the efficacy of codification of CDBG—DR standard procedures to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse by federal agencies, grantees, and sub-grantees within the program.

With respect to insurance matters, the Committee will examine the current authorization of the NFIP, currently set to expire on March 14, 2025. The Committee will consider the operation and administration of the program since its last enacted full five-year reauthorization which expired in September of 2017.

With respect to the reauthorization of Ex-Im Bank, set to expire on December 31, 2026, the Committee will further examine the role of the Bank and its impacts on the global competitiveness of U.S. companies and U.S. job creation.





# **COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

### **119TH CONGRESS**

Adopted January 22, 2025

#### **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 119th Congress, which will be shared with the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Committee on House Administration. 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.

Authorization and agency oversight remain key responsibilities of the legislative branch and of the Foreign Affairs Committee. This Congress, the Committee will include a Subcommittee on Oversight and Intelligence to undertake complex oversight, investigative, and functional responsibilities. This will be in addition to the policy and programmatic oversight to be conducted by the full Committee and its six other standing subcommittees. 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 carry out comprehensive and strategic review of the programs and agencies within the Committee’s jurisdiction.

Committee activities will include hearings, briefings (including classified briefings), investigations, continuous monitoring of Congressional Notifications and executive branch reporting requirements, Member and staff-level meetings, correspondence, fact-finding travel, reports, and public statements. They also will include effective use and review of reports by the Government Accountability Office and by statutory Inspectors General. 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 review of U.S. engagement with international and inter-governmental organizations;
- the elimination of programs and expenditures that are inefficient, duplicative, or outdated;
- institutional reform, efficiency, and fiscal discipline; and,
- foreign malign influence on the domestic affairs of the United States or our allies and partners.

## 2. 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 understanding global events and circumstances, as well as U.S. foreign policy responses. According to Committee Rules, those responsibilities are divided among the Full Committee and seven standing subcommittees, as follows:

*Full Committee.* The full Committee is responsible for oversight and legislation relating to: the management, operations, and programs of the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the U.S. Agency for Global Media, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, the Peace Corps, and other U.S. government entities within the Committee's jurisdiction; foreign assistance (including development assistance, 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; the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs; nonproliferation, arms control and disarmament issues; counterterrorism; activities and policies of the State, Commerce, and Defense Departments and other agencies related to the Arms Export Control Act, the Export Administration Act, and the Foreign Assistance Act, including export and licensing policy for munitions items and technology and dual-use equipment and technology; international law; global energy, environmental, cyberspace, and technology policy issues; promotion of democracy; international law enforcement issues, including narcotics control programs and activities; embassy security; international broadcasting; public diplomacy, including international communication and information policy, and international education and exchange programs; international economic policy and U.S. export promotion; and all other matters not specifically assigned to a subcommittee.

The full Committee has jurisdiction over legislation regarding 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, including the special oversight functions listed in House Rule X(3)(f) relating to customs administration, intelligence activi-

ties relating to foreign policy, international financial and monetary organizations, international fishing agreements, and oversight of base rights and other facilities access agreements and regional security pacts.

Notwithstanding subcommittee jurisdiction, the full Committee may exercise and assume authority delegated to a subcommittee thereof, at the judgment of the Chairman of the full committee.

*Standing Subcommittees.* The seven subcommittees with regional and functional jurisdiction are:

- The Subcommittee on Africa
- The Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific
- The Subcommittee on Europe
- The Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa
- The Subcommittee on South and Central Asia
- The Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere
- The Subcommittee on Oversight and Intelligence

Each of the standing subcommittees has jurisdiction over the following within its respective functional domains:

- (1) Authorization and reauthorization of bureaus and programs;
- (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; and,
- (5) Such other matters as the Chairman of the full Committee may determine.

Each of the standing subcommittees with regional oversight shall have 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) Oversight of regional lending institutions;
- (3) Oversight of matters related to the regional activities of the United Nations, of its affiliated agencies, and of other multilateral institutions;
- (4) Identification and development of options for meeting future problems and issues relating to U.S. interests in the region;
- (5) Concurrent oversight jurisdiction with respect to functional matters assigned to the regions of other subcommittees insofar as they may affect the region;
- (6) Oversight of foreign assistance activities affecting the region, with the concurrence of the Chairman of the full Committee; and,
- (7) Such other matters as the Chairman of the full Committee may determine.

### **3. PRIORITY OVERSIGHT MATTERS**

a. *China:* The Committee will comprehensively examine U.S. policy towards the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Chinese

Communist Party (CCP). This will include attention to the CCP's global malign influence, the Belt and Road Initiative, global intelligence activities, and the theft of intellectual property. The Committee will review the international agreements and treaties the PRC has signed, and its violations thereof. This will encompass the human rights agreements the PRC has violated through its genocide of the Uyghurs and persistent abuse of human rights, the violations of its obligations to Hong Kong under the Basic Law, actions inconsistent with its WTO and other trade and investment obligations, non-proliferation regimes, cyber agreements, and other bilateral and international agreements.

b. *Pacific Region*: The Committee will review the U.S.'s significant political, economic, and security interests in the Pacific, including East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. The Committee will conduct oversight of U.S. relations to strengthen ties with the Indo-Pacific nations, including foreign policy, foreign assistance, security cooperation, territorial disputes, and trade relations. The Committee will examine the State Department's participation in multilateral forums such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and Quadrilateral Security Dialogue and closely monitor any discussion of trade agreements in the Indo-Pacific region. The Committee will also conduct regular review and oversight over State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development resourcing in the Indo-Pacific.

c. *Taiwan*: The Committee will regularly review U.S. relations with Taiwan, including fulfillment of obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act and Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act. The Committee will ensure U.S. engagement with Taiwan is sustained and appropriate, and any movement on economic, investment, and tax ties with Taiwan reinforces our joint economic strength. The Committee will monitor the U.S.-Taiwan defense relationship, focusing on U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, barriers or delays to delivery, interim solutions, and the robustness of any defense training with the Taiwan's security forces.

d. *Europe*: The Committee will review transatlantic relations, as well as important regional organizations like the NATO alliance and the European Union. The Committee will focus on Chinese and Russian malign influence across Europe. Other key issues will include the continued support for our NATO allies, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, and aspirant countries; the diversification of energy sources to reduce reliance on Russian energy; continued support for the democratic aspirations of the Belarusian people; and rule of law, democratic institutions, and European integration issues in the Western Balkans. The Committee will also examine Turkey's evolving foreign policy orientation and domestic political trends.

e. *Russia and Its Ongoing War Against Ukraine*: The Committee will monitor Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine in light of U.S. policy opposing the use of force to alter recognized international borders, to include oversight over U.S. military and financial assistance to Ukraine, monitoring the efficacy of anti-corruption measures in Ukraine, engaging with allies and partners to advocate for burden sharing, and assessing support provided by U.S. adversaries to Russia. The Committee will address the impact of Russia's

foreign policy on U.S. security, political, and economic interests, including with regard to its aggression and malign influence globally. The Committee will examine potential and existing U.S. responses to hold Russia accountable for these actions, including legislation to impose additional sanctions, review of sanctions previously authorized, improvement of U.S. export controls, and the authorization of targeted assistance. The Committee will review the deteriorating domestic situation in Russia regarding economic stability, the rule of law, and human rights. It will examine ways to continue to restrict Russia's ability to use energy exports to fund its war against Ukraine and harm U.S. national security. The Committee will also examine Russian proxies and private militaristic organizations to assess their malign activities around the globe.

f. *Middle East and North Africa*: The Committee will monitor U.S. policy toward the Middle East and North Africa, to include: ensuring the enduring defeat of ISIS, Hezbollah, Hamas, Houthis, and other terrorist and insurgent groups; expanding and strengthening the Abraham Accords and regional security cooperation; reaffirming relationships with U.S. partners and allies; monitoring the development of a Syrian government and holding the Assad regime, and its Russian and Iranian backers, accountable for their war crimes; bolstering stability in Yemen and countering the Houthi threat; curbing Iranian malign influence in the region; competing with our near-peer adversaries; addressing human rights, democratic backsliding and challenges to the rule of law including corruption and lack of financial transparency; and United States policies, programs, authorities and funding to address these challenges.

g. *Israel*: The Committee will monitor U.S. policy toward Israel, including advancing policies to ensure sufficient security assistance to Israel, including to support efforts to hold Iran and its proxies accountable for promoting and sponsoring ongoing violence against Israel, and countering antisemitism in international and intergovernmental organizations. The Committee will continue to assess various diplomatic solutions to historical regional difficulties, as well as efforts to strengthen the U.S. relationship and advance normalization of relations between Israel and other nations in the Middle East and North Africa.

h. *Iran*: The Committee will continue to closely review U.S. policy to counter and defend against Iran's malign activities, including Iran's provocative nuclear program, ballistic missile arsenal, UAV capabilities, global terrorism, hostage-taking, assassination plots, and human rights abuses. The Committee will also examine Iran's relationships with Russia, the PRC, and North Korea, and how these four entities mutually enable each other's dangerous activities. The Committee will support efforts to hold Iran accountable for its promotion of violence around the globe through espionage and proxy activity, including its sponsorship of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis.

i. *Africa*: The Committee will review political, economic and security developments on the African continent, including the intensified geopolitical competition with China and Russia, and risk of democratic backsliding. Key issues will include efforts to expand U.S. access to critical mineral supply chains, counter and eliminate

safe havens for violent extremism and terrorism, safeguard human rights, and stimulate investment and economic growth to enhance U.S. strategic interests and U.S./Africa partnerships—including through oversight of Prosper Africa, the Development Finance Corporation and implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Electrify Africa Act. Additionally, the Committee will target the effective and efficient use of aid to advance democracy and economic stability.

j. *Afghanistan*: The Committee will examine U.S. policy toward Afghanistan, including continuing efforts to relocate American citizens, legal permanent residents, and eligible Afghan partners from Afghanistan. In addition, the Committee will counter current and emerging terrorist threats and closely review U.S. supported humanitarian assistance funds flowing into Afghanistan, including those provided through international and intergovernmental organizations, to ensure the Taliban and other terrorist organizations are not in receipt of U.S. tax dollars. The Committee will work to support the rights of Afghan women and girls, religious minorities, and other at-risk individuals in the face of inhumane Taliban treatment and will continue to deter international recognition of the Taliban as the legal government of Afghanistan as a tool to prompt fundamental improvements in democratic governance and the rule of law in the country.

k. *India*: The Committee will review U.S. policy towards India and the continued expansion of bilateral cooperation rooted in shared democratic values, while countering the influence of U.S. adversaries in South and Central Asia. Particular attention will be paid to the U.S.-India defense relationship, including security and technology cooperation, opportunities for expanded roles, missions, and capabilities, and counterterrorism efforts. The Committee will also focus on efforts to effectively enhance U.S.-India economic relations, including discussions surrounding bilateral efforts in the technology, telecommunications, and pharmaceutical industries. The committee will also focus on efforts to bolster India's participation in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue efforts and review the implications of India's rapidly growing energy demands.

l. *Export Controls*: The Committee will oversee the ongoing implementation of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, including the identification of emerging and foundational technologies. In particular, the Committee will ensure the Bureau of Industry and Security adheres to statutorily mandated transparency requirements, including Congressional requests for licensing information, and vigorously enforces the law against export control violations. The Committee will also oversee diplomatic efforts to align exports controls and licensing policies with partners and allies around critical technologies.

m. *Countering International Terrorism and Violent Extremism*: The Committee will examine the global role and influence of al-Qaeda and its affiliates, including focusing on recruitment efforts, evolving safe havens, efforts to obtain WMDs, coordination with other terrorist groups and state sponsorship of them. The Committee will reassess efforts to continue countering ISIS globally, including authorizations for such efforts, leveraging commitments by partners and allies, and evaluating the impact of U.S. sanctions

and aid policy on ISIS. The Committee will evaluate state sponsorship of terrorism and such states' use of al-Qaeda, ISIS, and other terrorist and insurgent organizations to damage U.S. national security. 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.

n. *War Powers and Authorizations for the Use of Military Force:* The Committee will actively monitor the use of constitutional war powers, statutory authorizations for the use of military force (AUMFs), and compliance with the War Powers Resolution. These activities will include a review and assessment of the continued use of the 2001 post-9/11 AUMF (P.L. 107-40).

o. *Southern Border:* The Committee will comprehensively review U.S. policy towards our shared border with Mexico. Focus will be placed on the continuing threats from transnational criminal and terrorist organizations, including to prevent unlawful migration and drug and human trafficking into the United States. Emphasis will be placed on the flow of fentanyl and other drugs into the U.S., the flow of synthetic opioid precursors from the PRC and other nations to the cartels, and the Mexican government's cooperation on these issues. In addition, the Committee will work with partner nations to counter unlawful migration into the U.S. and strengthen collective efforts to combat such migration and its root causes.

p. *Western Hemisphere:* The Committee will comprehensively review U.S. policy toward the Western Hemisphere, including the effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance, countering cartels and organized crime, and promoting economic stability through democratic principles. Particular attention will be paid toward U.S.-Mexico relations; U.S. policy toward Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti, and Brazil; and the advancement of U.S. interests throughout the region. The Committee will review foreign assistance sent to the region by State Department Bureaus of Population, Refugees, and Migration; Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and International Narcotics and Law Enforcement.

q. *Energy Policy:* The Committee will closely review all aspects of U.S. energy policy and its impact on U.S. foreign policy and national security, including impediments to U.S. energy cooperation with allies and partners, promotion of U.S. energy overseas and U.S. leadership in new energy technologies, the potential inroads for adversarial nations to supply growing global energy demands, and areas of vulnerability in U.S. energy supply chains, particularly with respect to strategic competition with the PRC.

r. *Cyberspace and Emerging Technologies:* The Committee will oversee the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy and the Office of the Special Envoy for Critical and Emerging Technology. In particular, the Committee will focus on the recruiting and retention of cybersecurity personnel at the State Department, efforts to set norms for cyberspace and emerging technologies, and other efforts related to cybersecurity and emerging technologies and the inputs necessary for those technologies such as critical minerals. The Committee will examine the CCP's and other state-sponsored cyber actors' malign use of technologies and the sufficiency of U.S. policy

responses, with a particular focus on the impact of “Salt Typhoon” and private industry vulnerabilities.

s. *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, policies, and regulations guiding U.S. arms transfers and related end-use monitoring and civilian harm mitigation, as well as various counterterrorism tools that impact foreign policy. The Committee will also continue to review proposed arms sales to ensure compliance with U.S. statutes, as well as foreign and national security policies, promote economic security and transparency to U.S. businesses, and benefit legitimate defense needs of the recipient countries, to include potential improvements to the process by which the Administration consults with the Committee and the Congress.

t. *Modernizing Arms Export Controls*: The Committee will assess current arms export laws and regulations, including the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) and International Traffic in Arms Regulations, to strengthen review procedures for transfers of weapons and defense systems to allies and partners. Additionally, the Committee will seek to promote research cooperation and transfers of innovative solutions and technologies among key allies, the United Kingdom and Australia, while also ensuring protection against diversion, safeguarding against vulnerability to foreign espionage, or misuse of U.S. defense articles and services.

u. *Foreign Assistance*: The Committee will review the underlying authorities for U.S. foreign assistance to increase transparency and accountability; eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse; and ensure advancement of U.S. interests overseas. The Committee will conduct oversight and review issues related to the implementation of U.S. foreign assistance programs and projects, including through international and intergovernmental organizations and the role of U.S. missions in overseeing grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. The Committee will review issues related to coordination between the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State, other U.S. Government agencies and departments, intergovernmental and nonprofit organizations involved in implementing U.S. foreign assistance. Among a broad range of issues, the Committee will review U.S. foreign assistance initiatives aimed at economic growth, reducing aid dependence, providing life-saving humanitarian assistance, and addressing food insecurity and global health challenges. The Committee will also closely scrutinize investments made by the Development Finance Corporation and assistance provided by the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

v. *Human Rights, Democracy, and Governance*: The Committee will examine U.S. funding and efforts to promote democracy, rule of law, and human rights around the world, including to protect religious freedom, fair elections, prevent genocide and other atrocities, and combat human trafficking. The Committee will assess



U.S. involvement with multilateral human rights organizations to ensure that U.S. diplomacy serves to promote fundamental human rights, while advancing U.S. goals and priorities. The Committee will prioritize the efficient and effective use of U.S. funding to achieve these goals.

w. *United Nations and International Organizations*: The Committee will closely review all aspects of U.S. funding of, and participation in, international and intergovernmental organizations. The Committee will consider whether funding and participation advances U.S. interests and values; protects the integrity of U.S. taxpayer dollars; effectively counters bias against Israel; works to defeat terrorist organizations; and leads to increased transparency, accountability, and reform of those organizations. The Committee will scrutinize the work of international and intergovernmental organizations including the World Health Organization (including its role with respect to global pandemics), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, United Nations Human Rights Council, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, United Nations Population Fund, and United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support. Additionally, the Committee will focus on improving performance, enhancing accountability, and combating waste, fraud and abuse in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

x. *Inspector General Access and Independence*: The Committee will monitor compliance of entities in its jurisdiction with relevant statutory Inspectors General and ensure full compliance with the law.

y. *State Department Oversight, Authorization, and Reform*: The Committee will focus on helping the State Department modernize its management and operations, including its uses of foreign and security sector assistance. The Committee will monitor and examine the operational, budgetary, programmatic, human resources (including the impact of preexisting diversity, equity, and inclusion policies), physical infrastructure, and diplomatic security policies of the Department of State, with an eye toward potential legislation for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026. In the wake of increasing threats to U.S. personnel serving overseas, the Committee will also continue to evaluate the security of our embassies and consulates, along with proposed reforms to the State Department's diplomatic security service.

z. *U.S. Agency for Global Media*: The Committee will continue to 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 examine the Agency's administrative functions and personnel policies, including those governing the issuance of security clearances, the receipt and spending of U.S. taxpayer funds, contracting and procurement, verification of employee credentials, and waste, fraud, or abuse.

aa. *Sanctions Policy*: The Committee will carefully review U.S. and international bodies' application, licensing, and enforcement of

sanctions and how those sanctions are applied and leveraged to advance U.S. national security and foreign policy objectives.

bb. *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, increase cooperation with other countries, and enhance international nonproliferation agreements and mechanisms. Prominent issues for oversight will include the continued expansion of Russia and China's nuclear arsenal, the impact of new technology on global nonproliferation efforts, and credible ways to address nations violating nonproliferation agreements. The Committee will closely examine proposed and existing bilateral and multilateral nuclear cooperation agreements with other countries, including their potential to promote U.S. nonproliferation objectives and commercial interests.

cc. *The Impacts of Historical Foreign Policy Decisions*: The committee will conduct continued retrospective analysis of the strategic failures and ongoing ramifications of prior administrations' foreign policy, including the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, Iranian sanctions relief and nuclear proliferation, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and Hamas' October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks on Israel.

#### 4. AUTHORIZATION MATTERS

The highest priority of the Committee is a comprehensive Department of State reauthorization act. The agencies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee are funded by discretionary appropriations, subject to the annual appropriations process.<sup>1</sup> The key agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction have permanent, non-expiring statutory authority and are the subject of extensive and ongoing review by the Committee. However, comprehensive top-line funding levels for those agencies have not been enacted outside of the appropriations process for decades: The last enacted Foreign Relations Authorization Act with comprehensive State Department funding numbers (P.L. 107-228) was enacted in 2002, though in 2021, the Committee led passage into law of a State Department authorization bill with topline numbers for some Department accounts. In the Fiscal Year 2026 Reauthorization Act, the committee intends to enact an enduring structure of coordination between legislative and executive branches that informs subsequent reauthorizations. The Committee also intends to develop internal procedures that will promote a precedent of consolidating bipartisan Member priorities into this annual (or biennial) process.

Nearly all the agencies and entities within the Committee's legislative jurisdiction are operating pursuant to annual appropriations, but without current annual funding authorizations, including:

- The Department of State
- United States Agency for International Development
- Millennium Challenge Corporation
- United States Agency for Global Media

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

- 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
- U.S. International Development Finance Corporation
- United States Institute of Peace
- East-West Center
- The Asia Foundation
- International Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue

In this context, the Committee will continue its regular coordination with the Committee on Appropriations to ensure that the Committee's robust oversight informs annual funding decisions. We also will continue our extensive legislative efforts to update, refine, and reform agency authorities. While the Committee lacks the ability to unilaterally force a return to a bifurcated "authorization before appropriation" annual funding process, we will work toward including funding authorization numbers in future agency authorizing legislation.

In addition to top-line agency funding issues, the Committee will work to continue its longstanding track record of reviewing, reforming, and responsibly reauthorizing prior Congressional foreign policy initiatives (such as the Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the North Korean Human Rights Act, among many others) as well as authorizing necessary activities identified by the Committee's oversight described in sections 2 and 3, above.



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

119th CONGRESS

## AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Clause 2(d)(1), Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 119th 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 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration not later than March 1 of the first session of the Congress.

### *Legislative Jurisdiction*

Clause 1(j) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 119th Congress defines the Committee on Homeland Security's legislative jurisdiction as follows:

Committee on Homeland Security.

- (1) Overall homeland security policy.
- (2) Organization, administration, and management of the Department of Homeland Security.
- (3) Functions of the Department of Homeland Security relating to the following:
  - (A) Border and Port Security (except immigration policy and non-border enforcement)
  - (B) Customs (except customs revenue)
  - (C) Integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information
  - (D) Domestic preparedness for the collective response to terrorism
  - (E) Research and development
  - (F) Transportation Security
  - (G) Cybersecurity

### *Oversight Jurisdiction*

Clause 3(g) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 119th Congress defines the Committee on Homeland Security's special oversight functions as follows:

- (1) The Committee on Homeland Security shall review all Government activities relating to homeland security, including interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security.
- (2) In addition, the Committee shall review and study on a primary and continuing basis all Government activities,

programs, and organizations related to homeland security that fall within its primary legislative jurisdiction.

This is the authorization and oversight plan for the Committee on Homeland Security (“Committee”) for the 119th Congress. It includes the areas in which the Committee expects to conduct oversight but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters as needs arise. The Committee will examine the following key priorities, among other issues.

### **BOLSTER CYBERSECURITY**

Americans continue to be bombarded with cyber threats that no region of the country, government entity, or business sector can ignore. The homeland faces cyber threats from criminal actors and nation-state adversaries targeting government and private entities alike—including hospitals, schools, and financial systems. Strengthening the cybersecurity of the nation’s critical infrastructure is vital to securing national security, the economy, and Americans’ way of life. To ensure the resilience and security of American networks and critical infrastructure, the Committee will build off its work in the 118th Congress by continuing its focus on five key areas: bolstering America’s cyber workforce; promoting regulatory harmonization; rethinking the economic models of cybersecurity; protecting critical infrastructure from nation state actors; and refocusing the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (“CISA”) on its core mission. The Committee will pursue legislation in each of these areas and will prioritize review of any existing authorities that are up for reauthorization.

The Committee’s oversight of CISA will ensure the agency uses its authorities and resources to fulfill its statutory mission under the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*. In particular, the Committee will ensure CISA fulfills its dual role as a Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) for 8 of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors and as the National Coordinator for Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience.

### **SECURE AMERICA’S BORDERS**

During the previous administration, the crisis at America’s borders has become a national security and humanitarian disaster that must be addressed immediately. During the 119th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight on the past administration’s actions related to our national security and borders. Additionally, the Committee will continue its oversight on the Department of Homeland Security’s (“DHS” or “Department”) land and maritime border security operations. During the last four years, there have been more than 8.7 million alien encounters at the Southwest border, in addition to over 2 million known gotaways who evaded Border Patrol agents. In the last four fiscal years (FY), 385 aliens whose names appeared on the terrorist watchlist were apprehended trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border between ports of entry. For comparison, during the first administration of President Trump, the number of aliens on the watchlist apprehended crossing the Southwest border totaled 11. Additionally, in FY2024, CBP seized over 21,000 pounds of fentanyl coming across the Southwest bor-

der—enough to kill over 4.7 billion people. In that same year, the U.S. Border Patrol arrested a little more than 17,000 individuals with criminal convictions including 523 known gang members, with 72 of those being affiliated with MS-13.

The Committee will examine the Department's implementation of its multi-layered enforcement strategy on preventing the entry of illegal aliens, terrorists, illicit narcotics, and other illicit contraband into the country. The Committee will investigate methods of disrupting the flow of American-made firearms to international criminal cartels, which fuel the violent and destabilizing activities of the cartels and threatens the safety of all Americans. The Committee will also examine the Department's frontline law enforcement staffing challenges, as well as the technologies used to secure the borders and acquisition efforts of 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 U.S. borders and ports of entry who are subject to removal, particularly those from special interest countries.

## **REFORM DHS**

The Committee intends to continue its oversight of the structure of the Department and will examine reforms that will make DHS more efficient and able to accomplish its mission. While some elements of the Department have flourished since its establishment in 2003, many have failed to realize their full potential. Other elements have simply floundered, unable to find and execute their missions.

Management challenges continue to hinder the Department despite efforts to remedy them—all at great expense to the American taxpayer. While the Committee sees itself as a champion for the hard-working men and women of DHS, especially those serving on the frontlines, inefficient management practices erode the viability of implementing the DHS mission. The Committee will take the lead on numerous investigations and oversight projects surrounding border security, cyber security, emergency management, and other issues.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **BORDER SECURITY BARRIERS, TECHNOLOGY, AND PERSONNEL**

The Committee will examine the Department's policies and plans to secure the border, including the requirements and implementation of the border barrier system which encompasses both physical wall and associated technology. Additionally, the Committee will review the Department's strategy to address the impending retirement cliff and ensure the effective recruitment and retention of frontline law enforcement personnel who dedicate their lives to the security of the nation.

The Committee will continue its rigorous oversight of the Department's technological investments and subsequent implementation. The Committee will examine technology and infrastructure needs,

both at ports of entry to better facilitate legitimate trade and travel, and between ports of entry to better detect illegal crossings and interdict illicit contraband. The Committee will examine the Department's procurement, installation, and implementation of non-intrusive inspection technology to better detect illicit narcotics, weapons, and other illicit contraband that pose threats to the United States.

The Committee will examine the DHS Joint Task Force Authorization which will expire on September 30, 2026, and CBP's Donations Acceptance Program, which is set to terminate on December 31, 2026.

#### BORDER SCREENING PROGRAMS

The Committee will review the Department's efforts to assist border and consular officials to advance the deployment and implementation of effective training and infrastructure enhancements to identify, intercept, and disrupt known or suspected terrorists or members of transnational criminal organizations attempting to enter the United States.

The Committee will examine the continued integration, security, and reliability of various law enforcement and intelligence-based databases used to screen those seeking to enter the country. This will include oversight of the integration and operational capabilities of the Homeland Advanced Recognition Technology System for storage and processing of biometric and biographic data. In addition, the Committee will address any security-related deficiencies or gaps in the screening process that known or suspected terrorists could use to gain entry or remain in the country for illegitimate purposes. This assessment will include an examination of Customs and Border Protection's continued implementation of the biometric entry and exit system in the air, sea, and land environments.

#### PORT SECURITY

In the 119th Congress, the Committee will examine the security of air, land, and seaport facilities. The Committee will conduct oversight of the integration and effectiveness of transportation and border security screening systems at ports of entry. The Committee will review the Department's efforts to better facilitate legitimate trade and travel with updates to trusted traveler programs and expansion of CBP Preclearance locations. In the maritime environment, this will include the screening of vessels and passengers for potential terrorists, weapons, and other illicit contraband. The Committee also plans to review how the Department manages emerging risks from maritime threats, while addressing gaps and vulnerabilities in the maritime border environment. The Committee will continue its oversight of maritime human and illicit narcotic smuggling along the coastlines of the United States.

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

United States homeland security is inextricably tied to the international threat landscape. Vulnerabilities in one country can quickly become security threats in another, including the U.S. homeland.



During the 119th Congress, the Committee will examine the capabilities and efforts of the Department of Homeland Security to identify, prevent, deter, and respond to threats to the homeland. The Committee's oversight will specifically examine the capabilities and efforts of the Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis ("I&A"), the Department of Homeland Security Intelligence Enterprise, and the Department's coordination with federal, state, and local law enforcement.

#### 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") and its offshoots, al Qaeda core, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula ("AQAP"), al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb ("AQIM"), al Shabaab, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps ("IRGC"), 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. The Committee will monitor issues related to foreign fighter travel and trends, economic threats, terrorist financing, and the effects online radicalization has on the threat landscape within the United States. The Committee will continue its oversight into the previous administration's work related to the DHS Disinformation Governance Board (or similar projects) to ensure that the constitutional rights of Americans to free speech are not being violated.

The Committee will conduct oversight hearings to assess the degree to which transnational criminal organizations and human traffickers exhibit behaviors and actions consistent with terrorist organizations so that the Committee can act through legislation to better challenge these threats to the American people.

The Committee will conduct oversight hearings to allow members to evaluate the persistent and ongoing threats posed by nation-state actors, such as the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Russian Federation. These hearings will examine how nation-states engage in acts of transnational repression, foreign malign influence campaigns, steal intellectual property, conduct surveillance within the United States, and conduct sabotage plots on critical infrastructure, as the world has seen in Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

#### VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The Committee will continue to examine threats to the homeland from violent extremists, including plots to attack public gatherings, religious institutions, government facilities, law enforcement, elected officials, military bases and recruitment centers, and U.S. critical infrastructure. The Committee will also examine the rise in violent incidents, including racially, ethnically, antisemitic, and religiously motivated violent extremism, across the United States and explore the adoption of foreign terrorist organizations' tactics, techniques, and procedures by violent extremist movements. This effort will include oversight to ensure the protection of Americans'

First Amendment rights, including from infringement or violation by federal agencies.

#### 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.

#### HOMELAND SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ENTERPRISE

The Committee will conduct oversight of DHS' Intelligence Enterprise ("DHS IE"), including intelligence activities throughout the Department and component agencies. This will include a focus on coordination and collaboration efforts 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 efforts 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, training policies, 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. Specifically, the Committee will assess the degree to which I&A effectively supports state, local, tribal, and territorial ("SLTT") law enforcement partners and other stakeholders. The Committee will also review how DHS agencies collect and share information, including through vital security vetting programs and federal terrorist or criminal watchlists.

The Committee learned in the 118th Congress that SLTT law enforcement agencies have experienced delays in obtaining the necessary security clearances to carry out their duties. The Committee will continue its oversight efforts to ensure that DHS is processing security clearances for state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies in a timely fashion.

The Committee will continue to assess the development of DHS counterintelligence programs, with a particular focus on securing any existing departmental supply chain vulnerabilities. The 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, along with their working relationship with I&A, 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 and address ongoing deficiencies.

#### UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

The Committee will examine the operations of the United States Secret Service (USSS), including its protection responsibilities and efforts to investigate financial and cybercrimes. The Committee will also review the USSS staffing model to determine whether it has adequate resources to meet its current and projected needs. This oversight is of critical importance given the failures by the USSS on July 13, 2024, the day that an individual attempted to assassinate then-candidate and now-President, Donald J. Trump. The Committee will also examine the Secret Service's lead role in planning and executing security operations for National Special Security Events and conduct oversight into the Secret Service's policies to mitigate malign influences, especially those stemming from foreign malign actors that seek to leverage federal law enforcement entities to their benefit, a possibility illuminated by the 2022 investigation of individuals fraudulently acting as federal agents in D.C.'s Navy Yard neighborhood.

#### RADICALIZATION, PROPAGANDA, AND INFLUENCE

The Committee will examine the security implications of foreign influence and propaganda directed at the homeland; state-sponsored influence and espionage campaigns, occurring both in the physical world and cyber realm, stemming from the People's Republic of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. The Committee will also examine the recruiting and radicalization efforts 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.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION**

#### CYBERSECURITY

During the 119th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of all the cybersecurity activities of the Department of Homeland Security and specifically within CISA. Areas of examination

will include CISA's role in bolstering the nation's cyber workforce, streamlining duplicative and overly burdensome cyber regulations, and ensuring CISA's resources and authorities are used in alignment with its core mission, as set forth in the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*. The Committee will assess the *Cybersecurity and Information Sharing Act of 2015* and the *State and Local Cyber Grant Partnership Program*, both of which are up for reauthorization in FY2025.

CISA's rapid growth in authorities and resources warrants thorough oversight to ensure it is performing its intended mission. To fulfill its critical cybersecurity mission for civilian networks, the Committee will ensure CISA provides the cybersecurity services and guidance required to bolster the nation's cybersecurity posture. Part of this work will be reviewing CISA's internal structure and national footprint to make sure it is performing effectively.

It is important that any regulations stemming from CISA are not duplicative and enable CISA to protect its role as a trusted partner to the public and private sectors. Therefore, the Committee will continue to work with CISA to ensure that any regulations emanating from the *Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act of 2022* promote security rather than become an additional compliance burden for industry partners. The Committee will seek to harmonize the landscape of existing regulations and ensure CISA has a holistic picture of rising threats in cyberspace.

Given the importance of having a robust and prepared workforce to tackle evolving cyber threats, the Committee will conduct oversight of CISA's educational programs to ensure it is fulfilling its statutory role for building cybersecurity awareness and competency across the workforce.

The Committee will continue to lead quarterly meetings of relevant House Committees, deemed "Cyber Subs", to educate Members, conduct oversight, coordinate equities, and recommend changes to facilitate a whole-of-government approach to cybersecurity.

Finally, the Committee will conduct oversight on the government's preparations for the impact that quantum computing and artificial intelligence will have on cybersecurity.

#### PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In the 119th Congress, the Committee will examine CISA's programs to protect critical infrastructure, which focus on internal coordination mechanisms to ensure that expertise in both the cyber and physical realms can be leveraged efficiently and effectively. The Committee will also review how DHS, through CISA, works with the various critical infrastructure sectors and their respective sector risk management agencies pursuant to National Security Memorandum 22 on Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience ("NSM—22").

In the 118th Congress, the Committee was alarmed to learn that key sectors of critical infrastructure were compromised by nation-state actors, especially PRC state-sponsored actors Volt and Salt Typhoon. The Committee will examine information sharing mechanisms to ensure the Committee is informed of significant nation-state activity early and is updated often. Additionally, the Com-

mittee will ensure CISA is fulfilling its role as the National Coordinator for Sector Risk Management Agencies (“SRMA”) by facilitating rapid, useful, and actionable information sharing across the public and private sectors. Finally, the Committee will ensure CISA is adequately fulfilling its role as an SRMA for 8 of the 16 critical infrastructure sectors.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

During the 119th Congress, the Committee will review the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (“FEMA”) response and recovery efforts to evaluate the organization’s effectiveness, impartiality, and stewardship of U.S. taxpayer dollars. The Committee will additionally address the challenges confronting emergency management efforts due to difficult terrain, water shortages, and local policies that may impact disaster response coordination. The Committee will also assess the nation’s overall preparedness for biological incidents, nuclear security risks, and threats to public health. The Committee will review the resilience of federal and state efforts to safeguard the nation’s critical infrastructure.

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

The Committee will examine FEMA’s suite of preparedness grants to enhance the ability of state and local governments and emergency response providers to prevent, prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from terrorist attacks. In anticipation of National Special Security Events, such as the National Football League’s Superbowl(s) and the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the Committee will oversee DHS’ coordination with state and local law enforcement to mitigate and protect against the threat of terrorism. The Committee will also evaluate the needs of state and local governments and consider the impact that FEMA’s grant programs have on U.S. national security. The Committee will assess the acquisition of emerging technology for first responders.

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

During the 119th Congress, the Committee will examine the significant challenges posed by chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (“CBRN”) agents to the homeland and conduct oversight over the future of the Department’s Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office to assess efforts in combatting CBRN threats. The Committee will evaluate the technological needs of the Department and investigate emerging technology’s impact on CBRN threats. 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 are wise uses of taxpayer dollars. The Committee will also oversee the Science and Technology Directorate (“S&T”) and its CBRN assets, including the National Biodefense Analysis and Counter-

measures Center and the Food Agriculture Veterinarian Defense program. Further, the Committee will continue to assess the consolidating and streamlining of health security activities within DHS' Office of Health Security.

#### EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

In the 119th 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*. 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. Hurricanes Helene and Milton as well as the Maui and California fires demonstrated the need for effective emergency communications to alert the public in time for evacuations. The Committee will oversee state, local, and federal alert systems and their coordination with advance forecasters to ensure accurate and timely warnings during life-threatening natural disasters.

#### TRAINING AND EXERCISES

During the 119th Congress, the Committee will review the Department's training and exercise programs, including awareness and availability of these resources for first responders and state and local governments. The Committee will review existing training centers and programs, such as the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium and the National Disaster and Emergency Management University, to determine whether the Department is optimally utilizing these facilities and resources to enhance first responder terrorism and emergency 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

The Committee will conduct oversight of S&T and its ability to provide DHS components with the technological advancements needed to effectively carry out their respective missions. The Committee will conduct oversight on the guidance provided by S&T to ensure that the sensitive information handled by the Department for projects addressing border security, maritime safety, criminal investigations, emerging technologies, and CBRN threats is protected from harmful actors. The Committee will also oversee developments in emerging technology, artificial intelligence, counter-UAS and UAS within the Department. The Committee will exam-

ine S&T's collaboration with industry stakeholders, DHS components, and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers. The Committee will also assess the technological and equipment needs of first responders, law enforcement, and DHS components and the research and development work conducted by the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory to support first responders.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT, INVESTIGATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

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

In the 119th Congress, the Committee will examine the Department of Homeland Security's day-to-day operations to ensure that it is efficiently and effectively using taxpayer dollars. 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 also conduct rigorous oversight to ensure the Department conducts effective outreach to all homeland security stakeholders and utilizes commercial best practices, as appropriate. The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is prioritizing its mission to protect American lives, livelihoods, and interests.

Additionally, the Committee will take the lead on numerous investigations and oversight projects surrounding border security, cyber security, emergency management, and other issues.

#### **DHS MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS (PROCUREMENT, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & SECURITY)**

During the 119th Congress, the Committee will review the efforts of the Department to improve its management functions. Management challenges continue to plague the Department despite years of departmental, Government Accountability Office (GAO), Inspector General (IG), and Congressional efforts to remedy them. The Committee will continue its oversight of the Department's progress in properly managing financial systems and data to minimize inefficient and wasteful spending, make more informed decisions to manage its programs, and implement Department policies with an eye towards legislation should failure to fix these issues continue. 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 continue its oversight of the Department's ef-

forts to establish a centralized and modernized human resources IT program.

Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Department's acquisitions process. The Committee will continue to monitor the Department's implementation of the *DHS Contract Reporting Act*, and seek to reauthorize the Department's other transaction authority, which expired on September 30, 2024.

#### CHINA'S INFLUENCE ON THE HOMELAND

The Committee will closely monitor the People's Republic of China's (PRC) attempts to influence the homeland. As the United States continues its great power struggle with the PRC, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continues to pursue a national strategy to assert themselves as the head of the global order while degrading America's power militarily, diplomatically, and economically. The CCP's aggressive "Military-Civil Fusion" strategy drives their goal of positioning the People's Liberation Army as the most technologically advanced military in the world by 2049.

The CCP is implementing its strategy through theft of the world's cutting-edge technologies. As the premier pioneer of both civilian and military research and development, the United States is a key target of the CCP's espionage efforts. The Committee will hold a series of hearings related to the activities of China in the homeland on the areas of military intellectual property, academic research and development, economic security, and political influence.

#### ECONOMIC SECURITY

In the 119th Congress, the Committee will examine multiple areas of economic security, including the Department's implementation of the *Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act*, global supply chains, critical homeland security domains, and the Arctic.

The economy is the backbone of the nation, and it is imperative that the Committee does its part to ensure that markets can function without being manipulated by U.S. adversaries—this was never more apparent than in the COVID pandemic when China manipulated the personal protective equipment market to the detriment of the rest of the world. The Committee will conduct oversight on how China's economic expansion and manipulation of markets and supply chains threaten the economic security of the homeland. The Committee will hold hearings on how China's economic expansion and tactics threaten homeland security.

#### **Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security**

In the 119th Congress, the Committee will undertake a comprehensive review of efforts to safeguard the nation's transportation systems against emerging and persistent threats. This includes addressing vulnerabilities in aviation and surface transportation infrastructure and maritime transportation systems to ensure the highest levels of safety and preparedness. The Committee will closely examine the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) screening operations for passengers, baggage, and cargo, with a focus on identifying opportunities to bolster efficiency and



effectiveness. Recognizing the value of private sector collaboration, the Committee will advocate for the adoption of innovative technologies and industry best practices to strengthen transportation security and streamline the travel experience.

The Subcommittee will explore the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) ability to effectively execute their homeland security missions and secure the U.S. maritime border to address existing and evolving threats. Through these efforts, the Committee aims to advance a forward-leaning strategy that adapts to evolving challenges while ensuring the resilience of critical transportation infrastructure and maritime transportation systems.

#### AVIATION SECURITY

The Committee will prioritize strengthening aviation security to ensure the safety and resilience of the nation's transportation systems. The TSA plays a pivotal role in safeguarding air travel, and the Committee will work to ensure the agency is equipped with the tools, resources, and policies necessary to stay ahead of emerging threats. A key focus will be on advancing the deployment of innovative screening technologies, such as Computed Tomography and Credential Authentication Technology, at airport checkpoints.

The Committee will closely oversee TSA's red teaming efforts, which are designed to test and identify vulnerabilities within aviation security operations. These exercises are critical to ensuring continuous improvement in TSA's ability to detect and mitigate emerging threats. Reports of foreign adversarial actors attempting to place incendiary devices on U.S.-bound aircraft underscore the importance of proactive measures and intelligence-driven security strategies. The Committee will evaluate TSA's readiness to counter these types of threats and ensure the agency maintains close coordination with federal, state, and international partners.

The Committee will also examine TSA's efforts to expand "detection at range" capabilities, which allow for the identification of potential threats further from secure areas, enhancing preemptive security measures. Furthermore, we will continue oversight of TSA Pre✓™ to ensure this program provides expedited screening to low-risk travelers while maintaining the highest levels of security. In addition, the Committee will conduct rigorous oversight of the No-Fly List, ensuring that it remains an effective tool for preventing known or suspected terrorists from boarding aircraft while protecting the civil liberties of all travelers. This oversight will include an evaluation of how the list is maintained, updated, and shared with relevant stakeholders to address dynamic threats.

Through targeted oversight, legislative action, and collaboration with TSA and other stakeholders, the Committee will ensure that aviation security adapts to evolving risks while providing a seamless and secure travel experience for the American public.

#### PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

The Committee will prioritize engagement with private sector stakeholders to ensure that their expertise, capabilities, and resources are effectively leveraged in support of national security goals. One focus of this engagement will be fostering collaboration

with private industry to develop and deploy advanced technologies, including those used by the TSA and other Departmental components. The Committee will encourage innovation in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, biometrics, and detection systems to enhance security operations within the transportation and maritime sectors.

#### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

The Committee is committed to ensuring the safety and resilience of the nation's surface transportation systems, which are critical to the movement of people, goods, and services. Central to these efforts is robust oversight of the TSA Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response program, the Surface Transportation Security Inspection Program, and TSA's surface cybersecurity posture. These initiatives must effectively deploy resources and foster strong collaboration with transportation operators to mitigate risks and enhance security across mass transit, freight rail, and passenger rail systems.

The Committee will also examine the role of PRC state-owned enterprises in the U.S. mass transit and rail sectors, assessing potential security risks and vulnerabilities associated with foreign-owned entities operating in critical infrastructure. Addressing these concerns is vital to safeguarding the integrity of the nation's transportation systems. Lastly, the Committee will ensure TSA works seamlessly with federal, state, and local governments, as well as private sector partners, to strengthen coordination, prevent conflicting or unnecessarily redundant regulations, and maintain a unified approach to transportation security.

#### TARGETING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

The Committee will identify and address waste, fraud, and abuse within the TSA to ensure the agency operates efficiently in safeguarding the nation's transportation systems. The Committee's oversight will focus on TSA's procurement processes, contracts, and grant programs to identify inefficiencies, prevent misuse of federal funds, and ensure taxpayer dollars are directed toward enhancing security.

#### MARITIME SECURITY

The Committee will undertake a comprehensive review of maritime security to ensure the safety and resilience of the nation's ports, waterways, and maritime infrastructure. This will include oversight of the security measures in place at port facilities and the screening of vessels, passengers, cargo, and crew to detect and deter threats, such as terrorism, smuggling, and the movement of contraband. The Committee will also examine the state of maritime cybersecurity policies governing Maritime Transportation Security Act-regulated facilities to address vulnerabilities in critical maritime networks.

Additionally, the Committee will examine the Coast Guard's expanding mission in the Indo-Pacific, with a focus on countering the influence of the People's Republic of China in the region. This review will include the operational effectiveness of specialized units,

such as the Maritime Safety and Security Teams, Port Security Units, Tactical Law Enforcement Teams, and the Maritime Security Response Team, in addressing terrorism and other maritime threats. Through oversight and targeted hearings, the Committee aims to strengthen the security of America's ports and waterways, address emerging challenges in the Indo-Pacific, and ensure the Coast Guard has the tools and capabilities to fulfill its critical mission.

#### ARCTIC SECURITY

The Committee recognizes the growing strategic importance of the Arctic region to U.S. security. The Committee will prioritize oversight of homeland security efforts in the Arctic to address emerging challenges, including geopolitical competition, and increased commercial and military activity.

The Committee will focus on the USCG's Arctic Strategy and its readiness to secure the region's maritime domain. The Committee will evaluate the USCG's operational capabilities, resource requirements, and infrastructure needs to ensure it is adequately prepared to address the heightened demand for search and rescue operations, law enforcement, and environmental response. Additionally, the Committee will assess the timeline and progress of fleet modernization, including icebreaker acquisition, to ensure the USCG can maintain a sustained presence in the Arctic.

The Committee will also examine the role of federal interagency coordination and partnerships with allied nations in promoting security and stability in the Arctic. This will include oversight of efforts to counter the influence of adversarial nations, such as the PRC and Russia, whose growing presence in the region poses strategic risks to U.S. national security and economic interests.

Through hearings, site visits, and legislative action, the Committee aims to strengthen the United States' ability to address Arctic security challenges, protect critical infrastructure, and ensure the region remains stable and secure in the face of evolving threats.



JIM JORDAN, Ohio  
CHAIRMAN

JAMIE RASKIN, Maryland  
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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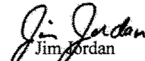
March 3, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

Enclosed is the Committee on the Judiciary Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress. Pursuant to House Rule X, cl. 2(d), the Committee met in an open session and adopted this plan on February 26, 2025. I appreciate your commitment to Congressional oversight and look forward to our continued cooperation on matters of shared jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Jordan  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Gerry Connolly, Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

# **COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS**

February 26, 2025

The primary mission of the Committee on the Judiciary is to protect the fundamental freedoms of the American people. In the 118th Congress, the Committee conducted oversight and passed legislation to protect the First Amendment from the Biden-Harris censorship regime, address the Biden-Harris border crisis, and end the Biden-Harris weaponization of federal law enforcement—among other items. In the 119th Congress, consistent with Rule X, the Committee’s work will continue. The Committee will review the 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.

The American people elected President Trump with a resounding mandate to transform how Washington works. Consistent with the President’s bipartisan priority to make government more efficient and effective, the Committee will identify wasteful, inefficient, or duplicative programs that should be streamlined or eliminated, as well as those that could be enhanced. The Committee also seeks to eliminate fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. Working with the Trump Administration’s team of federal employees who are dedicated to modernizing and improving the federal bureaucracy, the Committee hopes to streamline and eliminate wasteful spending on agencies and programs within its jurisdiction.

This document outlines the plans of the Committee on the Judiciary for authorization and oversight activities in the 119th Congress. As required by House Rules, Part I includes a description of programs and agencies for potential reauthorization and notes which unauthorized programs and agencies received funding in fiscal year 2024. Part II includes oversight the Committee intends to conduct to inform potential legislative reforms for these entities. Working with the Trump Administration, the Committee will strive to ensure that the federal programs and initiatives within its jurisdiction are always working on behalf of “We, the People.”

### **PART I**

The following programs and agencies are potentially subject to reauthorization in the 119th Congress. Programs or agencies designated with an asterisk received funding during fiscal year 2024 despite having no current authorization for appropriation.

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****GENERAL ADMINISTRATION \***

General Administration (GA) supports the Department of Justice's senior policy level officials in managing Department resources and developing policies for legal, law enforcement, and criminal justice activities.

**Justice Information Sharing Technology \***

Justice Information Sharing Technology programs fund the Department's investments in information technology.

**Office of the Inspector General \***

The Office of the Inspector General is charged with investigating allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct by Department employees, contractors, and grantees and promoting economy and efficiency in Department operations.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW**

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) includes Immigration Judges, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer. EOIR presides over administrative immigration hearings such as removal, bond, and employer sanctions proceedings.

**U.S. PAROLE COMMISSION**

The Parole Commission is responsible for granting or denying parole to, and supervising the parole releases of, incarcerated individuals who fall under its jurisdiction.

**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 before the Supreme Court.

**Tax Division \***

The Tax Division represents the U.S. in litigation arising under the internal revenue laws.

**Criminal Division \***

The Criminal Division is responsible for supervising the application of all federal criminal laws except those specifically assigned to other divisions. The Criminal Division prosecutes significant financial crimes, including mortgage fraud, corporate fraud, and sophisticated investment fraud; coordinates multi-district financial crime cases; and assists 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, and other federal employees in litigation in federal and state courts. The Division also brings suits on behalf of the United States in litigation, primarily to recoup money lost through fraud, loan defaults, and the abuse of federal funds.

### **Environmental and Natural Resources Division \***

The Environmental and Natural Resources Division has responsibility for civil and criminal environmental laws.

### **Civil Rights Division \***

The Civil Rights Division is responsible for enforcing federal statutes that protect the civil rights of all Americans and prohibit discrimination based on race, sex, disability, religion, and national origin.

### **INTERPOL Washington \***

INTERPOL Washington facilitates cooperation and information-sharing among police agencies in different countries.

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR U.S. ATTORNEYS \***

There are 93 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 are the chief law enforcement representatives of the President and the Attorney General in their respective jurisdictions. Each U.S. Attorney 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.

### **ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND \***

The Assets Forfeiture Fund (AFF), administered by the U.S. Marshals Service, manages and disposes of properties seized by and forfeited to federal law enforcement agencies and U.S. Attorneys nationwide. 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, such as those enumerated in 28 U.S.C. § 524(c).

### **U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE \***

The U.S. Marshals Service conducts investigations involving escaped federal prisoners, unregistered sex offenders, and other fugitives; ensures safety at federal judicial proceedings, including the safety and security of Supreme Court justices when assistance is requested by the Marshal of the United States Supreme Court; assumes custody of individuals arrested by all federal agencies; houses and transports prisoners; manages the Witness Security Program; and administers the Asset Forfeiture Program of the Justice Department.



### **NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION \***

The National Security Division consists of the elements of Department of Justice, other than the Federal Bureau of Investigation, engaged primarily in support of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the federal government.

### **ANTITRUST DIVISION \***

The Antitrust Division, alongside the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition, enforces the nation's antitrust laws and provides guidance on antitrust laws and principles.

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

The OCDETF program is part of the Department's intra- and inter-agency drug enforcement strategy. It coordinates with other federal law enforcement agencies—including components of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Treasury—to disrupt 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 responsible for investigating federal offenses.

### **DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION \***

The Drug Enforcement Administration is the 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 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives is tasked with investigating violent crime, terrorism, the illegal trafficking of alcohol and tobacco products, and administering federal laws concerning the firearms and explosives industry.

### **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.

### **FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

#### **BUREAU OF COMPETITION \***

The Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition shares jurisdiction with the Justice Department's Antitrust Division in the enforcement of the nation's antitrust laws.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY****U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) oversees the adjudication of applications and petitions for immigration benefits, including naturalization, asylum, Temporary Protected Status, and adjustment of status. USCIS is funded primarily by fees charged to applicants and petitioners. However, Congress has occasionally provided some funding for certain USCIS activities, and it appropriates funding annually for the E-Verify Program.

**U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. Its components include Enforcement and Removal Operations, the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, and Homeland Security Investigations.

**U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is responsible for the security of U.S. borders. Its components include the U.S. Border Patrol and the Office of Field Operations. Aspects of CBP under the jurisdiction of the Committee include CBP's non-border immigration enforcement functions, intellectual property enforcement functions, and the Electronic System for Travel Authorization.

**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 its training audience also includes state, local, and tribal departments throughout the U.S.

**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 & HUMAN SERVICES****OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT\***

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Department of Health and Human Services provides assistance and services to refugees, asylees, unaccompanied alien children (UACs), and victims of human trafficking, among others. ORR is tasked with administering the UAC program wherein certain UACs encountered at the border are transferred from the custody of CBP to ORR and potentially then placed with a sponsor.

## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

### **BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS**

The Bureau of Consular Affairs adjudicates applications for non-immigrant and immigrant visas, issues immigrant visas and U.S. passports, and aids international adoption.

### **BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION**

The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration oversees the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, through which refugees from foreign countries may be resettled within the United States.

### **OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET**

### **OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS \***

The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs implements executive regulatory oversight activities under Executive Order 12866, among other authorities; reviews collections of information from the public; provides guidance concerning federal information resources; and coordinates federal statistical activities.

### **OTHER ENTITIES**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES \***

The Administrative Conference of the United States is an agency created to analyze the federal administrative law process and to provide related recommendations and guidance.

## **PART II**

Consistent with President Trump's priority to make the federal bureaucracy more effective and more accountable, the Committee will conduct responsible oversight of the agencies and programs within its jurisdiction. The Committee's oversight activities will include hearings, briefings, correspondence, reports, public statements, and site visits.

### **FULL COMMITTEE**

**U.S. Department of Justice.** In conjunction with and also through its Subcommittees, the Committee intends to conduct collaborative oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice and its components. Among other things, the Committee will examine political bias within the FBI's former senior leadership; the apparent double standard in the enforcement of federal law by the Biden-Harris Administration, such as its selective enforcement of the Free Access to Clinic Entrances Act; the politicization of criminal investigations and prosecutorial decisions by the Biden-Harris Administration; the appointment of and investigations and prosecutions conducted by politicized special counsels; the use of surveillance authorities by Executive Branch agencies, and the potential reauthorization of section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; the use of unprecedented and aggressive law-enforcement tactics against po-

litical opponents of the Biden-Harris Administration; the FBI's purge of conservative agents from within its ranks and whistleblower retaliation; collusion between the Biden-Harris Administration and Big Tech to censor political speech; and the FBI's use of confidential human sources and informants.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND LIMITED GOVERNMENT**

**Protection of Constitutional and Civil Rights.** The Subcommittee will examine the adequacy of current protections for U.S. citizens' constitutional and civil rights, including with respect to the development of artificial intelligence (AI).

**Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice.** The Subcommittee intends to examine the enforcement record and priorities of the Civil Rights Division.

**Fiscal Responsibility.** The Subcommittee intends to examine constitutional reforms to address government spending.

**Separation of Powers and Judicial Independence.** The Subcommittee intends to examine the need for legislative reforms to enhance the Constitutional separation of powers, make the federal bureaucracy responsive and accountable to the Executive Branch's elected leaders, and to protect the independence of the Supreme Court from political pressure.

**Federalism.** The Subcommittee intends to examine the proper balance between the limited and finite powers allocated to the federal government by the Constitution and the powers reserved to the states.

**Religious Liberty.** The Subcommittee intends to examine the adequacy of federal protections for Americans' rights under the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

**Freedom of Speech.** The Subcommittee will continue to examine the Executive Branch's collusion with Big Tech, pseudo-academics, and others to censor American speech online; the effect of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence on free speech; and how foreign governments seek to limit free speech in the United States. The Subcommittee also intends to examine restraints on free speech, including efforts by some colleges and universities to limit protests, speeches, distribution of literature, petitions, and other expressive activities.

**Protecting the Sanctity of Life.** The Subcommittee intends to examine the constitutionality and enforcement of federal and state statutes relating to anti-life measures.

**The Justice Department's Judgement Fund.** The Subcommittee intends to examine payments made from the Judgment Fund, its management, and how it can be improved.

**Civil Justice.** The Subcommittee intends to review the policies and practices of the civil justice system and consider whether reforms are needed.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND THE INTERNET**

**Federal Judiciary.** The Subcommittee intends to conduct oversight of the federal judiciary, including the operations of the federal court system, the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information and deliberations of the judicial branch, and the unwarranted attacks and threats on the Supreme Court. The Subcommittee also intends to examine the resources available to Article III courts, including whether there is a need for new judgeships and examining judicial security. The Subcommittee intends to further examine the adequacy of current cybersecurity and information technology capabilities of the federal judiciary, including cybersecurity risks posed by artificial intelligence technology.

**Public Access to Court Electronic Records.** The Subcommittee intends to examine the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system.

**U.S. Copyright Office.** The Subcommittee intends to conduct oversight of the Copyright Office, including a review of its recordation system, public access to registration records, the modernization and digitization of its systems and records, the selection process for the Register of Copyrights, the Copyright Claims Board and implementation of the Copyright Alternatives in Small Claims Enforcement Act, implementation of the Music Modernization Act, its guidance documents regarding the impact of artificial intelligence technology on copyright law and copyright registrations, and recent and ongoing rulemaking proceedings.

**U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.** The Subcommittee intends to conduct oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), including its policy processes and compliance with the Congressional Review Act and Administrative Procedure Act, the status and processes of patent and trademark prosecution and examination, modernization of its systems and development of AI and other tools to improve operations, guidance documents regarding the impact of artificial intelligence technology on patent law and patent applications, initiatives to improve patent quality, efforts to address patent and trademark abuse, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, implementation of recent legislation, and its general operations.

**USPTO Global Intellectual Property Rights Attaché Program.** The Subcommittee intends to examine the Global Intellectual Property Rights Attaché Program, coordination between the program and the Department of State, and efforts to promote high standards of intellectual property protection and enforcement internationally for the benefit of U.S. stakeholders.

**Intellectual Property Enforcement.** The Subcommittee intends to review the intellectual property enforcement efforts of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC), and other agencies involved in the enforcement and protection of American intellectual property.

**Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).** The Subcommittee intends to conduct oversight of ICANN, including how its operations affect intellectual property and data privacy, as well as the transparency of its operations and procedures.

**U.S. Intellectual Property Laws and Policies.** The Subcommittee intends to examine the provisions of the Copyright Act, Patent Act, Trademark Act, Defend Trade Secrets Act, and other intellectual property laws and policies to ensure they address the challenges faced by intellectual property owners and users, consumers, creators/inventors, businesses and manufacturers, and other participants, as well as the public at large.

**U.S. Laws Relating to Artificial Intelligence.** The Subcommittee intends to examine the legal landscape relating to artificial intelligence technology, its applications, and its impact, including as artificial intelligence technology continues to advance and develop. The Subcommittee intends to also conduct oversight of federal agency activities relating to artificial intelligence as they intersect with areas under the Committee's jurisdiction, including intellectual property protection, censorship and freedom of speech and expression, and criminal law.

**International and Foreign Laws Relating to Intellectual Property and Artificial Intelligence.** The Subcommittee intends to conduct oversight of the effect of international and foreign laws, regulations, proceedings, organizations, and policies relating to intellectual property and artificial intelligence, and their consequences for American interests. In addition, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of international trade agreements and negotiations as well as U.S. trade policy as they relate to intellectual property and artificial intelligence.

**Technology Issues.** The Subcommittee intends to examine developments in technology and the Internet affecting public policy, including issues surrounding intellectual property, artificial intelligence, censorship and freedom of speech and expression, coordination with government authorities and law enforcement, and Internet governance.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE, REGULATORY REFORM, AND ANTITRUST**

**Administrative State and Regulatory Reform.** The Subcommittee will examine factors that have led to the explosion of the unaccountable and unelected administrative state, including the Administrative Procedure Act, the Congressional Review Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, regulatory litigation and enforcement, judicial doctrines of deference to agency determinations, the overall costs and benefits of federal regulation, the role of regulation in establishing new barriers to entry that may harm competition, the extent to which agencies usurp authority from the Legislative Branch, internal agency adjudication, and the role that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs plays in the federal rule-making process.

**Bankruptcy.** The Subcommittee intends to conduct oversight of the Bankruptcy Code and bankruptcy system.

**State Taxation Affecting Interstate Commerce.** The Subcommittee intends to examine issues related to state taxation that affect interstate commerce.

**Arbitration.** The Subcommittee intends to examine issues arising under the Federal Arbitration Act.

**Interstate Compacts.** The Subcommittee has jurisdiction to conduct oversight related to interstate compacts.

**Antitrust Laws.** The Subcommittee will examine issues arising under U.S. antitrust laws, including the Federal Trade Commission's and the Justice Department's approaches to enforcement and policy, and whether disparities or dysfunction warrant restructuring U.S. antitrust enforcement authorities. Working with the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, the Subcommittee will continue to examine how foreign regulators and private companies use their power to silence free speech online. The Subcommittee will also examine collusion, monopolization, and mergers and acquisitions that may violate the antitrust laws and any antitrust exemptions that could protect otherwise illegal conduct.

**Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.** The Subcommittee will examine the Federal Trade Commission's use of its authority under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

**Settlements Requiring Payments to Nongovernmental Entities.** The Subcommittee has jurisdiction to conduct oversight of any Justice Department settlements requiring payments to non-victim third parties.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION INTEGRITY, SECURITY, AND ENFORCEMENT**

**Biden-Harris Border Crisis.** The Subcommittee will continue to examine the long-term consequences of the Biden-Harris Administration's open-border immigration and lax border security policies. The Subcommittee will examine not only how the Biden-Harris border crisis incentivized illegal immigration, drug trafficking, human smuggling and crime, but also how the Biden-Harris Administration abandoned border security and interior immigration enforcement to the detriment of American families and communities. The Subcommittee also will conduct oversight of the lasting national security and public safety implications of the border crisis, including the Biden-Harris Administration's release of dangerous terrorists, criminals, and gang and cartel members into the United States.

**Immigration Functions of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).** The Subcommittee will examine the immigration and border security-related policies of DHS and its components: Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

**Sanctuary Jurisdictions.** The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of cities, counties, states, and other jurisdictions in the country that limit or restrict cooperation with federal immigration officials. Specifically, the Subcommittee will examine how sanctuary jurisdictions' policies shield criminal aliens from accountability, endanger Americans and legal residents, and undermine the rule of law.

**Immigration Functions of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).** The Subcommittee will examine the immigration-related functions of HHS and its component, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), especially relating to the Biden-Harris Administration's failure to adequately protect and track unaccompanied minors who arrived at the southwest border.

**Legal Immigration.** The Subcommittee will examine current legal immigration programs, including whether relevant federal agencies are administering and enforcing the laws regarding such programs with an eye toward integrity and security.

**U.S. Refugee Admission Program.** The Subcommittee will examine the U.S. Refugee Admission Program, including refugee processing, to determine whether the Biden-Harris Administration implemented it with a focus on integrity and security, and refugee resettlement to determine whether it is a strain on state and local community resources.

**Executive Office for Immigration Review.** The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Department of Justice's adjudication of immigration cases, the Biden-Harris Administration's restrictions on judicial independence, and the Biden-Harris Administration's mass dismissal, termination, and administrative closure of cases.

**Office of Principal Legal Advisor.** The Subcommittee will examine the scope of the Biden-Harris Administration's policies that restricted ICE trial attorneys from prosecuting cases in immigration court.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE**

**Justice Department Criminal and National Security Functions.** The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Criminal Division and National Security Division, as well as the Executive Office of United States Attorneys and the Office of the Pardon Attorney. The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the Office of Justice Program, the Community Oriented Policing Services Office, their component organizations, and the administration of federal grants. The Subcommittee intends to review the mission and operations of the Office on Violence Against Women and the administration of Violence Against Women Act grants.

**The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).** The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the FBI and its criminal investigative authorities.

**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. The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of DEA efforts to combat the U.S. drug crisis, including illicit fentanyl-related substances.

**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF).** The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the ATF, including its overly aggressive enforcement of federal firearms laws during the Biden-Harris Administration and its attacks on the Second Amendment rights of American citizens.



**U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and the 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. The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the operations of the OFDT.

**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. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the operations of BOP.

**Law Enforcement Functions of the 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, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Federal Air Marshals Service.

**U.S. Sentencing Commission.** The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, including the process by which amendments to the sentencing guidelines are submitted to Congress. The Subcommittee will also examine the extent to which federal courts are imposing sentences that diverge from those recommended by the sentencing guidelines.

**Federal Surveillance Activities.** The Subcommittee will review the use and abuse of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and USA PATRIOT Act authorities by Executive Branch agencies, and the potential reauthorization of section 702 of FISA. The Subcommittee will also examine federal law enforcement's purchasing of Americans' personal data from data brokers. The Subcommittee will review the use of these authorities in the context of the present threat to our national security from terrorist activity.

**Rising Crime in Urban Areas.** The Subcommittee will examine the causes of rising crime in urban areas, including potential federal policies to support crime prevention strategies at the state, local, and tribal levels. The Subcommittee will examine strategies used by state and local governments to ensure that law enforcement entities effectively serve their communities and that local prosecutors effectively enforce the law.

**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.

**International and Domestic Human Trafficking.** The Subcommittee will review law enforcement and other activities that address international and domestic trafficking in human beings. The Subcommittee will review resources and tools designed to combat child exploitation and the proliferation of child sexual abuse material on the Internet.

**Criminal Law Enforcement.** The Subcommittee will examine issues related to the federal criminal code, 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. The Subcommittee will continue to examine ways to address the problem

of over-criminalization and over-federalization, as well as the adequacy of forensic technology and resources available to federal prosecutors and law enforcement.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**

**U.S. Department of Justice.** The Subcommittee intends to conduct oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice, including all Department components. Among other things, the subcommittee will examine the apparent double standard in the enforcement of federal law by the Biden-Harris Administration, such as its selective enforcement of the Free Access to Clinic Entrances Act; the politicization of criminal investigations and prosecutorial decisions by the Biden-Harris Administration; the appointment of and investigations and prosecutions conducted by special counsels; and the use of unprecedented and aggressive law-enforcement tactics against political opponents of the Biden-Harris Administration.

**Federal Bureau of Investigation.** Working with other Subcommittees, the Subcommittee will examine political bias within the FBI's former senior leadership; the FBI's purge of conservative agents from within its ranks and whistleblower retaliation; the FBI's use of confidential human sources and informants; and the expansive nature of the FBI's intelligence authorities, functions, and programs.

BRUCE WESTERMAN OF ARKANSAS  
CHAIRMAN

VIVIAN MOEGLEIN  
STAFF DIRECTOR

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

JARED HUFFMAN OF CALIFORNIA  
RANKING DEMOCRAT

ANA UNRUH COHEN  
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

February 20, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

In accordance with clause 2(d)(1) of House of Representatives Rule X, I enclose a copy of the authorization and oversight plan adopted by a quorum of the Committee on Natural Resources on February 12, 2025, in open session.

Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman  
Chairman

Enclosure

<http://naturalresources.house.gov>

# COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

## AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN

### 119TH CONGRESS

**Chairman Bruce Westerman**

#### INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee) adopted the following Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress. The Committee will conduct ongoing oversight of the Executive Branch to strengthen America's environment and economy, promote access to public lands and natural resources, and enhance conservation through innovation and efficiency. The Committee will review all laws and programs within its jurisdiction to assess their application, administration, execution, and effectiveness while providing transparency and accountability. The Committee seeks to eliminate waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement through such examination.

Congress is responsible for keeping the government accountable to the American people, ensuring decisions by agencies are open and transparent and the effective stewardship of taxpayers' money. The adopted Authorization and Oversight Plan identifies select agencies and programs with lapsed authorizations and outlines the initial and primary oversight focuses of the Committee. Additional oversight activities are expected to arise throughout the first and second sessions of the 119th Congress.

The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share jurisdiction on any of the oversight activities the Committee may consider.

#### *Regulatory Review*

Committee oversight activities will assist in the collection of relevant information to support the Committee's legislative agenda, monitor the implementation of public policy, and ensure the government's performance in subject matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. Accordingly, the Committee will examine the effectiveness of natural resources laws. Oversight focus will also be provided on how laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Wilderness Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, and others may exceed their regulatory purposes resulting in costly litigation and other adverse consequences to American taxpayers.

### *Ethics and Transparency*

The Committee will conduct thorough oversight of ethics compliance at the federal departments and agencies under its jurisdiction. It will review the operations of departmental ethics offices, ethics training, guidance, and compliance, among other considerations.

### *Preventing Fraud, Waste, and Abuse, and Promoting Efficiency*

The Committee will identify fraud, waste, or abuse at the Department of the Interior and other departments and agencies within its jurisdiction while seeking to promote good government and streamline regulatory efficiencies within these departments and agencies. The Committee will also work with federal agencies and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to reduce unnecessary spending, make the federal government more efficient, and ensure better stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

### *Scientific Integrity and Grant Accountability*

The Committee will continue oversight over scientific integrity policies to ensure that scientific activities by agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction are conducted in a manner that is accurate and objective and open to appropriate oversight from Congress. In addition, the Committee will conduct oversight of federal grants awarded by the agencies and bureaus within its jurisdiction to ensure an efficient, fair, and transparent grantmaking process.

### *Energy and Mineral Resources*

*Budget and Spending Review*—The Committee will review the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 budget requests for federal land management programs and agencies under its jurisdiction, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement (OSMRE) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The Committee will also work to raise revenues and reduce the federal deficit through budget reconciliation measures that capitalize on our vast domestic energy potential. Lastly, the Committee will work closely with the Trump administration to review agency spending and ensure proper stewardship of taxpayer dollars. In particular, the Committee will seek to eliminate wasteful programs and ensure responsible allocation of funds under the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

*Expanding Domestic Energy Production*—The Committee will work alongside the Trump administration to unleash domestic energy production, meet growing demand, and reduce costs for American families. This effort will create high-paying jobs here at home, increase our global competitiveness, bring greater economic benefits to states and local communities, and improve U.S. national security and energy security for our allies—all while displacing foreign sources and reducing global emissions.

*Fiscal Responsibility Act Implementation and NEPA Reform*—The Committee will work closely with the Trump administration to revise NEPA regulations and ensure proper implementation of the historic NEPA reforms included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act

(FRA). Furthermore, the Committee will continue its pursuit of common-sense NEPA reforms that will end permitting delays and frivolous litigation on key infrastructure projects, as well as unnecessary administrative burdens on federal agencies.

*Onshore Oil and Natural Gas Programs*—In the 119th Congress, the Committee will work with the Trump administration to follow the law by holding quarterly lease sales across the western United States and Alaska and reverse administrative actions that have created permitting delays and disincentivized energy production on federal lands. This includes holding meaningful lease sales under the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA), ensuring lands are not improperly disqualified for oil and gas leasing, streamlining the Interior Board of Land Appeals’ (IBLA) drawn-out appeals process, reissuing leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and restoring access to millions of acres in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A). The Committee will also conduct oversight regarding implementation of the over \$4 billion allocated under the IIJA for cleanup of orphaned and abandoned wells and ensure that those funds are not squandered as a result of burdensome monitoring requirements.

*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. Specifically, the Committee will collaborate with the Trump administration to revitalize DOI’s 2024–2029 offshore oil and gas leasing plan, prioritizing consistent lease sales to deliver critical benefits. These sales will generate Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) revenue to fund coastal resilience projects and hurricane recovery efforts, bolster the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and provide much-needed resources to coastal states. Additionally, they will help lower energy costs for American families, create thousands of well-paying jobs, and strengthen local economies. This is necessary to reverse the consequences of the Biden Administration’s misguided policies—such as, for the first time since 1958, failing to hold a single lease sale in 2024 and delaying reviews of the 2025 sale, effectively imposing a two-year leasing moratorium through procedural inaction. The Committee will also work with DOI to improve resource assessment methodology in the Outer Continental Shelf and bring increased energy revenues to states for economic development and restoration projects.

*Renewable and Alternative Energy*—In the 119th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight over current solar, geothermal, and wind programs operated by the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service. The Committee will examine ways to reduce duplicative NEPA reviews and litigation that delay renewable projects. The Committee will also explore mechanisms for renewable energy revenue sharing and work with the Trump administration to ensure that BLM regulations and Resource Management Plans uphold a technology-neutral “all of the above” approach regarding renewable energy development and revenue collection.

*Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR)*—The Committee will conduct oversight of ONRR to ensure accountability and the accurate and appropriate collection of energy and mineral revenues. The ONRR collects an average of over \$10 billion in annual revenue, making this office responsible for collecting one of the federal government's largest sources of non-tax revenue. Specifically, the Committee will work with President Trump and the Secretary of the Interior to address ONRR's history of arbitrary request denials and prioritization of quantitative goals rather than accurate royalty payment and recovery.

*Mineral Security*—The Committee will conduct aggressive oversight of domestic hardrock mineral resources, including critical minerals, especially regarding the nation's current and planned production on federal lands. The Committee will also continue to review ways to responsibly increase production through legislation. To further these goals, the Committee will examine the steeply rising global demand for hardrock minerals, insufficient rates of domestic production to meet this demand, and the resultant risks to our mineral supply chain brought by overreliance on foreign sources. Furthermore, the Committee will place an emphasis on unlocking our significant domestic mineral potential through actions such as overturning the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' harmful "Rosemont decision," expanding interagency and intergovernmental efforts to streamline mine permitting, and supporting the Trump administration in overturning disastrous withdrawals, delays, and stymieing of hardrock mineral development on federal lands. Lastly, the Committee will closely monitor the implementation of the hardrock abandoned mine lands program established by the IIJA.

*Coal Mining Regulations and Leasing*—The Committee will work alongside President Trump and the Secretary of the Interior to reverse the Biden Administration's war on coal that has significantly impacted domestic energy reliability, job security, and federal revenues. Specifically, this involves revising the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSMRE) recent Wyoming and Montana RMPs, which remove millions of acres from consideration for future coal leasing. The Committee will also explore overturning OSMRE rules and practices that reduce state regulatory independence and hinder transparent access to federal funding. Lastly, the Committee will track the implementation of the \$11.3 billion in additional funding for the Abandoned Mine Lands Program allocated under the IIJA, including the revision of departmental guidance regarding the use of such funds.

*United States Geological Survey (USGS)*—The Committee will coordinate with the Trump administration to support USGS programs that ensure accurate siting of hardrock minerals and other resources, such as the Earth MRI program, as well as mapping programs for hazard risk assessment, land use planning, and geothermal resource evaluation. The Committee will work to move three authorization bills relating to hazard reduction early in the 119th Congress. The Committee will work to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program (NLHRP), and the National Volcano Early Warning System (NVEWS). These essential

programs must remain operational to help mitigate the impacts of natural disasters. The Committee will also continue its efforts to improve the methodology USGS uses when publishing the Critical Minerals List (CML) and simplify mineral classification across the federal government. Additionally, the Committee will work closely with President Trump and the Secretary of the Interior to eliminate unauthorized funding for climate-related USGS programs and other wasteful spending across the agency.

#### *Federal Lands*

*Budget and Spending Review*—The Committee will review the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 budget requests for federal land management programs and agencies under its jurisdiction, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and identify fraud, waste, and abuse. In particular, the Committee will continue to examine spending under the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure IIJA.

*Forest Health and Wildfires*—Across the nation, more than one billion acres are identified as at risk for wildfire and millions of acres continue to burn in catastrophic wildfires every year, particularly in the West. The Committee will conduct oversight on forest health, wildfire prevention and suppression, and the need for more active management of our national forests. The Committee will continue to monitor USFS' progress towards meeting its goal of treating an additional 20 million acres of federal land over the next 10 years through the "Confronting the Wildfire Crisis" strategy. Additionally, the Committee will investigate how failure to manage federal forests results in unnecessary pollution and emissions, economic damages, loss of life and property, destruction of wildlife habitat, and degraded air and water quality.

*Deferred Maintenance at our National Parks and Public Lands*—Despite historic investments in deferred maintenance through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), maintenance backlogs at the federal land management agencies continue to increase exponentially. Nowhere is this issue more acute than at NPS, which saw its backlog increase from roughly \$11.9 billion in 2018 to over \$23 billion in 2023. This over \$11 billion increase in the backlog over the past five years is indicative of greater underlying problems in how we manage our parks and deserves renewed attention and oversight.

*Federal Land Acquisition*—The Committee will conduct oversight of the federal land acquisition process, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and the growing size of the federal estate. Proposals for expanding the federal estate will be examined with due regard for the merits of the proposal, spending constraints, input of local stakeholders, our national need for access to vital resources, and the protection of private property rights. The Committee will work with local and state stakeholders to identify lands in the federal estate that the federal government no longer wants or needs, particularly in states and counties predominately comprised of federal lands.

*Access and Recreation*—The Committee will conduct oversight on ways to expand access to our national parks, national forests, and



public lands for recreational and sportsmen's activities. The Committee will evaluate proposals to ensure greater access to, and enjoyment of, the abundant outdoor recreation opportunities offered by our public lands. During the 119th Congress, the Committee will build upon previous legislative efforts from the 118th Congress, particularly the EXPLORE Act, a comprehensive, bipartisan, bicameral legislation that works to improve access and transform recreation opportunities on public lands and waters.

*Conservation versus Preservation*—The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure our public lands provide secure domestic sources of energy, food, fiber, minerals, jobs, and recreation under appropriate conservation standards. The Committee will conduct oversight of preservation and unilateral land designations, such as national monument designations under the Antiquities Act of 1906 and mineral withdrawals, that usurp the authority and will of Congress, State, and local stakeholders. The Committee will conduct oversight of the BLM and USFS to ensure the agencies follow their multiple use and sustained yield mandates.

*Grazing*—When managed properly, grazing on federal lands can enhance rangeland health and reduce the build-up of hazardous fuels. As one of the most effective wildfire reduction tools, grazing can also help conserve habitat for species like the Greater Sage Grouse. The Committee will examine ways in which grazing can benefit the economy and the health of federal rangelands, and ways to better protect the practice against frivolous litigation and unnecessary regulation.

*Sustainable Funding Sources for Conservation Programs*—The Committee will conduct oversight on the longevity of revenue streams for conservation funds, including LWCF, the Historic Preservation Fund, and the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund, especially due to previous Biden administration efforts to ban new oil and gas leases on federal lands and waters that undercut the GAOA and threaten the long-term solvency of important conservation programs.

*Natural Climate Solutions*—From planting trees to incentivizing innovative grazing practices, public and private lands must play a large role in future discussions on responsible, commonsense solutions to climate change. The Committee will continue to review new innovative practices that benefit the environment without sacrificing rural jobs and our nation's overall economic health. This includes engaging with stakeholders to identify new frontiers in research and development that should be explored and further opportunities to support American innovation.

*Park Partnerships*—To truly enter the 21st Century, the NPS should adopt more market-based solutions and engage in public-private partnerships to maximize agency resources and enhance visitor services. The Committee will continue to seek out examples of successful partnerships to learn from their successes and encourage the NPS to actively promote new partnership opportunities.

*Checks and Balances*—The Committee will examine administratively imposed activities and designations to ensure that these actions fully respect the interests and culture of the affected local people and do not infringe on authorities that more properly belong to elected officials in Congress and local government.

### *Water and Power*

*Increasing Water Supplies*—The Committee will examine how to augment existing water storage and delivery projects in order to continue to serve millions of ratepayers and food consumers nationwide. Many of these water supply and delivery and hydropower generation operations are impacted by drought, regulations, litigation, and other factors. The Committee will examine ways to improve water supplies through an all-of-the-above approach, including the protection and promotion of new water storage, to help achieve a policy of water abundance.

*Colorado River Basin*—The Committee is aware of the ongoing, serious drought impacting communities throughout the seven-state Colorado River region, and the need for the region to reach an agreement for operations beyond 2026. The Committee plans to work with the Executive Branch, tribes, the seven Colorado River Basin states, their congressional delegations and stakeholders to focus on the need to help mitigate and resolve this situation.

*Protecting and Promoting Hydropower as a Clean, Renewable Energy Source*—The Committee will examine ways to protect and promote large-scale and small-scale hydropower generation at existing and potential facilities within its jurisdiction. Hydropower is an emissions-free renewable energy that provides baseload and peaking power for millions of electricity consumers nationwide. Hydropower also serves as a backup electricity resource for intermittent renewable power. Federal hydropower resources have provided these benefits for generations. Drought, federal regulations, and litigation have curtailed some of these hydropower-producing dams. In the 118th Congress, the Committee heard numerous concerns about the dam infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest, particularly regarding the future of the Lower Snake River Dams. In the 119th Congress, the Committee will continue to examine ways to establish long-term certainty for the nation's federal hydropower fleet.

*Indian Water Rights Settlements*—The Committee has longstanding jurisdiction over Indian Water Rights Settlements, which can be beneficial to Indian and non-Indian settling parties and can provide some water supply certainty for these parties. Since American taxpayer dollars are authorized in many of these settlements, the Committee will continue to examine how each settlement meets the Department of the Interior's longstanding criteria and procedures relating to these matters. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight of the \$2.5 billion provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to implement the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund. The Committee will continue encouraging negotiations for Indian Water Rights Settlements rather than unnecessary litigation.

### *Fisheries and Wildlife*

The Committee will conduct oversight over aquatic invasive species policy, including evaluating current authorities, regulations, and policies. Through this work the Committee will work with relevant agencies and stakeholders to identify current gaps that inhibit policy implementation.

*Budget and Spending Review*—The Committee will conduct oversight of the current spending and proposed annual budget requests

of the National Marine Fisheries Service, certain programs of the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the Committee's jurisdiction, and the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and identify any fraud, waste, and abuse. The Committee will examine how the agencies utilized regular appropriations and additional funding provided through the IIJA and the Inflation Reduction Act.

*Endangered Species Act (ESA)*—The Committee will continue examining the efficacy and modern use of the ESA, both in terms of species-specific issues and the underlying statute itself. In the 118th Congress, the Committee passed legislation to delist grizzly bear populations in the Greater Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide Ecosystems and gray wolves in the lower-48 states, and passed Congressional Review Act resolutions related to species-specific issues. In addition, the Committee passed legislation to reform and reauthorize the ESA statute, which has not been reauthorized since 1988. The Committee will build upon these ideas in the 119th Congress. The Committee will also continue to monitor the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which governs international activities related to the ESA.

*Empowering State Wildlife Agencies*—The Committee will continue to examine ways to provide greater financial resources and regulatory opportunities for state wildlife agencies. In the 118th Congress, the Committee passed legislation that gave State wildlife agencies more financial resources to create and restore habitat for at-risk species. In addition, that legislation gave State agencies more regulatory opportunities to manage species listed as threatened under the ESA to incentivize recovery of those species. The Committee will continue to promote these ideas in the 119th Congress.

*Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*—The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) is the primary statute regulating commercial and recreational fishing in federal waters. The MSA was last reauthorized in the 109th Congress and has helped the U.S. serve as the gold standard in fisheries management. Any efforts to reauthorize this legislation must first provide robust consideration of related policy issues and opportunities for stakeholders and the regional fishery management councils to provide input. The Committee will continue to examine ways to best support commercial and recreational fishing across the U.S., including using the best science and data to make management decisions.

*Marine Protected Areas and Marine National Monuments*—Ocean conservation is not mutually exclusive to ensuring that our federal offshore waters simultaneously remain a vital, sustainable, working, and recreational resource for communities and fishermen. The Committee will continue to exercise oversight over expansions of Marine Protected Areas and Marine National Monuments, and how these designations and expansions can negatively impact their surrounding communities.

*Public Access and Management within the National Wildlife Refuge System*—The Committee will examine how to improve access to, and management of, the U.S. National Wildlife Refuge System. In the 118th Congress, the House passed legislation that would

prevent any proposed lead ammunition and fishing equipment ban that is not supported by science or State agencies. Any proposed lead ban could restrict access for sportsmen and women and be cost prohibitive for some in the hunting and fishing communities. The Committee will also continue to advocate for refuge management practices such as cooperative agriculture and predator control.

*Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)*—In the 118th Congress, the Committee heard concerns about numerous regulatory actions that NOAA took under the authorities provided in the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Among those that the Committee heard the most about were the unprecedented, proposed amendments to the North Atlantic Right Whale Vessel Strike Reduction Rule; the issuance of take and harassment authorizations for various off-shore activities; and MMPA's role in the issuance of biological opinions (BiOps). These actions, if flawed, impose a huge risk to industry and private citizens alike. The Committee will continue to examine the process by which these regulations are developed and whether they are based in sound science and reasoning.

#### *Indian Affairs*

*Budget and Spending Review*—The Committee will examine the annual budget requests and staffing levels for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), the Bureau of Indian Education, and other agencies, offices and functions relating to Indian and Alaska Native affairs, and identify any fraud, waste, and abuse. The Committee will conduct oversight of agency programs with expired authorizations, to determine whether such programs warrant reauthorization, updating, or termination.

*Federal Barriers to Economic Development on Indian Lands*—Indian tribes have demonstrated that they are best suited to manage their land and resources. When tribes have greater control over their own lands, resources, and decisions, they can make the best decisions for their members and their future. Certain laws and policies govern public lands and lands held in trust or restricted fee for tribes or individual Indians. Activities occurring on tribal land are often subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, resulting in delays, excessive regulatory burdens, and loss of local control for tribes in decision-making. The Committee will conduct hearings on tribal economic development, including on federal laws and policies governing the use of lands held in land trust or restricted status for tribes and individual Indians, on the barriers to tribal energy development on trust lands, and the diversification of tribal economies that increase opportunity for tribal members and communities within or near tribal lands. The committee also intends to conduct oversight of the self-determination programs such as self-determination contracts, self-governance compacts, and the 477 program.

*Tribal Forestry*—In 2018, Congress passed certain provisions of the Resilient Federal Forest Act which provided tribes the authority to participate in federal Good Neighbor Authority projects. Tribes are good stewards of the environment and know how to manage their forests best. Unfortunately, severe fires throughout the U.S. have impacted many tribal nations. The Committee will conduct oversight to analyze and determine what additional tools

will benefit tribal forest management activities and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires on tribal and non-tribal lands.

*Natural Resources Management*—The Department of the Interior holds approximately 56 million acres of land in trust or restricted status for tribes and individual Indians, with many of those lands having significant, undeveloped energy resources. In 2018, Congress passed the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2017 to increase tribes' ability to develop their resources on their lands should they choose to do so. The Committee will review the implementation of the Act, its furtherance of the goal of increasing tribal self governance and economic development opportunities and ensure tribes can develop their resources on their lands should they choose to do so.

*Land Fractionation*—Fractionation of Indian land creates significant land management and administration challenges for both tribes and individual Indian owners, resulting in barriers to economic development, as well as land management and use. In 2010, the Claims Resolution Act provided a one-time direct appropriation of \$1.9 billion to the Department of the Interior to consolidate highly fractionated Indian land pursuant to the Indian Land Consolidation Act. By 2017, the Land Buy Back Program for Tribal Nations (LBBP) had spent most of the \$1.9 billion but yielded little progress on reducing land fractionization. Without concerted efforts, land fractionation is expected to reach pre-LBBP levels by 2038. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the land consolidation program and solicit stakeholder input to find more fiscally sound options to reduce land fractionation in Indian country.

*Alaska Natives*—The Committee will review the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other laws pertaining to Alaska Natives, such as the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.

*Law Enforcement in Indian Country*—The Committee will conduct oversight of the implementation and impact of current law, policy, and agency action concerning the safety of indigenous people, including laws meant to address issues regarding missing and murdered indigenous people. The Committee will also examine law enforcement in Indian Country and tribal jurisdiction provisions, as well as improving recruitment and retention of qualified law enforcement officers. In addition, the Committee will review federal policies and programs related to law enforcement in Indian Country and determine whether such programs should be reauthorized, updated, or terminated. The Committee has the responsibility to ensure that the Office of Justice Services is using taxpayer funds for the best solutions to hire, train, and retain law enforcement officers in Indian Country.

*Transnational Crime in Indian Country*—Dangerous criminal Cartels have established extensive distribution networks in Indian communities for narcotics such as fentanyl and methamphetamine, leading to an increase in violence, crime, and drug overdoses that are ravaging communities across Indian country. The Committee will continue to work with tribal organizations across the U.S. to support law enforcement in efforts to eradicate the cartels, reduce related crimes, and address devastating drug addiction in certain

Indian communities. Additionally, the Committee will identify challenges and opportunities for the BIA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to collaborate with tribal law enforcement to investigate and prosecute cartel activities on Indian lands.

*Indian Health Care/Indian Health Service (IHS)*—The Committee will review 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 nearly every year since fiscal year 2010. Despite these funding increases, reports from the U.S. Government Accountability Office continue to reveal that standards for the quality of care in federally operated Indian health care facilities are absent. Additionally, there continues to be a shortage of health care professionals throughout the twelve IHS areas. In 2017, the GAO placed IHS on its high-risk list as one of the government programs and operations that are vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, or need for transformation. In 2023, IHS began developing and implementing an agency work plan to improve the impact of the Indian health system, which has improved some aspects of healthcare for tribal members. However, recruitment and retention of health care professionals throughout the twelve IHS areas, particularly in rural areas, remains a challenge. To ensure efficient program operation and modernize Indian health policy, the Committee will conduct oversight of Indian health programs.

*Indian Education*—During the 118th Congress, the Committee initiated a joint investigation with the Committee on Education and the Workforce on Haskell Indian Nations University, a Bureau of Indian Education post-secondary educational institution. The Committee uncovered a serious lack of oversight by BIE that has allowed potential misconduct to occur including fraud, retaliation against employees and students, mishandling of sexual assault incidents, and non-adherence to federal background investigation requirements. During the 119th Congress, the Committee will continue to investigate potential misconduct at Haskell Indian Nations University, and conduct oversight over other BIE educational facilities, including Flandreau Indian School, and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute.

#### *Insular Affairs*

*Budget and Spending Review*—The Committee will conduct oversight of the annual budgets of the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) within the Department of the Interior, and identify fraud, waste, and abuse. The OIA serves a critical mission as territories rely heavily on the funding they receive from federal grants and OIA to support their economic stability. Each U.S. territory should exercise its own self-determination, rather than Congress imposing a “federal government knows best” approach on the Insular areas.

*Energy Resources in the Insular Areas*—The Committee will encourage federal efforts that ensure affordable and reliable energy systems that meet the individual needs of each Insular area, rather than forcing a federally mandated transition to renewable energy sources without regard for each territory’s particular circumstances

and needs. The Committee will look to promote an all-of-the-above energy approach for the U.S. territories to ensure that the islands have access to affordable, reliable, and resilient energy.

*Freely Associated States*—The Committee will conduct oversight of the implementation of the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) and assistance provided by the Department of the Interior's OIA. COFA were entered into by the U.S. with three Pacific Island nations, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia, collectively referred to as the Freely Associated States (FAS). In 2024, Congress successfully passed the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024, reauthorizing and making amendments to the agreements that were negotiated between the United States and the FAS. These compacts continue a long-standing relationship between the U.S. and the FAS nations and enable mutually beneficial defense and economic connections between nations. These agreements are a primary deterrent against China's increasing aggression. The Committee will conduct oversight of the COFA implementation and its role in countering China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific.

*Oversight of the Insular Areas*—The Committee will review the fundamental issues facing each of the territories and FAS, 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 of the COFA, and the management of limited land and water resources. The Committee will also continue to conduct oversight over the implementation of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act.

*Proposed National Marine Sanctuary in the Pacific Remote Islands*—The Biden administration aggressively pursued Marine Protected Areas to accomplish their 30x30 goal, including the Proposed National Marine Sanctuary in the Pacific Remote Islands, with potential commercial fishing restrictions for the indigenous residents of the Pacific Remote Islands (PRI), who largely depend on tuna fishing and processing for their livelihoods. The Committee will work with the Trump administration and the PRI to protect their tuna fishing economy from unwanted and unnecessary federal actions.

#### *National Security*

*Foreign Influence*—Throughout the Biden administration, foreign adversaries benefitted from the misguided environmental and natural resources policies that restricted the domestic development of our natural resources. During the 118th Congress, the Committee investigated potential foreign influence over domestic environmental and natural resources policies, particularly at DOI, accomplished through a network of U.S.-based activist non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Committee will continue identifying NGOs with ties to foreign adversaries such as the CCP and Iran and prevent foreign influence over domestic natural resources policy.

*Violence and Disruption on Public Lands*—On July 24, 2024, a group of U.S.-based non-profits operating under the 'Shut It Down for Palestine' movement staged a violent anti-Israel riot at a public

gathering at Union Station in DC, a National Park Service site. The Committee will continue to investigate and provide recommendations to improve the public gathering permitting process for the National Park Service to improve the permitting process, and ensure it is not abused by organizations that intend to cause violence and destruction. Additionally, the Committee will continue to expose these organizations' ties to foreign adversaries like the CCP, Iran, and Hamas.

*Border Security and the Environment*—As the Trump administration implements policies to reduce migrant crossings on the Southern Border, the Committee will assist the Trump administration to identify challenges faced by U.S. Border Patrol agents in securing federal borderlands, reducing the environmental impact of illegal border crossings, and eliminating drug smuggling and illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands. During the 119th Congress, the Committee will investigate NGOs that have contributed to increased illegal immigration, and consequently, the environmental damage on the Southern Border. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Floyd Bennet Field Migrant Camp in New York City, the termination of the lease with NPS, and ensure that required improvements are made by NYC to the Floyd Bennet Field site.

*DOI Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities*—As new technologies emerge and foreign adversaries seek to exploit cybersecurity vulnerabilities related to critical infrastructure for our nation, the Committee will ensure that DOI is prioritizing cybersecurity. The Committee will assist the Trump administration in identifying emerging cyber threats and working to reduce or resolve, existing cybersecurity vulnerabilities at DOI to ensure the security of America's critical energy infrastructure.



JAMES COMER, KENTUCKY  
CHAIRMAN

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

JAMIE RASKIN, MARYLAND  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY 2025 225-5074  
MINORITY 2025 225-5051  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Bryan Steil  
Chairman  
Committee on House Administration  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Steil:

Pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d) of the Rules of the United States House of Representatives, I am transmitting the Authorization and Oversight Plan for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which was adopted on February 25, 2025.

Sincerely,



James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

# **COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

### **U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **119TH CONGRESS**

Under clause 2(d) of House Rule X, the Chair of each Committee is required to adopt and submit to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration an authorization and oversight plan not later than March 1 of the first session of each Congress.

The following is the authorization and oversight plan of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Committee will conduct oversight and investigations pursuant to its legislative and oversight jurisdiction under Rule X.

The Committee's mission is to ensure the economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the federal government. The following 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 119th Congress, and work to enact necessary authorizations and reforms. These include the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) (expired September 30, 2007); the National Archives Historical Publications and Records Commission (NAHPRC) (expired September 30, 2009); the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) (expired September 30, 2007); the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) (expired September 30, 2023); the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant (DC-TAG) program (September 30, 2012); the D.C. Opportunity Scholarships Program (DCOSP) (expired September 30, 2023); and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) (expired September 30, 2023).

#### **EXPIRING AUTHORIZATIONS THIS CONGRESS**

The Committee will consider expiring authorizations in its jurisdiction in the 119th Congress, and work to enact necessary authorizations and reforms. These include: the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) (expires September 30, 2025); and the General Services Administration's Technology Modernization Fund (TMF) (expires December 31, 2025).

## 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. The Committee's oversight will cover all federal government departments, agencies, and programs with an eye toward solutions for eliminating wasteful spending, curtailing abuse of authority, and mitigating risk of improper payments. It will offer targeted legislative proposals that proactively address identified waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

## 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 to achieve lawful agency missions. The Committee will monitor the return of the federal workforce to in-person operations. The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that the federal hiring process is competitive, merit-based, technology-based, and conducted in a cost-effective manner. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that federal employees are accountable to management to effectuate the roles and responsibilities of their position.

## FEDERAL REGULATION AND THE REGULATORY PROCESS

While some federal regulations are necessary to effectively implement the laws that Congress passes, federal regulations can also impose significant and often unnecessary compliance burdens that stifle innovation and increase costs. The Committee will oversee the federal regulatory process to ensure that federal regulators work to minimize unnecessary burdens on small businesses, job creation, economic growth, innovation, and competitiveness in the global marketplace while maintaining protections for the American people.

## 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.

The GAO has issued its biennial "High Risk List" report, which identifies government programs that are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement, or are in need of transformation. 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.

## INSPECTORS GENERAL

The Committee will continue to work closely with the inspectors general to ensure they have the tools needed to effectively perform

their important oversight and investigative work and are effectively and impartially overseeing their respective agencies. The Committee also intends to help ensure inspectors general maximize accountability from their respective agencies, including by minimizing impediments and delays in obtaining access to data and information relevant to agency programs. The Committee will also conduct oversight of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). The Committee will also consider the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), which is set to terminate on September 30, 2025. The Committee will review any need to extend the PRAC beyond that date, including the existing centralized data analytics unit within the PRAC—the Pandemic Analytics Center of Excellence—to ensure continued efforts to prevent, identify, and combat fraud in federal programs.

#### GSA REAL PROPERTY DISPOSAL

The management of federal real property has been on GAO's High-Risk list since 2003 because it can take years to sell or otherwise dispose of unneeded government properties. These properties can require millions of dollars of taxpayer funds to maintain. The Committee will examine the results to date of the pilot programs authorized by the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016, which was intended to achieve cost savings by expediting property sales through new mechanisms, including a temporary Public Buildings Reform Board. With the Administration emphasizing permanent, expanded telework and remote policies, the Committee will ensure the federal real property footprint aligns with evolving workforce needs and agency mission demands.

#### WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

The Committee will maintain its efforts related to the protection of whistleblowers in the federal government. The Committee will continue to work directly with whistleblowers, including those who make disclosures of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement to the Committee. The Committee will continue to advance policies that protect federal employees' rights, and those of federal contractors and other recipients of financial assistance, to communicate directly with Congress and to ensure such 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 within the bounds of the law.

#### FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Committee will examine federal financial management. The Committee will focus on agency efforts to reduce improper payments, ensure payment integrity and proper accounting practices, and achieve an unqualified audit opinion for the federal government. The Chief Financial Officers Act, as amended, requires federal agencies to prepare agency-wide financial statements that undergo outside audit. To date, GAO has been unable to issue an audit opinion on the consolidated, government-wide financial state-

ments, in part due to serious financial management problems at the Department of Defense. In particular, the Committee will focus on overseeing the Department of Defense'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.

#### 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. 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 and ensure programmatic and mission success. 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 or is not instituting mechanisms to ensure sufficient competition. The Committee will also promote the establishment of transparency requirements at the point of award to achieve the necessary levels of oversight throughout the life cycle of federal contracts to prevent waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

#### 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 will also focus on ensuring greater efficiency for the post-award reporting requirements of recipients of federal financial assistance and better visibility into the use of federal financial assistance in order to combat fraud and abuse.

#### CYBERSECURITY AND DATA PRIVACY

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the increasing number of cyberattacks impacting federal agencies and the private sector. The Committee intends to examine ways to ensure that agencies and corporate entities take appropriate steps to protect private- and public-sector networks and information systems that are critical to the nation's infrastructure and security, and the personal information of all Americans. The Committee also will continue its oversight of government-wide cybersecurity standards, policies, systems, and tools established or implemented by the Executive Branch to protect federal information systems.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

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, including the U.S. DOGE Service, to address IT systems and projects that are not achieving their intended purpose, streamline those that are wasteful, rework those that are failing to deliver value on time and under budget, and work to ensure that costly, failing legacy systems are decommissioned. The Committee will explore legislative reforms to ensure that federally maintained information technology can be readily tied to agency funding accounts and relevant contract awards, as well as agency programs and strategic mission goals which are supported by these IT investments.

#### OPEN GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

The Committee will continue to advocate for data-driven solutions for increasing transparency and accountability throughout the federal government. The Committee will evaluate possible legislation to set policy goals that better harmonize reporting obligations and achieve data-driven transparency around federal agency programmatic organization and performance, regulatory procedures and information collections, spending and financial management, and evidence-informed policymaking.

#### UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

The Committee will monitor continued implementation of the Postal Service Reform Act (PSRA), which was intended to facilitate the ability of the U.S. Postal Service to achieve long-term operational independence and financial sustainability in the wake of declining mail volume. The Committee will continue to track the financial performance of the Postal Service, to determine whether the law is working as intended. It will also oversee OPM's continued administration of the Postal Service Health Benefit program created by the PSRA. In addition, the Committee will continue to monitor the Postal Service's ability to deliver the mail expeditiously.

#### GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Committee will review the District of Columbia's use of federal dollars to fund its activities. 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 continue its oversight of the District consistent with its plenary authority granted by the Constitution. Finally, the Committee will track the District's administration of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium site.

#### NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND FEDERAL RECORDS

The Committee will continue its oversight of the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) management of government records and ongoing records processing backlogs. This oversight includes how NARA preserves records, including classified records, at the end of a presidential administration.

## 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 lead and oversee executive branch ethics programs by making and interpreting ethics laws and regulations, advising on and interpreting ethics laws, supporting ethics training, and monitoring compliance. The Committee will continue to ensure OGE operates in a manner consistent with its mission of providing clear and impartial ethics guidance to federal agencies. The Committee will also consider reauthorization of OGE, whose statutory authorization lapsed in 2007.

## FEDERAL DISASTER RESPONSE &amp; RECOVERY

The Committee will continue its oversight of FEMA's response to major recent natural disasters, including short-term efforts to assist survivors, as well as longer-term efforts to help impacted communities recover. The Committee will explore legislative options to make FEMA more responsive to the unique circumstances of different regions and communities, as well as options to make federal funding opportunities more direct and accessible.





BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S., Texas  
CHAIRMAN

ZOE LOFGREN, California  
RANKING MEMBER

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY  
2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301  
(202) 225-6371  
<http://science.house.gov>

February 24, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
United States House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer,

Pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d) of the Rules of the United States House of Representatives, I submit the Authorization and Oversight Plan for the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. This plan was adopted by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology by voice vote with a quorum present on February 5, 2025.

Sincerely,



Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Chairman

# **COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

### **U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS**

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology was first established as the Committee on Science and Astronautics on July 21, 1958, in a direct response to the Soviet Union's 1957 launch of Sputnik 1, the world's first satellite. The Committee was created to help the United States foster innovation and stay globally competitive in science and technology. The United States faces a new inflection point, as global competitors seek to surpass the U.S. in research and development (R&D) and emulate the success of our nation's system of innovation. The Science Committee's legislative and oversight efforts in the 119th Congress will all be focused on ensuring the U.S. remains the leader in R&D for our economic prosperity and national security and for the benefit of the next generation of all Americans.

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." This provides the Committee with wide-ranging oversight authority over science and technology issues throughout the government.

The Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee coordinates and directs oversight activities across the Committee. However, oversight is conducted by every subcommittee. All components of the Committee take the oversight mandate seriously and work cooperatively to meet the Committee's oversight responsibilities.

The following agenda constitutes the authorization and oversight plan of the Committee for the 119th Congress. It includes areas which the full committee and subcommittees expect to address new and lapsed authorizations, as well as conduct reviews, oversight, and investigations. The Committee will address additional issues, events, and plans as they arise. The Committee will consult with other committees of the House as necessary.

### **AUTHORIZATIONS**

During the 119th Congress, the 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, reformed, 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 and stakeholders in order to gather the necessary information to support these determinations.

The Committee expects to reauthorize key federal science agencies and programs, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) space and research, engineering and development programs, the National Quantum Initiative (NQI), the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP), and offices within the Department of Energy (DOE).

These authorization activities will continue the work of the Committee in the last few Congresses to update and reform all science agencies and programs within the Committee's jurisdiction. This includes the Energy Act of 2020, which reauthorized many of the applied program offices within DOE, and the CHIPS and Science Act, which reauthorized the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), DOE Office of Science, and NASA.

In reauthorizing the agencies within its jurisdiction, the Committee seeks to improve accountability and transparency, secure research from foreign influence and theft, improve research coordination, reform programs to increase the impact of taxpayer-funded research, and ensure constancy and clarity of mission and purpose. Additionally, the Committee will make certain that research across the federal agencies is not unnecessarily duplicative and that taxpayer resources are used in an efficient and effective manner. In all legislation, the Committee will continue to support the government, academic, and industry innovation ecosystem that has made the U.S. research enterprise the most successful in the world.

#### ENERGY

The Committee will continue to prioritize basic and fundamental energy research as well as public-private partnerships that move research from lab to market in order to ensure American energy security, reliability, and affordability. The Committee also seeks to advance U.S. competitiveness in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and fusion energy.

The Committee will review and reauthorize programs or offices within the Department of Energy with lapsed authorizations, as appropriate. The Committee will seek to modify and refocus DOE activities with the goal of increasing opportunities for the private sector and better enabling researcher access to world-class DOE instruments and user facilities, including supercomputers and high intensity light sources.

The Energy Act of 2020 (P.L. 116–260) recognized the importance of a diverse portfolio of domestic energy sources by funding research and development into more efficient and cleaner use of fossil fuels, as well as nuclear, water, solar, wind, and geothermal power. With most authorizations in this clean energy package set to expire

at the end of FY25, the Committee will evaluate the programs and activities conducted under the Energy Act's direction and seek to reauthorize the approaches that have proven successful to keeping prices for America's consumers and businesses low.

The Committee will also seek to authorize interagency partnerships between DOE and other federal agencies including NASA, NOAA, NSF and the Department of Agriculture (USDA), to leverage the assets of DOE to help address national challenges. The Committee will undertake efforts to reauthorize and refocus DOE cross-cutting programs to ensure that programs are managed efficiently, duplication is limited, and funding is allocated appropriately and effectively.

#### ENVIRONMENT

The Committee will prioritize legislation that promotes innovative solutions for environmental protection without burdensome regulations, improves weather forecasting, and ensures scientific integrity and transparency in the conduct and use of science that underpins government decision-making for environmental protection.

The Committee will review and reauthorize expired programs that protect life and property by addressing weather hazards. This includes programs authorized in the Weather Research and Forecasting and Innovation Act of 2017, such as the Tornado Warning Improvement & Extension Program, Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program, the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Program, and the Commercial Data Program. The Committee will also review and reauthorize programs from the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018 that have expired.

The Committee will review the research and development activities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA's research and development activities, largely conducted by the Office of Research and Development, are authorized by the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act, which has not been amended or updated since 1981. The Committee will seek to ensure that EPA's science activities are modernized and reflect the current state of the science.

Finally, the Committee will consider legislation to address the cross-agency challenges of forecasting, preparing for, and mitigating wildfires. The Committee will work with other committees of jurisdiction to improve data collection, dissemination, and coordination of resources to help state and local communities prepare for and fight wildfires.

#### RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

The Committee will continue to prioritize legislation that ensures U.S. competitiveness in emerging research and technology, supports a U.S. STEM workforce at all levels of education including a skilled-technical workforce, ensures the transfer of technology from lab to marketplace, protects U.S. research from foreign influence and theft, and improves coordination of research across the government.

The Committee will also review, update, and reauthorize as appropriate other key federal technology R&D programs that have lapsed or are due to expire. These programs include the National Quantum Initiative, the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative, the National Nanotechnology Initiative, and the Networking and Information Technology Research Program. In updating these programs, the Committee will consider appropriate guardrails to protect this research from foreign influence and theft.

The Committee will also review and reauthorize R&D programs this Congress to address natural hazards such as the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program.

The Committee will continue its work to improve coordination of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and cyber (STEM) education activities across the federal government. The Committee will consider legislation to address the national need for a skilled-technical workforce prepared to support emerging U.S. industries like quantum, artificial intelligence, advanced semiconductors, and cybersecurity.

The Committee will review and consider legislative recommendations to update the Stevenson-Wydler Act, to improve the transfer of technology from government laboratories to the private sector for commercialization.

#### SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

The Committee will consider legislation that supports a strong American aerospace industry, continued leadership in human spaceflight, exploration of new frontiers in planetary science, astronomy and astrophysics, the development of novel earth science capabilities, and policies that preserve U.S. leadership in space and aeronautics.

The Committee will prioritize a NASA reauthorization bill. The last comprehensive NASA authorization was signed into law in March 2017. During the 117th Congress, the CHIPS and Science Act included a narrower section authorizing certain NASA activities, however the language did not include any authorizations of appropriations for any programs. During the 119th Congress, the Committee will engage in a comprehensive review of each directorate at NASA and will develop a comprehensive NASA authorization.

The Committee will also consider legislation to support the commercial space sector, including bills that streamline the launch and reentry licensing process, support commercial remote sensing activities, improve space situational awareness, and ensure U.S. compliance with its international treaty obligations.

The Committee's jurisdiction includes FAA's research, engineering, and development (RE&D) programs. As part of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Committee worked with other committees of jurisdiction to develop a FAA RE&D Title that provides updated congressional direction to FAA's RE&D activities and provided authorization levels to these activities through fiscal year 2028.

## OVERSIGHT

## ENERGY

The Committee will review and conduct vigorous oversight of all civilian research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities conducted by DOE in order to enhance energy security, reliability, and affordability.

The Committee will continue to conduct comprehensive oversight of DOE's implementation of the Energy Act of 2020, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The Committee will prioritize oversight of the additional \$86 billion in appropriations DOE received through the IIJA and IRA for program funding, infrastructure investments, and loan guarantees. The Committee will examine DOE's contract management practices, including but not limited to potential areas of waste, fraud, and abuse in these practices.

The Committee will conduct oversight of all federally owned or operated non-military national laboratories, including but not limited to laboratory management, research facilities, research infrastructure, and research priorities. The Committee will also examine the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management laboratory which requires additional oversight due to its unique government owned, government operated management structure.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight into DOE's research security and cybersecurity practices, to ensure the protection of DOE-funded research and the safety of DOE's national laboratories and user-facilities. The Committee will seek to increase its comprehensive understanding of the evolving threats to intellectual property and research theft. The Committee will also look to increase its understanding of the impact artificial intelligence, and specifically data centers, will have on the grid and the vulnerabilities it creates.

## ENVIRONMENT

The Committee will review and conduct oversight of the broad array of government and private sector programs engaged in environmental research, development, and demonstration. Broadly, the Committee will ensure that existing programs addressing climate change across the Federal government are necessary, appropriately focused, effectively coordinated, and properly organized to prevent duplication of efforts and waste of taxpayer resources.

*NOAA Activities*

The Committee will conduct oversight into NOAA and its programs. A major priority for the Committee will be oversight of Next Generation Satellite Systems. The Committee will continue to review the federal government's development, management, and operation of earth observations satellites at both NOAA and NASA. Previous modernization efforts have resulted in systems plagued with cost overruns, delays, and mismanagement that endanger American lives and property.

The Committee will continue its oversight of management and workforce issues at the National Weather Service (NWS), including

issues with recruitment and retention. NWS serves a critical mission of protecting lives and properties; therefore, the sound management of its workforce, services, and technology should be a priority of the agency.

Severe storms, floods, fires, and hurricanes result in multi-billion-dollar events. The Committee will examine various issues surrounding these extreme weather events, including oversight of the science and data reporting associated with these hazards and how commercial data and solutions are being utilized or coordinated with federal efforts. The Committee will work to ensure that NOAA is seeking to increase the acquisition of commercial weather and environmental data and foster the growth of this innovative and cost-saving industry.

#### *EPA Activities*

The Committee will review and conduct oversight of EPA's management of science and its use of science in the promulgation of rules and regulations, including lab management, regulatory science, transparency, and risk assessment. In particular, the Committee will examine how to better integrate science early in the regulatory decision-making process. This includes how EPA uses and manages scientific data to reach its regulatory conclusions and incidents where principles of scientific and analytical integrity were not met.

The Committee will continue its long-standing oversight of the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), which develops toxicological assessments that underpin regulations of toxic chemicals. A 2011 National Academies of Sciences (NAS) report found multiple process issues at IRIS, some of which have not been addressed.

The Committee will work to ensure that EPA is using the best available science in its chemical policy decisions, and that other federal agencies like USDA and Department of Defense are equal and valued participants in an open, transparent process. The Committee will conduct oversight into EPA's implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The Committee will prioritize oversight of the additional \$31 billion in appropriations EPA received through the IIJA and IRA for science-related activities and grants. The Committee will examine EPA's contract management practices, including but not limited to potential areas of waste, fraud, and abuse by recipients of taxpayer dollars.

Finally, the Committee will conduct oversight of EPA's Federal Advisory Committees to ensure that they are balanced and transparent.

#### RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

The Committee will continue oversight of all Research & Technology agencies and programs in its jurisdiction, including NSF, NIST, the White House Office of Science and Technology, and the CHIPS program. The Committee will also continue its broader oversight over technology issues like artificial intelligence and quantum information sciences and matters that impact the entire civilian R&D sector, including research security, safety and secu-

rity of the STEM workforce, and public access to scientific publications.

#### *National Science Foundation Activities*

The Committee will conduct oversight of the implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act, including the establishment of the new directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships. The Committee will also conduct oversight over NSF's expansion of its research and security programs, including risk-assessment tools and new training requirements.

#### *National Institute of Standards and Technology Activities*

The Committee will conduct oversight of NIST, including how NIST balances new directives for research activities with its facility and infrastructure requirements.

The Director of NIST serves as the President's principal advisor on standards and chairs the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy, which advises Federal agencies on standards policy and plays a key role in fostering cooperation between the Federal government, industry, and private sector organizations. The Committee will conduct oversight on how NIST drives federal support of, and engagement in, industry-led standards development to bolster U.S. standards leadership.

The Committee will conduct oversight of NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP) program and its fifty-one centers. NIST also coordinates the national network of Manufacturing USA institutes and funds the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL). The Committee will conduct oversight on the coordination across Manufacturing USA Institutes and the operation of the Institutes that fall within its jurisdiction.

As directed in the National AI Initiative Act, NIST released an AI Risk Management Framework in 2023. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight over the Framework, and its use by the federal government and the private sector.

#### *White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Activities*

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) coordinates federal R&D policy across the federal government. The Committee will conduct oversight of directives to and from OSTP. The Committee will also conduct oversight over OSTP's coordination of activities in artificial intelligence, quantum information science, high-performance computing, and climate research.

In 2022, OSTP released new guidance on public access to federally funded research, and directed federal research agencies to develop implementation plans to respond to that guidance. The Committee will conduct oversight over the implementation of this guidance to ensure that the process is transparent and encourages all stakeholders to offer input.

#### *Research Security Activities*

Congress passed several new requirements related to research security, including new disclosure requirements, training requirements, and a prohibition on participation in malign foreign talent



programs by federally funded researchers. The Committee will conduct oversight of the implementation of these laws by all federal research agencies, examine any gaps in the current laws, and review any unintended consequences from the new requirements.

#### *CHIPS Act Activities*

The CHIPS and Science Act authorized and provided \$50 billion in funding to support the reshoring of semiconductor manufacturing and packaging in the United States and research and development activities. NIST, under the Department of Commerce, implements these provisions. Oversight of the management of the program and the awarding of funds will be a high priority for the Committee.

#### SPACE

The Committee will 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 over space under Title 51 U.S. Code, and House Rule X.

#### *NASA Activities*

The Committee will continue its oversight of all NASA activities. The Committee will monitor and review all programs, projects, and activities for cost, schedule, and performance issues as well as for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

The Committee will prioritize oversight of the Artemis program to return humans to the Moon and then land on Mars. The Committee will continue to conduct vigorous oversight to ensure NASA stays on track to fulfill its mission to build the systems necessary to return U.S. astronauts to the Moon and land the first humans on Mars.

The Committee will also continue to review U.S. cooperation with other government agencies and international partners related to outer space.

#### *Commercial Space*

The Committee will continue to review commercial space activities, both public and private. This includes not only NASA's use of commercial space partnerships, but also the executive branch's use of existing regulatory authority granted by statute. Furthermore, as agencies seek additional regulatory authority for space activities, the Committee will maintain rigorous oversight of its jurisdiction over "[a]stronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities," and "outer space, including exploration and control thereof" as granted by House Rule X.

#### *FAA Activities*

The Committee will review and conduct oversight of all activities within the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST), which licenses commercial launch and reentry activities, as well as spaceport operations. The Committee will focus on AST's use of its

authority to minimize the regulatory burden on commercial space operators while still maintaining safety for the uninvolved public.

Additionally, the Committee will oversee and review all of the FAA's RE&D activities to ensure that they lead to improvements in the U.S. aerospace sector. The Committee will focus on FAA's implementation of Title X of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, which includes new and updated research and development activities for the agency.

#### GENERAL OVERSIGHT

The Committee will conduct an in-depth oversight audit of the programs in its jurisdiction to ensure that its robust and exhaustive oversight efforts continue to be effective. Specifically, the Committee will conduct oversight of inspectors general to ensure that they are actively working to combat waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement; while at the same time ensuring that they are properly equipped, funded, and have the authorities necessary to complete their important investigations and audits.

The Committee stands ready to work with whistleblowers across the government in its oversight efforts. It will review whistleblower protections applicable to its jurisdiction and consider where expansions of such authorizations may be warranted to better protect those that come forward in an effort to make government better. The Committee will combat whistleblower retaliation and will keep the anonymity of whistleblowers that provide information to Congress.

ROGER WILLIAMS, TEXAS  
CHAIRMAN

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ, NEW YORK  
RANKING MEMBER

**Congress of the United States**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Small Business**  
**2301 Rayburn House Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6515**

March 5, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

Pursuant to clause 2 of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I am transmitting the Oversight and Authorization Plan for the House Committee on Small Businesses for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. Should you or your staff have further questions regarding this document please contact Lauren Holmes, Staff Director for the Committee, at 202-205-5821.

Sincerely,



Roger Williams  
Chairman  
Committee on Small Business

Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Nydia Velázquez, Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business

# **COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS**

## **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

### **119TH CONGRESS**

Rule X, clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House requires each standing committee of the House to adopt and submit an authorization and oversight plan for this Congress to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration by March 1 of the first session of Congress.

The following is the authorization and oversight plan for the Committee on Small Business and its subcommittees for the 119th Congress. The Committee will conduct oversight and investigations pursuant to its legislative and oversight jurisdiction under Rule X, which permits the Committee to investigate any matter affecting small businesses.

Rule X, clause 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 a comprehensive 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, clause 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 each such program or agency in the current Congress, and recommendations for changes to existing law 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.

#### **OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL ACCESS PROGRAMS**

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations of SBA and other federal agencies that provide capital to American'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 the 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.
- Review of the Paycheck Protection Program, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, and other COVID-19 related relief programs related to small businesses.
- 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 businesses access to capital.
- Implementation of crowdfunding and other provisions of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, Pub. L. No. 112-106.
- Review of proposed changes to capital access programs, to include lifting the moratorium on licensing new Small Business Lending Companies.
- Implementation and impact of program clarifications made to encourage more cooperative and employee stock ownership plan lending through SBA programs established by the Main Street Employee Ownership Act of 2018, passed into law by the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub. L. No. 115-232.

In performing oversight, the Committee will prioritize fraud and waste mitigation in SBA lending. The Committee will also focus on risky aspects of financial assistance programs including, but not limited to, commercial real estate financing, 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 MANAGEMENT

The Committee will conduct 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 fulfillment of the SBA's mission.
- Whether agency employees in the field are empowered to assist small businesses.
- Duplication of offices and missions at SBA headquarters.
- Effectiveness of personnel management.
- Capabilities of SBA employees to provide proper assistance to small business owners, and whether field offices are appropriately staffed.
- Agency personnel capabilities to properly manage loan defaults to maximize recovery of collateral.
- Whether the SBA improperly utilizes statutory authority to create untested initiatives and the procedures by which the agency develops such programs.
- Policies and procedures to ensure fair and competitive contracting opportunities for small businesses.
- Monitor the agency's spending and efforts as it relates to the pandemic response and fully account for Covid-19-provided appropriations.
- The SBA's technology and data systems effort to modernize, strengthen, and improve interoperability between platforms.
- Assess the agency's efforts to secure their networks and data systems to include cybersecurity risk assessment policies and procedures.
- The SBA's efforts to implement a return-to-work policy.
- The SBA selection of contractors through a competitive process that efficiently uses taxpayer resources.
- The SBA fulfills its responsibility to be transparent and complete with its document and data productions.
- The SBA oversight of grantees and the efficacy of SBA outcome-based metrics.

In carrying out this oversight the Committee will focus particularly on streamlining and reorganizing the agency's operations to provide maximum assistance to small business owners. Additionally, the Committee will investigate whether 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.

## 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

self-certification in SBA certification programs and their inclusion by agencies in the small business contracting Scorecard.

- The harm that self-certification has on the ability for certified small businesses to compete for and win government contracts.

- Effectiveness of SBA contracting programs to increase participation by small businesses in federal procurement.

- The impact of the SBA primarily focusing on total value of awards to small businesses rather than also factoring in the number of small businesses participating in federal procurement.

- Effectiveness of SBA certification systems to ensure existing cybersecurity risks are mitigated, the timely and accurate processing of applications, and monitor the migration of SBA certifications to the new unified certification platform.

- The impacts on competition that contract bundling and consolidation have on small businesses in federal procurement.

- The accuracy and utility of SBA size standards and the impact it has on small businesses growth and competition.

- 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 APEX Accelerators (formerly known as Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs)).

- Development of federal acquisition policies and whether small businesses have a sufficiently effective voice in development of such policies.

- Cost and quality-effectiveness of outsourcing government work to private enterprises rather than expanding the government to provide the goods or services internally.

- Implementation and efficacy of changes made in small business federal procurement programs arising from the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Acts.

- Examination of the Small Business Innovation Research Programs as modified by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2012, Pub. L. No. 112–81, including but not limited to, increased efforts at commercializing federally funded technology and the “valley of death.”

- Implementation of the Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small Business Technology Transfer programs as extended by Pub. L. No. 117–183.

- Federal agencies’ procurement decisions that impact the ability for small businesses to compete for contracts.

- Adequacy of regulations, agency decisions, programs, and laws that limit competition in small business procurement.

- The impact that double counting awards in the Scorecard has on the accuracy of the number of small businesses winning federal contracts.

- The impact of the SBA’s certification classifications and the impact they have on overall small business procurement efforts.

- Efficacy of efforts to attract private capital investments in small businesses, particularly in the defense industrial base.

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 ENERGY POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into energy policy to reduce the cost of energy and increase the supply of energy 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 increase energy independence.
- Policies needed to incentivize production of energy in the United States.
- Investigate methods to increase the security of the electric grid.
- Federal initiatives to streamline business operations and reduce energy costs for small firms.
- Policies needed to increase the participation of small businesses in energy production and infrastructure projects.

The primary thrust of the Committee's efforts will focus on ways to utilize America's entrepreneurs and small businesses to fuel the drive for greater energy independence and reduced energy costs.

#### 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 Product Safety 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 the Food and Drug Administration.
- Department of the Interior.
- 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 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.
- Department of the Treasury, particularly the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- Environmental Protection Agency, particularly the office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights.
- 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, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, and the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Committee will pay close attention to the effect that regulations have on startups. 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. The Committee will also examine the role of the Federal government in enabling, promoting, or conducting the suppression or censorship of the speech of small businesses and their owners, and assess the impacts on the small businesses' profitability. Finally, this oversight will entail an examination of compliance by federal agencies with amendments to Executive Order 12866 and memoranda on regulatory flexibility and regulatory compliance issued on January 18, 2011, as well as Executive Order 13272.

#### OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL TAX POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal tax code, its impact on small businesses, and IRS's 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:

- 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 businesses job growth.
- Suitability 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.
- Adequacy 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 LABOR AND WORKFORCE POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into labor and workforce policies 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:

- Review federal actions to assist employers in workforce training and analyze ways to meet the growing need for more skilled workers.

- Analyze the impact of regulations and taxes on small businesses hiring.
- Assess the cost of professional licensure requirements and best practices at allowing license reciprocity. Investigate solutions to the challenges small businesses face in hiring and retaining employees.

#### 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:

- Express Loan Program overseen by SBA.
- Emerging Leaders initiative started by SBA.
- Clusters Program initiated by SBA.
- Innovation and Impact Fund Pilot Programs operated by the SBA.
- SBA Office of Policy.
- SBA Office of International Trade.
- SBA's Cybersecurity for Small Business Pilot Program.

In particular, the Committee will assess whether a reorganization of offices to more critical functions at the SBA will provide a more effective agency at helping small businesses to generate growth.

#### OVERSIGHT OF SBA AND OTHER FEDERAL ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the SBA programs that providing 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:

- Effectiveness of SBA entrepreneurial development programs, including programs for veterans, in creating jobs at startups and traditional firms.
- Whether certain programs should be eliminated because of their ineffectiveness or duplications of programs provided by other agencies or by the private sector.
- 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.
- Improvements in assistance to small businesses in rural areas and low-income areas.
- The SBA's transition from EDMIS to Nexus, the new data collection system for Entrepreneurial Development programs.

#### 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 fol-

lowing, 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 businesses exports.
- 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 innovation of American entrepreneurs.
- Whether foreign entities participating in Federal government contracting undermine domestic small business' ability to compete for contracts.
- Efforts to increase exports by small businesses.
- Whether the United States Trade Representative takes positions at the World Trade Organization that sufficiently promote the interests of American small business.

The focus of oversight will emphasize the best mechanisms to promote and protect advanced technology innovations of small business.

#### 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**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**Sam Graves**  
**Chairman**

Jack Ruddy, Staff Director

**Rick Larsen**  
**Ranking Member**

Katherine W. Dobrick, Democratic Staff Director

February 26, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
United States House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

Pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d) of the Rules of the United States House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the Authorization and Oversight Plan for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. This plan is simultaneously being submitted to the Committee on House Administration. On February 26, 2025, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session and adopted the plan by voice vote, with a quorum present.

Sincerely,

Sam Graves  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure

## **COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE COM- MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUC- TURE—119TH CONGRESS**

In accordance with Rule X clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (Committee) is responsible for determining whether laws and programs within its jurisdiction are being effectively implemented according to Congressional intent and whether they should be continued, changed, or eliminated. In the 119th Congress, the Committee will examine the overall performance, operation, and personnel levels of the agencies and entities it oversees, promote cost savings, and eliminate wasteful spending, mismanagement, and abuse.

The Committee will also evaluate the Administration's budgets of programs and activities within the Committee's jurisdiction. In addition to evaluating the Administration's annual budget requests, the Committee will examine the execution of relevant authorization and appropriations laws for programs and activities within the Committee's jurisdiction. To ensure the responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources, the Committee will rigorously examine how agencies and entities allocate funding, whether such allocations follow allocations as enacted by Congress, and assess existing programs to prevent duplicative efforts.

In addition to Committee-led efforts, the independent work of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and various Inspectors General (IG) will be part of the Committee's oversight activities. For example, the GAO provides Congress with a biennial update on high-risk programs, highlighting Federal programs GAO considers needing broad reform or at risk for waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement. These reports will inform the Committee of areas ripe for oversight. Additionally, the Committee will hold hearings on waste, fraud, or mismanagement in government programs the Committee authorizes.

Following its investigations, the Committee will determine appropriate remedies to bring accountability to agency actions. The Committee will utilize all available tools, including introducing resolutions to reverse Administration policies, implementing legislation, and requesting additional investigations, to ensure that identified issues and Administration failures are properly addressed.

#### *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*

The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)* (P.L. 117–58) represented the largest Federal investment in decades in the

United States' infrastructure. This legislation provided \$1.2 trillion for infrastructure programs over five years, from FY 2022 to FY 2026, of which \$661 billion will be administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT). *IJA* included provisions to address the Nation's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, transit, railroads, water-related infrastructure, and airports, as well as energy and broadband.

While *IJA* provided historic levels of funding to address America's infrastructure needs, stakeholders have raised concerns that inflation undermined those increases. The Committee will also evaluate the effect of Executive Orders on the implementation of *IJA* and distribution of funding. The Committee will continue to conduct extensive oversight to monitor the disbursement of *IJA* funds to ensure DOT complies with Congressional intent, as well as the effective and efficient use of the taxpayers' dollars. The Committee will also examine the ability of Federal agencies to complete cost-effective projects. Further, the Committee will utilize its oversight activities to bring accountability and transparency to the implementation of *IJA*.

#### *Inflation Reduction Act Implementation*

The *Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)* (P.L. 117–169) provided significant funding following the passage of *IJA*. Given the new programs for alternatives in energy and low-carbon materials, the Committee will conduct oversight on *IRA* programs that are under review by the Administration and the ability of Federal agencies to complete cost-effective projects. Further, the Committee will utilize its oversight activities to continue to bring accountability and transparency to the implementation of *IRA*. In the 118th Congress, the Committee held hearings and conducted oversight over how DOT implemented and spent funds allocated from the *IRA*.<sup>1</sup>

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

The Subcommittee on Aviation has broad jurisdiction over all aspects of civil aviation, including safety, infrastructure, labor, economic regulation, and international issues. Within this scope of responsibilities, the Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), a modal administration within the DOT. This jurisdiction covers all programs within the FAA, as well as aviation programs of the DOT with respect to economic regulation of air carriers and passenger airline service. In addition, the Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST), the National Mediation Board (NMB), and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The oversight activities of the Subcommittee will work to ensure the safe, effective and efficient operation of the civil aviation industry, by ensuring the implementation of policies that put the safety of, the flying public first.

<sup>1</sup>*Examining the Department of Transportation's Regulatory and Administrative Agenda: Before the Subcomm. on Highways and Transit of the H. Comm. on Transp. and Infrastructure*, 118th Cong. (July 24, 2024).

### *Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Budget Requests*

The Subcommittee will review and evaluate the FY 2026 and FY 2027 budget proposals for the agencies within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction including the FAA, NMB, and NTSB.

### *Safety Programs*

During the last several Congresses, the Subcommittee held numerous safety hearings and will continue this oversight in the 119th Congress. Maintaining a safe and efficient aviation system is critical to the aviation industry, passengers, the United States economy, job creation, and our Nation's competitiveness in the global marketplace. The *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* mandated a five-year roadmap for how the Administration can strengthen aviation safety by accelerating the hiring of air traffic controllers, modernizing aging air traffic control systems and technologies, and increasing runway safety, among many other reforms. In fact, the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* contained 71 unique provisions aimed at bolstering aviation safety across the NAS. Issues the Subcommittee may address include air carrier safety, general aviation safety, key safety agreements, the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and advanced air mobility (AAM), pilot and air traffic 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.

### *National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)*

The *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* authorized NTSB programs through FY 2028. The bill included provisions to require the NTSB to address gaps in their workforce and technical capabilities, increase public availability of safety recommendations and public docket records, and improve delivery of family assistance. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of NTSB's implementation of the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* and evaluate whether the intended objectives are achieved.

### *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 the United States' commercial space transportation. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the status and future of the United States' commercial transportation industry and the FAA's role in providing safety oversight of the industry.

### *Evaluation of FAA's Air Traffic Control System*

Since the early 1980s, the FAA has worked to modernize the air traffic control system, including its most recent effort, the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). NextGen was intended to increase airspace system efficiency; reduce noise exposure, pollution, and fuel burn; improve safety; increase accuracy and reliability in the equipment and software used for navigation and air traffic control; and maintain the capacity for future tech-



nology enhancements. Over the years, the FAA's NextGen efforts have been behind schedule and over budget. The *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* directs the FAA to complete certain core NextGen programs and terminate the rest of the program in two years. Furthermore, the 2024 Reauthorization law also directs the FAA to increase the deployment of airspace situational awareness technologies and accelerate the replacement or enhancement of aging legacy systems—among other key reforms. The Subcommittee will continue to examine the FAA's efforts to modernize the air traffic control system and wind down NextGen programs.

#### *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 critical. The *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* included several provisions requiring the FAA to improve aviation cybersecurity standards and the cybersecurity of the air traffic control system. 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-vulnerabilities and threats. Additionally, the Subcommittee will monitor whether the FAA's strategic framework for cybersecurity is being effectively employed.

#### *Implementation of FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016*

The *FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016* (P.L. 114–190) authorized funding for the FAA through FY 2017 and contained several safety-critical and time-sensitive reforms. Even though the law was enacted nearly a decade ago, key provisions have not been implemented, including the section 2209 rulemaking relating to flight restrictions for unmanned aircraft over critical infrastructure facilities. The Subcommittee will continue to oversee the FAA's efforts to implement the provisions of this Act.

#### *Implementation of FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018*

The *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018* (P.L. 115–254) authorized Federal aviation programs and policies through FY 2023. The Act included numerous provisions aimed at maintaining and advancing the Nation's global leadership in aviation by putting American jobs, American innovation, aviation safety, and the traveling public first. The Subcommittee will continue oversight of the implementation of this Act.

#### *Implementation of Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act*

The *Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act* (P.L. 116–260; Division V) was signed into law on December 27, 2020. This Act provided significant reforms to the FAA's aircraft certification process; increased transparency, accountability, and integrity in FAA regulation of United States aircraft manufacturers; addressed issues identified related to human factors, automation in the cockpit, and international pilot training; and authorizes nearly \$275 million over five years in robust FAA oversight, staffing in-

creases, and aviation safety-improving programs and initiatives, among other things. The Subcommittee will closely oversee the efforts of the FAA to implement the provisions in the Act, as well as the effects this Act has on safety and the United States aerospace industry.

#### *Implementation of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024*

On May 16, 2024, President Biden signed into law H.R. 3935, the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024*.<sup>2</sup> The *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* reauthorizes civil aviation programs within the FAA and DOT through FY 2028 and reauthorizes the NTSB through the same period. Enactment of the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* followed a series of four short-term extensions of authorizations after the most recent long-term reauthorization bill, the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018* (P.L. 115–254), expired on October 1, 2023.<sup>3</sup> Support for final passage of H.R. 3935 was overwhelmingly bipartisan in both chambers; the Senate passed an amendment to H.R. 3935 with a vote of 88–4 and the House agreed to the amendment with a vote of 387–26.<sup>4</sup> The Subcommittee on Aviation will conduct oversight to ensure the law is implemented in accordance with Congressional intent.

#### *Oversight of Implementation and Deployment of Counter-UAS Authority*

The ubiquity and capability of UAS pose unique safety and security challenges that are different from traditional aviation. As UAS have matured, so has the potential threat landscape to critical infrastructure and local communities. In response to the evolution of these technologies, in the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2017* (P.L. 114–328) and the *NDAA for FY 2018* (P.L. 115–91), the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Energy (DOE) were granted counter-UAS authorities to protect certain military and nuclear facilities and assets in the United States. The *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018* (P.L. 115–254) provided similar authority to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to counter credible threats from UAS to protect critical assets and facilities within the agencies' purview. Under the *American Relief Act, 2025* (P. L. 118–158), the counter-UAS authority for the DOJ and DHS will expire on March 14, 2025. In the 118th Congress, the bipartisan leadership of this Committee, Committee on Homeland Security (CHS) and the Committee on the Judiciary (HJC) introduced a comprehensive C–UAS bill to reauthorize and reform the existing DHS and DOJ counter authorities prescribed by section 210G of the

<sup>2</sup>Press Release, THE WHITE HOUSE, *Bill Signed: H.R. 3935*, (May 16, 2024), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/05/16/press-release-bill-signed-h-r-3935/>.

<sup>3</sup>See Div. B, Title II of the *Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act*, Pub. L. No. 118–15, 137 Stat. 71; *Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II*, Pub. Law No. 118–34; *Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2024*, Pub. L. No. 118–41; *Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2024, Part II*, Pub. L. No. 118–60.

<sup>4</sup>CONCUR IN THE S. AMDT TO H.R. 3935, CLERK, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *Roll Call 200*, 118th Cong., 2nd Session, (May 15, 2024), available at <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2024200>; H.R. 3935, as amended, CLERK, UNITED STATES SENATE, *Roll Call 162*, 118th Cong., 2nd Session, (May 9, 2024), available at [https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_votes/vote1182/vote\\_118\\_2\\_00162.htm](https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_votes/vote1182/vote_118_2_00162.htm).

*Homeland Security Act of 2002* (6 U.S.C. § 124n). This Committee favorably reported legislation by voice vote on September 18, 2024; however, the bill was not enacted into law. The Subcommittee will closely oversee the agencies' implementation of their respective counter-UAS authorities to ensure close and continued coordination with the FAA to reduce impacts on United States airspace and to ensure the safety of civil aviation. To address any safety and security risks posed by UAS, the Subcommittee will continue efforts to enact legislation to reform and safely expand the current counter-UAS authorities of the DHS and DOJ.

#### *New Entrant Technologies*

The Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight over several critical Federal rulemakings involving new entrant technologies, such as UAS and advanced air mobility (AAM) or powered-lift aircraft. Section 930 of the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* (P.L. 118–63) requires the Agency to conduct a rulemaking that would establish a performance-based regulatory pathway for UAS to operate beyond an operator's visual line of sight (BVLOS). Last Congress, Chairman Sam Graves and Ranking Member Rick Larsen led a letter to former FAA Administrator, Michael Whitaker, and former Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, expressing concern with the pace at which the BVLOS rulemaking was moving. Having a clear regulatory pathway for BVLOS operations remains the one of the most significant hurdles facing the scalability of the domestic UAS industry. In the AAM space, the Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of the implementation of the Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) titled "Integration of Powered-Lift: Pilot Certification and Operations; Miscellaneous Amendments Related to Rotorcraft and Airplanes." This rulemaking was released on time and in accordance with section 955 of the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024*. This critical rulemaking created a practical pathway for pilot certification and operations of powered-lift aircraft. Additionally, the Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight as the FAA works to safely integrate powered-lift aircraft into the NAS.

#### *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. Airports rely on Airport Improvement Program (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. AIP funding had been stagnant at approximately \$3 billion dollars per fiscal year. Recognizing the need for increased investment, the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* authorized \$4 billion in funding per year for AIP split between primary and non-primary airports. Improvements to the AIP formula included: cutting FAA administrative red tape, increased flexibility for the use of AIP funds, environmental streamline expansions, and a dollar-based categorical exclusion for airport projects with limited Federal assistance. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight, as appropriate, regarding airport financing and the FAA's administration of the AIP.

*Airline Financial Position Customer Service*

The Office of the Secretary (OST) within the 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 that business agreements among air carriers do not result in harmful effects. The DOT's action 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 and standard of care, 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.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE COAST GUARD AND MARITIME  
TRANSPORTATION

The Subcommittee has broad authority over the programs and activities of the United States Coast Guard codified under titles 14 and 46, United States Code, and other statutes. The *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024* passed the House of Representatives on May 14, 2024 and was reported to the Senate. If signed into law, this legislation would have supported and strengthened the Coast Guard in its critical missions to safeguard borders, ensure maritime safety, facilitate commerce, increase transparency, stop the flow of illegal drugs and migrants into the country, protect the maritime domain, and confront Chinese expansion in the Pacific. The bill also strengthened sexual assault and harassment protections for members of the Coast Guard and ensures greater accountability and transparency in the Coast Guard.

The Subcommittee also has jurisdiction over the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) and the non-defense programs of the Maritime Administration (MARAD). FMC is responsible for the economic regulation of United States 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 *Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022* (P.L. 117–146) authorized funding for the FMC of \$38.26 million in FY 2023 and \$43.72 million in FY 2024, and \$49.2 million for FY 2025. Title XXXV of the *Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and NDAA for FY 2025* (P.L. 118–159) authorized \$1.4 billion for FY 2025 to support MARAD's activities, including \$500 million for the Port Infrastructure and Development Program, \$35 million for the Small Shipyard Grant Program, \$15 million for the Maritime Environmental and Technical Assistance Program, and \$15 million for the Marine Highway program.

*Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Coast Guard and Maritime Budget Requests*

The Subcommittee will hold hearings on the President's budget requests for FY 2026 and FY 2027. In the 118th Congress, the Subcommittee held multiple hearings pertaining to the Coast Guard's budget and funding needs and will continue to conduct oversight of

the Coast Guard's budget in the 119th Congress. The Subcommittee will explore ways to improve Coast Guard operations, and laws governing maritime transportation. Additionally, the Subcommittee will explore ways to promote job growth in the domestic fleet while reducing costs at both FMC and MARAD.

#### *Coast Guard Acquisition*

The Coast Guard is currently undergoing a major recapitalization of its oceangoing and shoreside assets, including the initiation of a new Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) Program and construction of Polar Security Cutters to replace its aged assets. The recapitalization will replace or modernize more than 90 ships and approximately 200 aircraft used to carry out the Service's missions beyond near coastal waters. The recapitalization program will also upgrade shoreside facilities and replace antiquated information technology systems, as well as command, control, and communications systems. The program continues to face 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, especially the Medium Endurance Cutter fleet and the Heavy Icebreaker fleet, 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 and the cost to maintain increasingly less reliable legacy assets threatens the ability of the Service to complete this recapitalization and avoid gaps in operational capability.

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 to carry out their mission at the best price for the taxpayer. Among its oversight efforts, the Subcommittee will continue to examine the status of the OPC and Polar Security Cutter acquisition. Also, the Subcommittee expects to review improvements to shoreside facilities, the acquisition of Coast Guard IT systems, and Coast Guard rotary aircraft needs and its plan to transition to a primary MH-60 fleet while reducing the number of rotary aircraft assets to ensure the Coast Guard can meet its operational needs. In the 118th Congress, the Subcommittee held multiple hearings and received testimony from Coast Guard officials related to the Coast Guard's efforts to acquire additional heavy icebreakers and the Coast Guard's operational capacity in the Arctic. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight efforts on this issue in the 119th Congress.

#### *Mission Balance*

The Subcommittee continues to have concerns regarding the Coast Guard's ability to balance funding among its many distinct and competing missions. Since September 11, 2001, significant additional resources have been directed to the Service's homeland activities. Security-related missions such as ports, waterways, and coastal security, and drug and migrant interdiction have seen dramatic increases from pre-September 11, 2001, funding levels. Growing geopolitical tension in South Asia and the China Sea, and nu-

merous calls for the Coast Guard to play a more active role in the region, might further stretch Coast Guard resources.

The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of Coast Guard 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.

#### *Maritime Domain Awareness*

Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) is 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 United States' jurisdiction. The successful implementation of MDA is critical to maritime safety, homeland security, and the efficiency and reliability of the United States maritime supply chain.

As the Coast Guard relies on several new and developing technologies to acquire, manage, and disseminate interoperable MDA information, 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 gathered 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 quality and quantity of MDA information.

#### *Coast Guard Prevention and Response Activities*

The Coast Guard plays major roles in response to oil spills and natural disasters. The Service serves as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator and National Incident Commander for oil spills on water. The Service is also a first responder for natural disaster in coastal areas, and accidents at sea. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of 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 examine the Coast Guard's prevention and response programs, including its existing regulations authorizing the use of Alternative Planning Criteria.

#### *United States Marine Highways*

United States Marine Highways support 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 system in the United States operate on the Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, and the St. Lawrence Seaway. 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

this important transportation system. This will include oversight of MARAD's Marine Highway Program and the program's impact on increasing vessel traffic along these important routes.

#### *National Maritime Strategy*

Section 3542 of the *James M. Inhofe NDAA for FY 2023* (P.L. 117–263) directed the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, in which the Coast Guard is operating, to enter into an agreement with a Federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) to complete a study within one year of the date of enactment, that identifies the key elements needed for a National Maritime Strategy that is designed to among other things, ensure a capable, commercially viable, and military useful United States flag fleet, a robust United States mariner workforce and a strong domestic shipbuilding infrastructure. Section 3537 of the *NDAA for FY 2024* (P.L. 118–31) further directs MARAD in coordination with other relevant Federal stakeholders to provide Congress biannual briefings on the status of the National Maritime Strategy.

MARAD announced its selection of an FFRDC to conduct the study that will inform the National Maritime Strategy in September of 2023. As MARAD and the Coast Guard work with the group to conduct a study that will inform a comprehensive strategy to promote and expand economic opportunities for United States-flag carriers and related marine industries, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of their efforts.

#### *Status of the United States Merchant Marine and Coast Guard Recruiting Challenges*

The Subcommittee remains concerned with the downward trend in the number of licensed and unlicensed United States mariners and a potential spike in attrition when many seafarers approach retirement age. The recruitment, training, and retention of credentialed United States mariners is necessary to not only maintain a United States flag presence on the high seas and in the United States domestic coastwise trade, but also to maintain sufficient seafarers to operate vessels deployed for military sealift during times of National emergency. At the same time, the Coast Guard, like other services, faces recruiting challenges that could harm the Service's readiness.

The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the issues involved in the current deficit of licensed merchant mariners and Coast Guard recruiting issues and explore potential options to expand the United States maritime workforce and strengthen the Coast Guard's ability to attract qualified service members. The Subcommittee will also look at credentialing requirements for United States seafarers, including recent Coast Guard enforcement of mariner credential requirements for non-maritime, industrial, and technical workers on vessels. Furthermore, the Subcommittee will examine ways to facilitate viable pathways for separating servicemembers to enter the commercial maritime workforce, either at sea, on the docks, or in the shipyards through the existing Military to Mariner initiative.

Additionally, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the Coast Guard's efforts to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual assault amongst its ranks.

*Supply Chain, Port Infrastructure, and Implementation of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act*

As FMC continues its work to implement the *Ocean Shipping Reform Act* (P.L. 117–146), the Subcommittee will review FMC's efforts to support trade opportunities for American exporters and improve the practices of international ocean shipping at our ports that contribute to a well-functioning supply chain. At the same time, the Subcommittee will review port infrastructure programs, including MARAD's Port Infrastructure Development Grant (PIDG) Program, to ensure the programs are operating effectively and contributing to the enhancement and efficiency of port operations.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management is responsible for the authorization and oversight of Federal real estate programs, including construction, repair, alteration, maintenance, and acquisition of such real property; the authorization and oversight of programs promoting economic development in communities suffering economic distress; the authorization and oversight of programs addressing the full cycle of Federal management of emergencies and disasters—preparing for, protecting against, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against future emergencies and disasters; and a variety of measures affecting homeland security, including building security provided by the Federal Protective Service (FPS). The Subcommittee will utilize its oversight activities to ensure that the Federal Government is responsibly stewarding taxpayer resources as it manages properties and responds to disasters.

*Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Budget Requests*

The Subcommittee will review and evaluate the FY 2026 and FY 2027 budget proposals for the agencies within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction including the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), FPS, the General Services Administration's (GSA's) Public Buildings Service, the Kennedy Center, and the economic development regional commissions.

*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. Continued oversight will be needed as states continue to be impacted by and recover from prior disasters. In addition, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementation of reforms and authorities to the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act* (P.L. 93–288 as amended) (*Stafford Act*), the *Disaster Recovery Reform Act* (Division D of P.L. 115–254) (DRRA), the



*Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013* (P.L. 113–2), and the *Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006* (P.L. 109–295).

Further, the Subcommittee will conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of how Federal disaster assistance can be reformed to work faster to support disaster victims and recovery. Moreover, the Subcommittee will examine the Secretary of Homeland Security’s use of FEMA resources and authorities.

#### *Border Security*

Border Security remains a critical issue in our Nation. The Subcommittee will examine the use of resources within its jurisdiction and the Executive Branch’s allocation of resources and funds in accordance with the law. The Subcommittee will also continue its oversight of Land Ports of Entry (LPOEs) construction projects, the implementation of the Public-Private Partnerships program, and examine additional ways in which private dollars could be leveraged.

#### *Leasing*

The GSA owns or leases more than 8,800 assets, maintains an inventory of nearly 370 million square feet of workspace, and preserves approximately 500 historic properties. The GSA owns more than 1,500 Federal buildings with a total of 190 million square feet of space, and leases 187 million square feet of space in more than 8,100 leased properties.<sup>5</sup> The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of GSA leasing and how it manages the replacement of expiring leases with quantifiable value for the taxpayer.

#### *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 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. This level of deterioration could have significant consequences for tenant agency missions and taxpayer costs. The Subcommittee will continue to examine how GSA manages its maintenance portfolio and whether GSA is sufficiently prioritizing maintenance requests.

In 2023, GAO found that of the 24 headquarters buildings in the National Capital Region of the *Chief Financial Officer Act* agencies, 17 had actual utilization of 25 percent or less, with some as low as nine percent. The Subcommittee will examine current space utilization and work to reduce real estate costs, including ensuring implementation of public buildings reforms passed in the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024*. Additionally, the Subcommittee will continue oversight of the Public Buildings Reform Board created by the *Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act*

<sup>5</sup> See GSA, Public Buildings Service, available at <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/public-buildings-service> (last visited Jan. 17, 2023); see also GSA, GSA PROPERTIES, available at <https://www.gsa.gov/real-estate/gsa-properties> (last visited Jan. 17, 2023).

of 2016 (P.L. 114–287), which is charged with developing recommendations for the sale or redevelopment of high value real estate assets.

The Subcommittee will also examine alternative solutions for leveraging private investment in capital projects, such as public private partnerships, to reduce the costs to the taxpayer, ensure buildings are properly maintained, and address problems with deferred maintenance.

#### *Capital Investment and Leasing Program (CILP)*

As part of the Committee’s annual work to review and authorize GSA’s requests 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 Federal Government and taxpayer.

#### *Federal Courthouses*

The Subcommittee will closely oversee the progress made on authorized courthouses to ensure they are constructed within the limitations placed upon them by the Committee and the United States Courts Design Guide, including courtroom sharing by judges and staying below or within budget. The Subcommittee will also examine when and whether new courthouses are needed and whether newly constructed courthouses are overbuilt.

#### *Federal Protective Service (FPS)*

The Subcommittee will continue to monitor and review the policies, procedures, and requirements of security at public buildings, as well as requirements of security at public buildings. The Subcommittee’s oversight activities will also track the use of the FPS’s law enforcement authority to ensure resources are appropriately focused on securing Federal buildings.

#### *Architect of the Capitol (AOC)*

The Subcommittee will engage in ongoing oversight of projects being undertaken by the AOC pursuant to the Master Plan for the Capitol Complex. Consistent oversight will ensure proper prioritization and cost savings.

#### *Smithsonian Institution Facilities*

The Subcommittee will conduct 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, as well as future needs for new museums authorized by Congress. 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.

#### *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, al-

teration, and modernization activities of the Kennedy Center that are conducted using Federal funds to ensure appropriate management and cost savings.

#### *Economic Development*

The Subcommittee will work to ensure economic development programs leverage private dollars through infrastructure improvements to attract new jobs to distressed communities. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight to determine if these programs are targeted, effective, and adhering to their core missions. The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the implementation of the reforms passed in the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024*.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

The Subcommittee on Highways and Transit has jurisdiction over Federal surface transportation policies, as well as transportation infrastructure and safety. The Subcommittee will broadly conduct oversight activities to ensure that our Nation's highways are safe, and American tax dollars are stewarded responsibly in the support of infrastructure improvement projects. The Subcommittee will closely monitor the regulations and guidance issued by DOT to ensure the agency is acting in accordance with Congressional intent. Of the \$661 billion in funding provided in *IIJA* that is administered by the Department of Transportation, approximately \$529 billion is for programs under the purview of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will continue to examine implementation of these programs as it works to develop legislation this Congress to reauthorize the Nation's highway and surface transportation programs.

#### *Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Budget Requests*

The Subcommittee will review and evaluate the FY 2026 and FY 2027 budget proposals for agencies within its jurisdiction, including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), and the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST).

#### *Supply Chain Crisis*

A disruption in one part of the supply chain has a ripple effect across all parts of the supply chain, from manufacturers to suppliers and distributors. Weaknesses in the global supply chain are exacerbated by supply and demand imbalances, restrictions and regulations, and workforce and infrastructure challenges. The Subcommittee will perform oversight of the supply chain and explore solutions to ensure resilience.

#### *Infrastructure Surface and Transit Programs and Grants*

*IIJA* reauthorized Federal surface and transit transportation programs through FY 2026. The law provided contract authority, as well as advance appropriations and authorizations subjection to appropriations. The majority of funding in *IIJA* (under FHWA, FTA, and OST) allows recipients up to four years to obligate funding.

Further, the Subcommittee will continue to assess the implementation of *IIJA*'s mandates and grant programs through its oversight activities, particularly focused on ensuring that funding distribution and grants criteria fall in line with *IIJA*.

#### *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. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the status and solvency of the HTF and its ability to meet future surface transportation needs.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials has jurisdiction over all Federal laws and programs regulating railroad transportation, as well all Federal laws and programs regulating the safety of gas and liquid pipelines and safety of transporting material and freight that has been classified as hazardous. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight to ensure these activities occur in a safe and efficient manner. Additionally, the Subcommittee will work to hold Federal agencies accountable for their use of taxpayer resources, bringing greater transparency to agency decisions.

In the 119th Congress, the Subcommittee will introduce legislation to reauthorize the Nation's pipeline safety programs. The Subcommittee's previous oversight of these programs and the Federal agencies of jurisdiction will inform the Subcommittee's work on this task.

#### *Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Budget Requests*

The Subcommittee will review and evaluate the FY 2026 and FY 2027 budget proposals for agencies within its jurisdiction, including 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).

#### *Rail Infrastructure and Safety Programs*

Congress has authorized and appropriated legislation addressing rail infrastructure and safety improvements. For example, the *Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing program (RRIF)* was established by the *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century* (P.L. 105–178) (TEA–21) and amended by the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users* (P.L. 109–59) (SAFETEA–LU), the *Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008*, the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) of 2015*, and *IIJA*. Under this program, DOT is authorized to provide direct loans and loan guarantees up to \$35 billion. Up to seven billion dollars is reserved for projects benefiting short line (Class II and III) freight railroads. Further, the *Consoli-*

*dated Railroad Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)* grant program was authorized in section 11301 of the FAST Act. Under this program, DOT is authorized to provide grants up to \$1 billion annually for both passenger and freight rail capital projects, workforce development, and research, among others. Additionally, the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program was authorized in sections 22104 and 22305 of *IIJA* at up to \$500 million per year. This program provides funding for grade separation or closure, including through the use of a bridge, embankment, tunnel, or combination thereof; track relocation; and the planning of these projects. The Subcommittee's oversight activities will include monitoring the use of these funds.

The FRA is the component of DOT responsible for administering Federal railroad safety laws and rail grant programs. The broad safety authority of the FRA encompasses railroad safety practices, equipment, and reporting. The FRA is also responsible for inspecting railroad operations for compliance with Federal safety requirements. Federal rail safety statutes are found in subtitle V of title 49, U.S.C. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of FRA's safety programs.

#### *Amtrak*

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation, known as "Amtrak," was created by the *Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970*, and its operations were additionally restructured by subsequent authorizations including the *Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008* (P.L. 110-432) (*PRIIA 2008*), the *Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015* that was included as Title XI of the *FAST Act*, and *IIJA*. Amtrak operates three types of routes: the Northeast Corridor, operated on mostly Amtrak-owned track with costs allocated between Amtrak and commuter rail partners in accordance with Section 212 of *PRIIA 2008*; long-distance routes operated directly by Amtrak codified by *PRIIA 2008*; and state supported routes less than 750 miles, funded by states with costs allocated in accordance with Section 209 of *PRIIA 2008*.

*IIJA* provided intercity passenger and freight rail generally, and Amtrak specifically, with historic levels of funding, including \$66 billion in advance appropriations over five years. *IIJA* also redesignated the *FAST Act's* Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair grant program to the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail grant program, and included advance appropriations of \$36 billion for the program, of which no more than \$24 billion can be awarded to projects on the Northeast Corridor, as identified in the FRA-created Northeast Corridor Inventory. *IIJA* also authorized \$7.5 billion for potential future appropriations for the restructured program. The law further directed the Secretary of Transportation to take steps to develop intercity passenger rail corridors. *IIJA* also made other Amtrak changes, including changing one of its missions from achieving profit, to be in line with other Federally funded surface transportation programs which operate as a public service.

Due to Amtrak's reliance on Federal funding, the Subcommittee exercises extensive oversight of the railroad to ensure that it is serving passengers reliably in accordance with statutory mandates

and is responsibly spending its taxpayer funds. Specific areas of concern include balancing improving Amtrak's existing network with plans for expansion, working with the private sector and states, ADA compliance, responsibly stewarding taxpayer funding, passenger safety, executive compensation and board management, and generally following Congressional mandates. In the 118th Congress, the Subcommittee advanced several pieces of legislation aimed at bolstering accountability and transparency at Amtrak. These pieces of legislation included increased transparency for executive compensation paid to senior Amtrak officials, ensured Amtrak's compliance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (P.L. 101-336), and increased openness for Amtrak Board meetings.

#### *Surface Transportation Board*

The *Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015* (P.L. 114-110) reauthorized the STB for the first time since the agency was created in 1995, which was a reconstituted Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) in place since the *Interstate Commerce Act of 1887*. The STB, as was the ICC, is the economic regulator of the freight railroads and as such is responsible for monitoring freight railroad service. The 2015 Act established the STB as a wholly independent Federal agency; expanded the STB's membership from three to five members; gave the STB authority to investigate issues of National or regional significance on its own initiative, including Amtrak's on-time performance on host railroads; and reauthorized the agency's funding through FY 2020. The Act also directed the STB to modify its voluntary arbitration process and made other changes to improve the STB's efficiency and responsiveness. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor freight railroad service, the STB's regulatory agenda and transparency into its operation, and potential need for grant funding. Finally, the Committee will continue to review STB and assess its authorization and funding structure.

#### *Pipeline Safety Programs*

Congress reauthorized PHMSA's pipeline safety program in the 116th Congress by enacting the *Protecting Our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act of 2020* (P.L. 116-260) (*PIPES Act of 2020*). The *PIPES Act of 2020* reauthorized PHMSA's pipeline safety program through FY 2023 and supports PHMSA in its mission to ensure the millions of miles of pipelines in the United States are safe, reliable, and environmentally sound.

The *PIPES Act of 2020* addressed pipeline methane emissions by directing pipeline operators to conduct leak detection and repair programs in an effort to protect the environment and pipeline safety, while enabling advanced leak detection technologies. The bill also required that PHMSA study and implement best available technologies or practices to prevent or mitigate the release of natural gas when making planned repairs or maintenance, and when intentionally venting or releasing natural gas during blowdowns or other activities.

The *PIPES Act of 2020* supported PHMSA's oversight and rule-making activities, by increasing the minimum number of full-time

inspection and enforcement personnel, as well as subject matter experts who support agency rulemaking efforts. The legislation also required frequent reporting to Congress on progress made toward completing outstanding mandates. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Office of Pipeline Safety at PHMSA. Additionally, the Subcommittee will monitor the implementation of the *PIPES Act of 2020*, including tracking updates on the completion of outstanding mandates. The Subcommittee will monitor PHMSA's overall work on pipeline safety, as well as any outstanding mandates from the 2016 pipeline safety bill.

The *PIPES Act of 2020's* authorization expired on September 30, 2023, and PHMSA has been operating under continuing authorities. On December 16, 2023, the Committee favorably reported H.R. 6494, the *Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety of 2023* (PIPES Act of 2023). This legislation would reauthorize and make improvements to PHMSA's pipeline safety programs and activities through FY 2027, among other provisions.

#### *Hazardous Materials Safety*

The *Hazardous Materials Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2015*, enacted as Title VII of the *FAST Act*, reauthorized the hazardous materials safety program through FY 2020. The Act included a number of provisions to enhance safety, with a significant focus on the transportation of flammable liquids, including crude oil, by rail. In 2021, *IIJA* reauthorized the hazardous materials safety program through FY 2026 and included an increase in authorization level for hazardous materials grant programs. *IIJA* also included authorization for the assistance for local emergency response training or "ALERT" grant program. The ALERT grant program allows PHMSA to promote hazmat response training for volunteer or remote emergency responders for activities that include the transportation of crude oil, ethanol, and other flammable liquids by rail. The legislation also requires Class I railroads that transport hazardous materials to share train consist information, including the quantity of hazardous materials and the origin and destination of the train, so that railroads provide this information electronically to appropriate State and local first responders, rather than through a third party. The Subcommittee will continue oversight of PHMSA's hazardous materials safety program.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

The Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment has jurisdiction over matters relating to water resources development, conservation and management, water pollution control and water infrastructure, and hazardous waste cleanup. The Subcommittee's oversight activities will examine Federal actions impacting its jurisdiction, and work to ensure the programs under its jurisdiction benefit everyday Americans, businesses, farmers, and property owners, and protect the nation's water related environment. In the 118th Congress, the Subcommittee worked to pass the *Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024* (WRDA 2024) (P.L. 118–272), which authorized projects at the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works Program to improve the Nation's ports and harbors, inland waterway navigation, flood

and storm protection, water supply and resiliency, and other aspects of the Nation's water resources infrastructure. In the 119th Congress, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight over *WRDA 2024* to ensure that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is implementing the law as Congress intended.

#### *Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Budget Requests*

The Subcommittee will review and evaluate the FY 2026 and FY 2027 budget proposals for the agencies within its jurisdiction, including programs administered by the DOT, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the United States International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

#### *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 approaches and investments.

The Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of the implementation of various regulatory and non-regulatory programs under the *Clean Water Act (CWA)*, including how the EPA and the Corps implement these programs in conjunction with the states, and the trend 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, effluent limitations and pretreatment requirements, 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 discharge of dredged or fill materials under CWA section 404 permit program, and how the EPA and Corps assert Federal jurisdiction and make jurisdictional decisions under the CWA. Oversight will also 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, emerging contaminants, and nonpoint sources of pollution.

*IIJA* included the first reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), the primary source of Federal wastewater infrastructure funding, since its enactment in 1987, and appropriated \$11.7 billion for the Clean Water SRF program from FY 2022 through FY 2026. *IIJA* also required that 49 percent of appropriated Clean Water SRF funds be allocated by States to eligible recipients as 100 percent principal forgiveness or grants (or a combination of these). Continued investments in our Nation's water-related infrastructure should prioritize the creation of American jobs,



should support a healthy economy and a healthy water-related environment, and should be affordable to communities facing financial challenges. 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.

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, and the potential impact of such discharges on water quality.

#### THE CORPS 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. As a result of the Subcommittee's oversight efforts, the Subcommittee advanced *WRDA 2024*. This legislation was signed into law and will enhance the Corps' water infrastructure programs. In the 119th Congress, the Subcommittee will provide oversight over the Corps' implementation of *WRDA 2024*—and prior *WRDAs*—and how the Corps allocates resources to strengthen the Nation's water programs, including provisions intended to improve the efficiency of the project planning and project delivery processes.

The Subcommittee will focus on facilitating projects for the Nation to be 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 to ensure that the Corps review of proposed non-Federal sponsor modifications to Federal projects are carried out in an effective manner.

#### EPA—SUPERFUND/COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE COMPENSATION, AND LIABILITY ACT AND BROWNFIELDS

The Superfund program under the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act* (P.L. 96–51) (*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 au-

thorized 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 use of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a contaminant. Unaddressed Brownfields and Superfund sites pose potential human health concerns, drive down property values and tax revenues, 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, as well as assess authorization of the Brownfields program, which expired at the end of FY 2023.

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* (P.L. 107–118). 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 will also review the role of the states in conducting 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.

#### *Tennessee Valley Authority*

The Subcommittee will review the management of 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, labor relations, and the impact of TVA debt on its long-term goals. In the 118th Congress, the Committee and the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4693, the *Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act*. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor TVA's ongoing efforts to improve transparency and local partnerships.

#### *International Boundary Water Commission*

The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) was established in 1889 with the responsibility for applying the bound-

ary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling any disputes over their application. The body is comprised of both the United States and Mexican sections, headed by an Engineer-Commissioner who is appointed by the President. The United States 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 United States and Mexico.

The *American Relief Act, 2025* (P.L. 118–158) appropriated \$250 million to IBWC for emergency construction funding. The Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight over the implementation of this funding and the coordination between EPA and IBWC to carry out this work. The Subcommittee will also continue its oversight of IBWC's efforts to upgrade the International Outfall Interceptor in Nogales, Arizona, as well as efforts to address sewage treatment from the Tijuana River at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant in California.

#### *“Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) Rulemakings*

Congress enacted the 1972 amendments to the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act*, commonly referred to as the *Clean Water Act* (CWA), with the goal of restoring and maintaining the integrity of the Nation's waters. The CWA protects “navigable waters,” which is defined in the CWA as the “waters of the United States, including the territorial seas.”

The CWA does not further define the term “waters of the United States” (WOTUS), leaving it up to EPA and the Corps to define which waters are subject to Federal regulation under the CWA. Since the CWA grants authority to EPA and the Corps to implement the Act, EPA and the Corps have promulgated several sets of rules interpreting the agencies' jurisdiction over WOTUS and the corresponding scope of CWA authority.

A clear and consistent WOTUS definition, which is consistent with the statutory intent of CWA and operates with certainty and efficiency to protect the environment and sustain and grow new jobs is crucial to achieving the goals of the CWA. The Subcommittee will examine any proposed or final rules issued by the Administration relating to WOTUS, and their implementation.

#### **EXPIRING AUTHORIZATIONS OF PROGRAMS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

During the 119th Congress, as part of both its oversight and legislative agenda, the Committee 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 Nation's surface transportation programs, as well as additional reauthorization efforts for the Coast Guard, Maritime Administration, Federal Maritime Commission, and the Nation's pipeline safety programs.

The following pieces of legislation contain programs within the Committee's jurisdiction that have expiring authorizations in FY 2025 and 2026. First, the Post Consumer Materials Management Infrastructure Grant Program, the Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program, and the Trash-Free Waters Grant Program authorized through the *Save Our Seas 2.0 Act* are set to expire at the end of FY 2025. Under the *American Relief Act, 2025* (P.L. 118–158), the counter-UAS authority for the DOJ and DHS will expire on March 14, 2025. Funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program will expire at the end of FY 2026, which was most recently extended as part of the GLRI Act of 2019 (P.L. 116–294). Next, *IIJA* (P.L. 117–58) included funding authorization for clean water programs, most notably the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program and assistance for state clean water programs (under section 104(b)(3)), both expiring in FY 2026. The *Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act* (P.L. 116–337) extended funding for the EPA's National Estuary Program through FY 2026. Funding for the Federal Maritime Commission, authorized under the *Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022* (P.L. 117–146) is set to expire in FY 2025. Of note, the Nation's surface transportation programs will expire in FY 2026.

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. 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 regarding these permanent authorizations.

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February 20, 2025

The Honorable Bryan Steil  
Chairman  
Committee on House Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Steil and Chairman Comer:

Pursuant to clause 2(d) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, please find attached the Authorization and Oversight Plan for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the 119th Congress. I appreciate your commitment to Congressional oversight and look forward to our continued cooperation on matters of shared jurisdiction.

Sincerely,



Mike Bost  
Chair

Cc: Hon. Mark Takano, Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
Hon. Joseph D. Morelle, Ranking Member, Committee on House Administration  
Hon. Gerald E. Connolly, Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight and Accountability

# **Committee on Veterans' Affairs**

## **U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **119TH CONGRESS—AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLAN**

In accordance with clause 2 of Rule X, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs submits its Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress. The Committee conducts its oversight on a regular basis through all of its five Subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, the Subcommittee on Health, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, and the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization. Oversight of the issues outlined below is expected to be a shared responsibility among the full Committee and the appropriate Subcommittees.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers various functions and programs based on broad statutes related to health care, benefits, and the Department's organization. However, most of these programs operate under specific authorizations or derive their regulations from such authorizations. These are indicated in the applicable subcommittee sections. Programs whose authorizations expire soon are emphasized.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS**

- *Waste and Improper Benefits Payments*—In President Biden's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request, VA requested hundreds of billions of dollars in mandatory and discretionary spending for veteran and survivor benefits programs. However, VA has historically faced challenges with the responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. For years, VA has reported issuing veterans and their families billions of dollars of under- and over-payments of benefits annually. The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) published numerous reports in recent years on the underlying causes of VA waste and improper payments, including inaccurate claims processing and inadequate controls over veterans' and survivors' compensation and pension programs. The Committee will work with VA to mitigate waste and ensure veterans, and their families receive accurate payments of VA benefits. Additionally, the Committee will work with the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to mitigate unnecessary spending on physical offices, including the 56 VBA regional offices, that may be underutilized as a result of VBA's tele-work policy.

- *VA Disability Compensation, Pension, and Memorial Affairs Programs*—Each Congress, the Committee authorizes or reauthorizes VA programs in the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Dis-

ability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. The Committee will continue to review programs expiring this Congress and determine whether a straightforward reauthorization or an updated reauthorization is necessary. The Committee will also oversee VA's implementation of recently authorized disability compensation, pension, and memorial affairs programs, including by working with VA OIG and GAO to identify and address gaps in such implementation. The Committee will also monitor VA's promulgation of regulatory and sub-regulatory guidance to ensure such guidance comports with Congressional intent. The Committee will work with VA to address barriers to VA's timely and accurate processing of the rising number of claims resulting from the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act* of 2022 (Pub. L. 117–168) (PACT Act). The PACT Act also authorized a process in which VA may research potential links between military toxic exposures and medical conditions, as well as expand disability compensation benefits for new medical conditions that VA confirms are toxin related. The Committee will work with VA to ensure that this process works as Congress intended. The Committee will also review older programs, including programs that are intended to afford veterans with timely and adequate disability compensation examinations to support their claims for VA benefits.

- *Claims and Appeals Process*—The Committee will work with VA to improve its policy guidance, employee training, and quality assurance programs at VBA and the VA Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) to ensure that veterans and survivors receive both timely and accurate decisions on their claims for VA benefits. The Committee will also work with VA to modernize policies and processes that impact whether veterans and survivors receive timely and accurate decisions on their claims and appeals for VA benefits. The Committee will work with VA to examine ways that Congress can help further streamline the appeals process at the agency level and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims level to ensure that the claims and appeals process works as efficiently as Congress intended. The Committee will also work with VA to examine ways to protect the due process rights of veterans in receipt of VA compensation and pension benefits and to ensure that veterans and their survivors have representation when navigating the VA claims and appeals process.

- *Modernizing Technology in VA's Disability Compensation, Pension, and Memorial Affairs Programs*—Under the PACT Act, VA issued multi-year plans to modernize technology systems that underlie VA's disability compensation, pension, and memorial affairs programs. The Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs will collaborate with the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization to oversee VA's modernization efforts. The Committee will work with VA to improve upon VA's modernization plans as appropriate. The Committee will also examine VA's development and implementation of new technology systems, including automation and artificial intelligence technology, to ensure that VA and VA's technology contractors deliver systems that work to efficiently and effectively deliver benefits to veterans and their families. The Committee will also review older technology systems, in-

cluding those underlying claims and appeals processing, to ensure that older ineffectual systems are either improved or retired.

- *Cemeteries*—The Committee will continue oversight of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), and the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). Each agency provides and maintains sacred, hallowed resting places for veterans and fallen servicemembers, and the Committee will work with each respective federal agency to ensure that veterans are afforded dignified burials and that their final resting places are properly maintained. The Committee will oversee VA's construction of new national cemeteries, improvements and expansions of established national cemeteries, and VA's administration of the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program. The Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs has shared jurisdiction with the House Armed Services Committee over Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). The Committee will work with the Department of Defense to ensure full and sustainable operations at ANC, including ANC's Caisson Platoon operations.

- *Life Insurance*—On January 5, 2021, President Trump signed Pub. L. 116–315, which required VA to establish a modernized Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance program by January 1, 2023. VA refers to this program as VA Life Insurance (VALife). The Committee will continue overseeing VA's implementation of VALife to ensure that veterans are properly enrolled in the new program and well served. Additionally, the Committee will continue to review whether all of the VA's active life insurance programs meet the needs of servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- *Waste, Fraud, and Abuse programs the subcommittee plans to conduct oversight*—The Committee is concerned that as VA funding has increased in education and homeless programs, it has become harder for VA to track and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill has become significantly more expensive for the government because of increased education costs, and more benefits are available to beneficiaries. The Committee will find ways to reduce fraud in the program both by institutions and individuals through oversight by improving how VA tracks these issues and reducing VA from providing incorrect information to individuals and institutions. Additionally, the PACT Act has increased participation in Veteran Readiness for Employment (VR&E). The Committee is aware of individuals who have continuously been in the program for over a decade with VA not reviewing if these individuals should continue to be in the program. Additionally, VR&E is an employment program, yet the Committee believes that VA should focus more on employment rates for participants. The Committee will work with VA to increase checks and balances in VR&E and prevent abuse in the program. The Committee will also review how VA and DOL–VETS conduct oversight and prevent fraud in programs with grantees. Finally, The Committee will ensure that VA and DOL–VETS quickly implement GAO and OIG recommendations to prevent waste and abuse in programs the government has identified as high risk for these activities. Please include



something in this section (e.g., GAO high risk list, VA Vet Centers, GI Bill, VR&E).

- *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 following active duty. The Departments of Defense (DoD), Veterans Affairs, and Labor (DoL) jointly manage and provide content for the five-day course that focuses on skills needed to obtain gainful employment and provides an understanding of the benefits that are available to them from the VA and DoL. The Committee will conduct oversight hearings to discuss how TAP can be enhanced for transitioning servicemembers and their families. Further, the Committee plans to attend TAP classes and talk to transitioning servicemembers, to review the curriculum that TAP counselors are teaching at the local levels and ensure changes made to TAP in the *Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act* and the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act* are being implemented appropriately. The Committee will also work with the Committee on Armed Services to improve on time servicemember participation in TAP and increase accountability at TAP locations where there is poor TAP performance. Finally, the Committee will work with the Committees on Armed Services and Small Business to address cross-jurisdictional issues as we work to improve the TAP program.

- *Effectiveness and Outcomes of Education and Training Programs for Returning Veterans*—The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill has been veterans' most generous education program since the original WWII G.I. Bill. Based on the length of service, the program funds up to full tuition and fees at public institutions of higher learning and about \$28,937 per year at private institutions, as well as provides a monthly living stipend. This stipend is based on the housing allowance paid to servicemembers at the rank of E-5 (with dependents) and the ZIP Code of the institution where the student attends the majority of their classes. The Committee will continue oversight of the implementation of the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act*, the *Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022*, and the *Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act*.

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. The Committee will also conduct oversight on Veteran Success on Campus programs, and on the national education call center to ensure G.I. students are receiving the best possible service. In addition, the Committee will examine outcome measures for users of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, including graduation rates and job placement data, to ensure the effectiveness of taxpayers' investment in our veterans' education benefits. The Committee will conduct oversight on the role of State Approving Agencies, School Certifying Officials, and education programs to find ways to reduce fraud, streamline receiving benefits, and improve student performance in the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill Program. Finally, the Committee will review VA's role in providing incorrect

information and improperly paying benefits to student veterans and schools.

- *Modernization of G.I. Bill Claims Processing*—Modernizing the processing of original and supplemental G.I. Bill claims is long overdue. For decades, VA has relied on a myriad of legacy systems to process these claims because previous modernization efforts have failed. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight over the current modernization effort called the Digital G.I. Bill system. An outside contractor is tasked with creating and implementing of this system as a managed service. This system has been delayed by over two years and is \$479 overbudget. The Committee will closely watch the continued rollout of the contractor's new software and work to preserve veterans' ability to have a G.I. Bill claim processed accurately and efficiently. The Committee will conduct oversight on the contractor and work with VA to prevent future timeline delays and budget increases in the modernization effort.

- *Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Program*—VA's VR&E program provides education and training benefits for service-connected disabled veterans who face barriers to employment. The program funds all costs related to long- and short-term education and training and 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, in addition to the Veteran Success on Campus program, which currently stations VR&E staff at institutions of higher learning to assist students with benefits. The Committee continues to be concerned with counselor caseloads, rising job vacancies, and the lack of data related to outcomes for VR&E program participants, 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 examine the management and overall effectiveness of the VR&E program for disabled veterans, and VA's new case management Readiness and Employment System (RES), which plans to fully integrate the current CWINRS system into RES by FY 2026.

- *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, without private mortgage insurance, often without requiring a down payment. This benefit is highly beneficial to veterans, servicemembers, and their families. The Committee plans to conduct oversight on the IT systems in place to process these loans and review how VA uses authorities given to them under the program. The Committee intends to evaluate the impact of high-interest rates and inflation on the veteran homeowner and prospective home buyers and will examine ways to make the product competitive. Finally, the Committee will reform the VA Servicer Purchasing (VASP) Program to ensure VASP is only used for extreme cases of foreclosure, will monitor the impact of recent court cases on veteran buyers, and will find ways to keep the VA home loan competitive in the market. The Loan Guaranty Service also administers grants under the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) and Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) programs. The Committee will work to find ways to improve this program and ensure VA delivers the best product to veterans.

- *Adaptive Sports Program*—This is a program administered by VA, which provides grants to qualifying organizations that provide adaptive sports activities and opportunities at the local, regional, and national levels, including Paralympic activities, to disabled veterans and servicemembers. This program awarded \$16 million in 2024. The authorization for the Adaptive Sports Program expires on December 31, 2025. The Committee will continue to examine how VA awards grants under this program and the organizations receiving funding, as well as how VA works with local communities and the Paralympic community to promote and enhance adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and servicemembers.

- *Performance of the Jobs for Veterans State Grant Program*—The Jobs for Veterans State Grant program is administered by VETS and funds the employment of state employees called Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialists (DVOP) and Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVER). This program is dedicated to placing veterans in good-paying jobs. Significant issues surround this program including inconsistent performance across the states and the lack of evaluation of outcome measures and performance. The Committee will continue to review this program and the performance outcomes of DVOPs and LVERs conduct oversight of the National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI) and find ways to streamline the program while improving program performance and oversight.

- *Homeless Veterans*—The Committee will continue oversight of the services and programs that VA grantees provide to homeless veterans and those veterans who are at risk for homelessness. The Committee will also review VA efforts to permanently house homeless veterans and ensure that those veterans are receiving the wrap-around services they need. The Committee will also ensure that if a veteran leaves permanent housing, VA will work with the veteran to address their needs and rehouse them as quickly as possible. In addition, the Committee will ensure that VA is accurately counting those veterans who have been placed in permanent housing. The Committee will examine the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Housing and Urban Development- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) programs, and VA's progress toward reducing veteran homelessness and find ways to evaluate the program to improve program outcomes and data collection. The Committee will also review factors leading to veteran homelessness. The Committee will continue to oversee VA's integration efforts to support vulnerable veterans by facilitating access to benefits, care, and services. Finally, the Committee will examine the organizations that are receiving Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP) grants, how DOL-VETS is awarding and conducting oversight and program review on HVRP programs, and how HVRP can work better with VA homeless programs.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

- *Resource Management*—The Committee is concerned that VA health care including its Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is structured to be susceptible to waste, fraud, and abuse. Since 2015, VA health care has remained on GAO's published "High-Risk List," because of its challenges providing "timely, cost-effective, and qual-

ity care.” Included in its latest report, from 2023, GAO noted five areas of concern, including “unclear resource needs and allocation priorities.” Although, the 2023 report noted some improvement in this area, VA has since failed to manage its resources properly. In FY 2024, VA requested \$12 billion to close a claimed health care budget shortfall expected in FY 2025, only to abruptly revise the request down to \$6.6 billion with little explanation. This situation raises serious questions about VA’s budgetary mismanagement as well as VA leaders’ honesty regarding funding. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of what VA leaders knew and neglected to communicate regarding the true size and reasons for the health care shortfall. Further, the Committee will perform necessary oversight to ensure structures and leaders are in place to ensure VA has a firm grasp of its resource needs.

- *Community Care*—The Committee remains concerned about inconsistent VA referral practices and veterans’ ability to utilize community care when in their best interest. Eligibility for care in the community is determined in part by designated access standards, as mandated by the *VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018*. The Committee will closely monitor any adjustments made to access standard definitions. The Committee will conduct oversight of the VA’s reorganized Integrated Veteran Care (IVC) office established to supposedly create a seamless system for coordinating VA’s direct and community care delivery systems. While the Community Care Networks (CCN) have stabilized and matured, concerns still remain about network adequacy and continuity of care. At the beginning of 2025, VA plans to publish a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the next iteration of the CCN contracts. Oversight of this next generation of CCN continue to be critical to ensure the CCN network is delivered efficiently and effectively, maintaining the integrity of the Veteran Community Care Program (VCCP). While the contract action proceeds, the Committee will continue to monitor veterans’ access to care and VA’s processes for monitoring the performance of the third-party administrators to build networks of community providers and process payments to these providers. VA’s administratively burdensome appointment scheduling process needs reform, and the Committee will continue to conduct oversight to ensure VA improves its administrative efficiency and network adequacy.

In addition, the Committee will monitor VA’s efforts to provide veterans greater insight into both accurate VA and community care appointment wait times and availability, so veterans can make informed decisions about where best to seek care and whether to elect telehealth or in-person options. Finally, the Committee will continue to monitor the baseline funding to the Medical Community Care account to ensure funds are being used most appropriately.

Additionally, veterans often face inappropriate billing for emergency care in community settings when VA denies provider claims, resulting in confusion and financial strain. The Committee will work to simplify and modernize these criteria to ensure veterans in crisis receive appropriate care and to facilitate timely and accurate reimbursements to emergency care providers in the commu-

nity. Efforts will also focus on streamlining VA's billing and reimbursement processes to enhance fiscal responsibility, reduce unnecessary expenditures, and address claims that may be covered by veterans' other health insurance.

- *Market Assessments and Infrastructure Modernization*—The Committee will continue 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. The Committee is especially concerned about the continued maintenance requirements of underutilized facilities and the growing need for an expanded footprint in areas of the country experiencing significant veteran population growth. The *MISSION Act* required VA to conduct market assessments, first to inform recommendations for an Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission and subsequently on a continuing basis as a strategic review. As VA continues the process of updating market assessments for the strategic review, the Committee will conduct oversight of these assessments to ensure concerns about the underlying methodology are addressed and appropriate stakeholder involvement occurs. The Committee will explore mechanisms to best incorporate these assessments into and reform the VA Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) process to include better systemic metrics that would require realignment or modernization of certain facilities. Furthermore, VA's increased reliance on leasing medical facilities and given the changes made to leasing under the PACT Act, the Committee is eager to examine whether VA is appropriately leveraging their authorities and organizational structures to properly and efficiently lease medical facilities.

- *Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicide Prevention*—The Committee will continue to closely monitor VA's mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention efforts. VA's budget for mental health has increased billions of dollars in the past few years. The Committee will be diligently monitoring VA's newly funded mental health programs, and the effectiveness of existing programs. This oversight effort will also include the expanded eligibility for and operational capacity of the Readjustment Counseling Service. VA has recently been exploring alternative therapies to address mental health conditions and symptoms. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of VA's clinical trials and alternative therapies. The Committee will closely monitor VA's public-private partnerships for mental health and suicide prevention programs, including the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program. The Committee will closely monitor and provide recommendations on VA's use of community providers and organizations to deliver mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention services to veterans, when VA cannot provide these services directly and when at-risk veterans are outside VA's reach. Given ongoing issues with veteran suicide data collection, analysis, and reporting from VA, the Committee also will continue to evaluate VA's timeliness and progress on reducing veteran suicide. The Committee also will examine VA's substance use and addiction treatment capacity and programming, with a focus on access and complications of overlapping mental health issues.

- *Pain and Medication Management, Complementary and Integrative Health*—The Committee will examine the extent to which VA is appropriately using prescription medications to treat veterans experiencing acute and chronic pain, and the extent to which veterans are offered and able to access complimentary and integrative therapies for pain management. 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, and/or self-inflicted injury. The Committee will scrutinize VA's opioid safety initiative, substance use treatment programs (both at VA and in the community), and access to alternative chronic and acute pain treatments. The Committee will also review VA's policies concerning veteran access to substance use inpatient treatment programs as well as assess the use and efficacy of complementary and integrative health treatments and techniques for veterans with pain or other conditions.

- *Long-Term Services and Supports*—The Committee will continue to assess VA's broad array of Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) to determine whether veterans have access to the methods of care delivery that best suit their needs. VA has historically relied primarily upon a network of institution-based services consisting of VA Community Living Centers (CLCs), State Veterans Homes (SVHs), and contracted community nursing homes; however, VA must do more to develop a robust network of home and community-based services (HCBS) to meet the growing demand, and preference, for non-institutional care among its aging veteran population. The Committee will monitor VA's progress in this area and continue supporting authorities in allowing greater access to HCBS. Given the growing numbers of women veterans utilizing VA services, the Committee will review the availability and adequacy of LTSS specific to this population. The Committee will also examine VA's role in monitoring the quality of care and patient safety at SVHs, and VA's role in supporting the cost of care for veteran residents, along with SVH construction, renovation, and maintenance.

- *Caregivers*—Following the VA's notice of proposed rulemaking in December 2024 to amend the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers the Committee will closely monitor VA's review of public comments, its plan to implement the proposed regulatory changes, and the status of legacy caregivers who remain in limbo as VA attempts to standardize the program. The Committee is also concerned about the focus on this program and the lack of coordination in providing access to other, possibly more appropriate, long-term-care options, and the staffing shortages affecting the program and the ability for caregivers to take respite.

- *Quality Care*—OIG, GAO, and media reports continue to document patient harm incidents within VHA medical facilities. The Committee has also received a large number of Congressional Notifications from VA regarding mistakes made at VA medical centers, many of which have impacted patient care. These have called into question whether current career VHA leadership is carrying out all their credentialing, privileging, and quality management responsibilities. Specifically, the Committee is concerned about whether

VHA and its VISNs are doing enough to ensure that their medical facilities are appropriately screening clinicians prior to hire, monitoring providers' clinical competence while they are employed, conducting timely investigations when concerns arise, and reporting serious concerns about provider performance to the National Practitioner Data Bank and state licensing boards, as required by VHA's own policy.

- *Continued Support for Women Veterans*—The over two-million women who have served in the U.S. military comprise the fastest-growing veteran subpopulation within VA. Over 600,000 women veterans are currently enrolled for VA healthcare, and utilization of services continues to expand. In 2020, Congress passed the Deborah Sampson Act, a compilation of comprehensive legislation focusing on women veterans. The Committee must continue its close implementation oversight of this Act as well as new or enhanced services recently made available to women veterans. The Committee's examination of issues impacting women veterans will include, but is not limited to: ensuring a welcoming and inclusive VA, free from sexual harassment and assault; providing equitable access to VA healthcare, such as mammography, gynecology, and obstetrics; research into the impacts of military service on women veterans' physical and mental health; and a greater focus on the special needs of aging women veterans, to include unique health conditions, long-term care, and caregiving.

- *VA Research and University Partnerships*—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 healthcare provided by VA and to the nation. VA's Health Services Research and Development Service also operates 19 Centers of Innovation (COIN), built off the work of prior Centers of Excellence, that conduct research on specific issues concerning veteran patients. The Committee will continue to oversee opportunities for innovation, cutting-edge technology, veteran participation in clinical trials, and greater use and support of the Million Veteran Program data for public health research. Use of this data will also require continued oversight to ensure that utilization of veterans' data is protected and secure. The Committee will also aggressively oversee VA's relationships with universities, including their collaboration on research, training programs, and dual appointed employees. VA has academic affiliations with the majority of medical schools and therefore play a large role in training the next generation of medical professionals. It is unclear however whether these training programs are adequately benefiting VA and the veterans they serve through full time employees. The Committee has also heard of a number of dual-appointed employees who prioritize university responsibilities over providing care for veterans. The Committee intends to ensure that VA's research and University Partnerships are solidly in the best interest of veterans.

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

- *Accountable Workforce*—Holding more than 400,000 staff accountable has proven difficult for VA. Beginning in 2018, rulings by courts and the Merit Systems Protection Board have limited the Secretary's authority to efficiently hold employees accountable for poor performance or misconduct under 38 U.S. Code § 714. Due to these decisions, VA ceased using the authorities in 38 U.S. Code § 714 in April 2023. Similarly, due to fears of litigation, VA ceased using authorities Congress provided to the VA Secretary in 38 U.S.C. § 713 to efficiently hold senior executives accountable for poor performance or misconduct. The Committee will conduct oversight of VA's disciplinary processes to determine whether poor performing employees and employees who engage in misconduct are appropriately and timely held accountable. The Committee will also determine where laws can be reinforced, and Congressional intent clarified, to manifest a responsible workforce dedicated to VA's mission.

- *VISN Structure and Functions*—Veteran Integrated Service Networks (VISN) play a key role in VA Medical Center (VAMC) human resources, budgets, and staffing. All of which the Committee identified as problem areas in the 118th Congress. Through oversight trips and talking with whistleblowers, the Committee found the current VISN structure likely leads to inefficiencies and mismanagement. The Committee will review this structure to determine whether changes are needed to increase VISN awareness of VAMC operations, ensure VISN officials have clear job responsibilities, and ensure VISNs are appropriately handling and allocating resources.

- *Human Resources*—VA has centralized its human resources functions at the Central Office and VISN levels. In an effort to create uniformity, VA has hamstrung local VA directors trying to fill vacancies, slowed down the onboarding process significantly, and increased staff frustration with human resources. 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. The Committee will also examine whether VA is appropriately governing its personnel suitability program to ensure its employees can be entrusted with sensitive information and resources and are suitable to care for the nation's veterans.

- *Budget and Waste*—VA funding has doubled over the last decade, and staffing has increased by over 40 percent. The Committee will conduct oversight of waste, particularly in contracts, redundancies, and offices that produce little to no value, as part of a broader assessment of whether the VA's rate of growth has exceeded veteran demand, whether new initiatives merit investment, and how to implement a framework for reducing inefficiencies in underperforming areas. VA's annual contract spending has reached more than \$38 billion, and there are nearly as many VA support contractors as federal employees in many offices. The Committee, in concert with budget analysis and bureaucratic reforms, will aggressively investigate the reasons for the proliferation of contrac-



tors, the effectiveness of the massive contractor workforce, and whether the value gained matches the dollars spent. The Committee will also review how VA is managing its office space it no longer fully uses due to increased employee telework.

- *VA Supply Chain*—During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chains around the globe failed. Today, VA's medical supply chain is operational, but VA's efforts to create a more resilient supply chain have been unsuccessful. The Committee will build on its work in the 118th Congress by continuing to conduct oversight of the Executive Branch's effort to bring medical supply inventory for crisis response under the Department of Health and Human Services and VA's role in that effort. The Committee will also continue to ensure VA is following existing statutory requirements for medical supplies made in America including making sure VA is appropriately judicious in its *Buy American Act and Make PPE in America Act* waiver processes.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION

- *Information Technology (IT) Acquisitions and Management*—The Committee is concerned about VA's persistent IT management failures. Since 2019, the Government Accountability Office has placed VA acquisition management on its "High Risk List" as an area of VA that is particularly susceptible to waste, fraud, and abuse. The Committee is particularly concerned with VA's IT acquisition and governance with numerous ongoing enterprise IT projects that are overbudget, under-delivering, or have missed their implementation timeline. Committee oversight will focus on VA's requirements development process for IT acquisition and holding the Department, as well as contractors, accountable for appropriately managing the acquisition and development of VA IT systems.

- *Enterprise Technology Modernization Programs*—The Committee will continue overseeing the effectiveness of VA's major programs and projects to modernize technology and business operations.

- *Electronic Health Record Modernization*—VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization program has been attempting to implement the Cerner Millennium electronic health record system since 2018. EHRM's cost estimate for implementation has increased from \$16.1 billion over 10 years to \$38.9 billion over 13 years. The lifecycle cost exceeds \$50 billion over 25 years. The Committee will continue to engage with VA and Oracle Cerner on the status of individual technical improvements. The Committee's oversight will focus on assessing how VA is addressing the major system flaws that they have committed to fixing during the program's pause and assessing whether patient volumes at the six sites that are currently using the Cerner system have returned to pre-Cerner levels. The Committee will conduct in-person oversight visits at VA medical centers to assess their preparation for the transition to Cerner as necessary based on VA's implementation schedule.

- *Financial Management Business Transformation*—VA has been replacing its legacy financial system with the CGI Momentum system, branded as iFAMS, for more than four years.

Despite spending more than \$1 billion, the system has only been implemented in the National Cemetery Administration, small parts of the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the VA Central Office. The project's delays stem from dependencies on other modernization initiatives, unsuccessful attempts to modify and improve inferior modules within the system, and the unwillingness of many organizations within VA to cooperate and implement it. In addition to significant operational and budgetary hurdles, FMBT's primary contract expires in 2025 further complicating the project's future. The Committee supports VA's goal of improving its financial management software given the repeated findings of material weaknesses and significant deficiencies in VA's financial statement audit that are related to VA's legacy financial management software. The Committee's oversight will focus on re-examining the system's scope and schedule and VA's prospects for addressing its weaknesses and implementing iFAMS in VHA.

- Digital G.I. Bill—The Digital G.I. Bill (DGIB) project has completed six of nine planned software releases, automated processing of the majority of claims, and retired several legacy systems. The DGIB project's original cost estimate has nearly doubled from an initial estimate of between \$1.29 billion and \$1.88 billion to the most recent estimate of \$2.28 billion. The Committee's oversight will focus on assessing the success of future releases and avoiding additional cost overruns or timeline delays. The Committee's oversight will also include engaging VA and the contractor to hold them accountable for the project's success.

- Supply Chain Management Modernization—In 2024, VA abandoned the Supply Chain Modernization (SCM) project to unify the medical and nonmedical supply chains across VA. This was VA's second attempt to modernize its supply chain software, following the Department's failed attempt to implement the Department of Defense's Defense Medical Logistics Standards Support system. VA abandoned the SCM project after Committee oversight identified the project's overly broad objectives, unclear budgeting, and unresolved technical issues. The Committee considered legislation in the 118th Congress authorizing VA to pursue a narrower, targeted supply chain system for its medical center supply chain. The Committee believes that attempting to unify all VA's medical and non-medical supply chains in one large supply chain software acquisition is overly ambitious and inconsistent with procurement best practices. The Committee's oversight will focus on assessing VA's future plans to modernize its supply chain software and ensuring that they are appropriately scaled based on an accurate understanding of the Department's requirements.

- Veterans Benefits Management System—VA and its contractor began building the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) in 2013 as a custom application that originally computerized the intake and flow of paper benefit claim documents and evolved into a claims management platform. After years of employee complaints regarding the system's slowness and downtime, VA adopted a new strategy of “decomposing the

monolithic application into services” and “containerizing” its application on more modern software platforms in the cloud. The Committee’s oversight will focus on VA’s ongoing efforts to containerize different services within VBMS and their modernization efforts regarding work queue, correspondence, and exam modernization.

- **Human Capital Modernization**—In 2024, VA decided not to move forward with a nearly \$1 billion project to replace its human capital management software. VA appears to favor a strategy of “modernizing-in-place”, which involves making improvements to the existing system on an incremental basis. The Committee’s oversight will focus on gathering more information on VA’s new approach and assessing the modernization strategies that the Department employs.
- **Cybersecurity**—VA struggles to clear multiple repeat findings in the annual Federal Information Security Modernization Act audit, the annual financial statement audit, and OIG inspections. In addition, an independent cybersecurity assessment of VA was conducted in 2023 per the *Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022*. The assessment revealed a number of serious weaknesses in the five high-impact systems that were reviewed and reaffirmed many of the general findings that were reported by OIG. OIT’s cybersecurity approach is based on a “zero trust” model that assumes no user, device, or component should be trusted and emphasizes the need to verify anything and everything attempting to access the network. OIT has told the Committee that they apply zero trust cybersecurity principles through a risk-based approach where they prioritize mitigating vulnerabilities based on their risk level. VA’s cybersecurity budget was one of the few aspects of OIT that received a significant plus up in the fiscal year 2025 budget request, indicating the high priority that VA has placed on improving its cybersecurity posture. The Committee’s oversight will focus on making cybersecurity practices more consistent across VA, identifying new vulnerabilities caused by digitizing formerly manual processes, VA’s adjudication of vulnerabilities identified by OIG and the 2023 independent cybersecurity assessment, and keeping unapproved IT and medical devices off VA networks. The Committee will also continue to examine VA’s inability to identify what is on their networks at facilities and push to ensure that shadow IT is identified, and if possible, mitigated with enterprise solutions.
- **Community Care Scheduling**—VA is currently developing software tools allowing VA staff access to providers’ scheduling grids and schedule veterans’ health care appointments directly with community care providers. The External Provider Scheduling (EPS) project is in its early stages and has only been implemented in a handful of medical facilities. The early results indicate that EPS has the potential to be a significant time-saver for VA staff, allowing them to directly schedule community care appointments at a much higher rate than the legacy process. Scheduling more community care appointments in a day will significantly reduce the wait time for appointment scheduling. The Committee is concerned that EPS may be facing bureaucratic hurdles despite the positive initial results. The Committee will closely monitor VA’s management of

the EPS program, focusing on its implementation and at VHA medical centers and adoption by community care providers.

- *Internal Scheduling*—VA has three early-stage projects to modernize and improve scheduling within VHA facilities. These will take several years to finish and are currently not integrated with each other or the EPS project. VA plans to introduce software updates and additional features to these systems over the next two years. The Committee will monitor the progress of these projects and VA's long-term vision for integrating these projects.

- *Data Management and Privacy*—Veterans' data must be protected from loss, theft, and monetization. The Committee's oversight will examine the agreements and safeguards VA has in place with its technology vendors and partners, those vendors and partners' practices, and VA's track record of monitoring their activities and enforcing the safeguards. The Committee will also oversee errors by VA employees that expose veterans' protected data to loss, theft, or monetization.

- *Artificial Intelligence Adoption*—VA is rapidly moving towards integrating Large Language Models (LLM) and other AI technologies into various health care and benefits delivery services. The second order and third order effects of AI adoption include serious ethical and data privacy concerns as veteran data becomes a critical tool for developing and training LLMs. The Committee's first priority regarding AI will be protecting veterans' data privacy while simultaneously ensuring that it has an organized and consistent AI adoption strategy.

- *Information Technology and Office of Information & Technology*—The Office of Information & Technology (OIT) still struggles to meet the Department's IT needs. As the Department's IT footprint continues to grow, OIT officials have repeatedly testified that they lack the skilled workforce necessary to keep pace with their software patching, cybersecurity, and project management responsibilities. This is in spite of the Special Salary Rate (SSR) that OIT implemented in 2023 to improve recruitment and retention. Nonetheless, OIT has made incremental progress in addressing problems with small-scale IT systems, reconstructing or shelving misguided large IT projects, migrating applications to the cloud, and improving system uptime of critical systems and services. The Committee's oversight will focus on ensuring that OIT is managing and monitoring critical systems, properly managing IT contracts, and spending its budget wisely to balance competing development, staffing, maintenance, and cybersecurity priorities.

#### MANDATORY SPENDING

In accordance with clause 2(d)(2)(E) of Rule X, the Committee will work to limit unintended consequences of the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund, section 805 of P.L. 117–168, the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2022*. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Toxic Exposures Fund now encompasses programs or activities funded by the following accounts: Medical Community Care, Medical Support and Compliance, Medical Services, Medical and Prosthetic Research, Veterans Electronic Health Care Record, General Operating Expenses (VBA), General Administration, Information Technology, and Board of Veterans' Appeals. Therefore, por-

tions of these accounts which had been entirely discretionary may now become partially mandatory, and any legislation creating or modifying programs or activities funded by these accounts will receive a mandatory score. The Committee will continue to oversee the use of the Fund by VA to ensure that it supports PACT Act implementation, and the care of veterans exposed to toxic substances. The Committee will also continue to engage with the Budget and Appropriations Committees to assess the long-term impacts of the Fund and resolve any impediments to the Committee's ability to carry out its legislative responsibilities.

The Committee intends to evaluate VA programs to ensure that the agency and programs are operating cost-effectively and efficiently while fulfilling their statutory mission. This review will ensure compliance with congressional intent, assess program performance, investigate waste, fraud, and abuse, and gather information to support future policymaking.

## MINORITY VIEWS

Democratic Members of the Committee appreciate that oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has become increasingly complex in the last decade, due to expansion of care purchased from private-sector providers and the realization of the consequences of more than twenty years of global conflict. Sadly, the increases in defense spending for the Global War on Terror, which some estimates put as high as \$3.5 trillion, was never appropriately calculated as being part of the necessary spending increase for veterans' healthcare and benefits.

Our Republican colleagues cannot wish this fact away. Using the mechanisms of congressional oversight to undermine VA as an institution or to denigrate VA civil servants will achieve very little tangible improvements in healthcare or benefits delivery. Further, if the majority is so concerned with containing spending at VA and addressing inefficiencies, they should be just as willing to focus oversight on non-VA entities that receive significant taxpayer funding, to include for-profit healthcare providers and healthcare companies, information technology contractors, and pharmaceutical and durable medical equipment companies. To date, the majority has shown little appetite for this oversight, and their proposed oversight plan for the 119th Congress indicates more of the same. For these reasons, the Democratic Members of the Committee provide these minority views.

## BUDGETING

Throughout its oversight plan, the majority makes numerous references to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement of VA's budgetary resources. It is no secret that VA's budget has grown significantly since the start of the Global War on Terror. This should be expected, given the increase in veterans becoming eligible for VA healthcare and benefits, along with the needs of the aging population of veterans from earlier conflicts. In addition, VA's successful, expedited implementation of the Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022 (P.L. 117–168) has expanded VA healthcare and benefits to millions of veterans exposed to toxins and hazardous substances.

Committee Democrats strongly disagree with the Republican oversight plan's characterization of the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) ongoing budget shortfall for fiscal year (FY) 2025 as a "[failure] to manage its resources properly" and "budgetary mismanagement."<sup>1</sup> Nothing could be further from the truth.

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<sup>1</sup>In mid-July 2024, VA informed the Committee of expected funding shortfalls for both the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and VHA. At the time, VBA was facing a projected shortfall of \$2.883 billion for the current fiscal year (FY 2024), and VHA was facing a potential shortfall of \$11.971 billion for FY 2025. While Congress acted quickly to address the VBA shortfall, it has yet to address VHA's shortfall. On October 30, 2024, VA notified the Committee that it had reviewed its calculations at the conclusion of FY 2024 and determined that it would not have experienced a shortfall in VBA and in fact had carryover funding in addition to the funding

VHA still needs \$6.6 billion in additional funding for the current fiscal year, to support a higher rate of growth for care purchased from private-sector providers than previously projected, to complete medical facility equipment purchases that have been put off due to past budgetary constraints, to lease additional VHA clinical space, and to fill clinical staff vacancies. VHA also needs relief for cost pressures occurring in the pharmacy and prosthetics programs that were not anticipated when VA originally proposed its FY 2025 budget, in FY 2023.<sup>2</sup>

There is always room to refine budget estimates and tracking of expenditures. We should also seek greater efficiency and effectiveness in the programs we fund. However, Committee Republicans must accept that VA has used its authority under the PACT Act to expedite veterans' eligibility for VA healthcare and benefits, rather than dragging it out over eight years. This means veterans who were exposed to toxins no longer need a service-connected disability to enroll in VA healthcare, and it has allowed many veterans who were already enrolled to transition to higher-level priority groups. Our nation is finally making good on its promise to pay for the cost of war. The majority also must acknowledge the exploding cost of providing healthcare in this country, including the rising cost of prescription drugs and medical devices, and ensure VHA has the budgetary resources it needs to deliver world-class healthcare to veterans.

#### COST OF WAR TOXIC EXPOSURE FUND

The Cost of War Toxic Exposure Fund, established by the PACT Act, represents Congress's commitment to ensuring VA has the necessary resources to deliver the care and benefits promised to veterans. Any attempts to modify that fund, whether in scale or in purpose, as the majority has proposed, risks undermining VA's ability to properly treat and compensate veterans for toxic exposure. House Veterans' Affairs Committee Democrats refuse to renege on our promise.

If modification to the fund is to be made, it must be done with great care and coordination with stakeholders both in Congress and outside; i.e., veterans service organizations (VSOs) and other stakeholders. And there must be consensus among all those involved that the alteration does not fundamentally impede progress on addressing toxic exposure. In the 118th Congress, the majority introduced legislation addressing this issue that met none of those criteria.

More specifically, the legislation proposed by the majority last Congress would convert Cost of War Toxic Exposure Fund spending from mandatory to discretionary, cap expenditures into the fund below levels VA and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cur-

provided by the supplemental. VA also determined at the close of FY 2024 that its projected shortfall in FY 2025 for VHA would not be as significant as originally projected in July 2024. VA provided Congress its revised estimate for the FY 2025 VHA shortfall on Monday, November 25, 2024. VA is now projecting a shortfall of \$6.6 billion for VHA for FY 2025.

<sup>2</sup>In 2009, through the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act (P.L. 111-81), Congress authorized VA to receive advance appropriations for medical care programs. Since then, Congress has appropriated funds for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) one year in advance of the FY in which they will be used. Therefore, funds for FY 2025 were originally requested in FY 2023.

rently predict are necessary, and sunset the fund after 20 years. This risks us returning to a time when veterans' programs were forced to compete with other domestic, discretionary spending for prioritization.

Additionally, caps will impair VA's ability to expand the rolls of those to which it is providing healthcare and benefits. The addition of any significant new cohorts of veterans, or new toxic exposure presumptive illnesses, could quickly outstrip the statutory rate of growth in the Cost of War Toxic Exposure Fund as proposed by the majority's previous bill.

The legislation proposed by the majority also narrows the "purposes" of the Cost of War Toxic Exposure Fund, further restricting what it may be used for, and adds several new reporting requirements. This is done because the majority views the Cost of War Toxic Exposure Fund as a "slush fund", and feels VA is using it for expenditures not permitted by the law. And while we strongly support oversight of federal spending in general, and Cost of War Toxic Exposure Fund spending specifically, we disagree with the majority's characterization of the Cost of War Toxic Exposure Fund and feel that VA has strong internal controls over spending from the fund.

Regarding the "TEF Tax" in CBO scoring: CBO estimating a mandatory score for legislation that would have had previously only had a discretionary one, did not prove to be an impediment to passing legislation last Congress, as the majority purports. Rather, House protocols imparted by the majority's leadership that are extraneous to the rules of the House, required offsetting of both mandatory *and* discretionary spending. It is our anticipation that the majority will continue with this practice in the 119th Congress. As such, CBO ascribing any portion of a bill's score as mandatory and attributable to the Cost of War Toxic Exposure Fund is inconsequential, as the entire cost of a bill (mandatory and discretionary) must be offset.

Committee Democrats remain committed to delivering on the promise of the PACT Act, both for current veterans and future generations. The PACT Act was not intended to be "one and done," but rather a mechanism for addressing current and future needs. We will not support legislation that reneges on that promise. The Committee has yet to receive input from other committees that would have jurisdiction over legislation on this topic. And we have not received any testimony from VSOs and other stakeholders as to the implications of this proposed legislation. As such, Committee Democrats encourage the majority to step back from their efforts to radically alter the Cost of War Toxic Exposure Fund, and recommit to seeking consensus both within Congress and with stakeholders, on how to address what issues, *if any*, have arisen out of the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund.

#### IMPROPER PAYMENTS

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Democrats generally agree with the majority's desire to conduct thorough and necessary oversight into VA improper payments, be they overpayments, underpayments or payments to ineligible beneficiaries. Irrespective of governing philosophy or spending priorities, being a good steward



of taxpayer dollars is a goal for every Member of Congress. And given the sheer volume of benefits and healthcare claims processed by VA, any percentage of error no matter how small, will be magnified and could have a significant real-dollar impact.

As such, it is incumbent that we work with VA to minimize improper payments, making restitution to beneficiaries when necessary. Similarly, VA should work diligently at collecting debts where appropriate. However, care must be taken to avoid penalizing veterans and other beneficiaries who may have been receiving greater than warranted payments through no fault of their own. We have seen in recent years several instances of systemic VA issues leading to significant amounts of overpayments. However, veterans and beneficiaries should not be punished for VA errors, doubly so for those who may be low income or elderly.

#### TIMELINESS OF PROCESSING OF BENEFITS CLAIMS

Committee Democrats also agree that the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee should continue to focus on the accurate and timely processing of benefits claims, including upon appeal to both the Board of Veterans Appeals and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Veterans deserve no less. Additionally, we agree that robust oversight should be conducted into the information technology systems that are utilized to process claims and manage caseloads. These systems are in dire need of updating, have lagged far behind IT development in other functions at VA, and are plagued with bugs and prone to failure, which impairs the ability of employees to fully function.

Nevertheless, under the Biden-Harris Administration VA and its dedicated employees processed record numbers of disability claims, awarded a higher percentage of those claims, and delivered record amounts of disability compensation and other benefits to veterans and other beneficiaries. And that has happened in record time, avoiding the large claims backlogs of the past.

Committee Democrats also appreciate the majority's mention of the new "Presumptive Decision Process" created by the PACT Act. This new expedited process for evaluating and approving new presumptions of service-connected disability is a powerful and important new tool. We stand ready to work with the majority to ensure that the incoming Administration is utilizing it to the fullest. We must continue to address the legacy of toxic exposure among servicemembers and their families, both domestically and abroad. And we must not let concerns about cost deter us from our sacred obligation to provide for our servicemembers when they become veterans.

#### BENEFITS DISPARITIES

What is glaringly absent from the majority's plans for the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee in the coming Congress however, is any mention of work to address the alarming levels of disparities in benefits awards among veterans of color, women veterans and LGBTQIA+ veterans. Numerous reports by the Government Accountability Office, VA Office of the Inspector General, and VA's Center for Minority Veterans have all documented the existence of systemic disparities among these groups of

veterans. VA also has been undertaking a root-cause analysis to identify why they persist. Accordingly, it is vital that the Committee and the DAMA Subcommittee continue to investigate the existence of these disparities, and work with VA to eliminate them. Claims processing should be without bias, and VA should strive to deliver for all veterans.

#### COMMUNITY CARE

In its oversight plan, the majority expresses considerable concern about veterans' access to "community care" providers; i.e., private-sector healthcare providers who furnish care at VA's expense. Completely absent from the majority's plan are any plans to oversee the cost or quality of care veterans receive from these providers.

The growth in VHA's community care budget since the first Trump Administration implemented new wait-time and drive-time access standards in 2019 is alarming. In fiscal year 2018, the year before these new access standards were implemented, VHA spent about \$10 billion on community care. Last year, in FY 2024, VHA's community care expenditures totaled about \$37 billion.

In March 2024, VHA released a "Red Team" report, detailing the challenges the agency faces in increased community care utilization and spending. The "Red Team" was assembled by VA's Under Secretary for Health and consisted of a bipartisan panel of nationally recognized healthcare experts who assessed VHA's existing strategies and made recommendations to improve management of VA's community care program. The Red Team found that while community care is an important strategy for serving veterans when needed services are not readily available in VA's direct care system, the costs of such referrals has risen so dramatically in recent years that they threaten the funding needed to support VA's direct care system.

During the 118th Congress, the majority failed to convene a single oversight hearing that examined the cost or quality of care veterans are receiving through VA's community care program. Across numerous Congresses, Republicans have stymied Democratic efforts for greater oversight and accountability of community care providers, while continuing to advocate for policies that would push more veterans care outside of VA. For instance, real-time information about the timeliness and quality of community care is generally not available to veterans who are deciding where to get their care, and academic research shows that private-sector care is often no more timely or otherwise accessible, nor of superior quality to that of the care offered by VA.

#### PARITY OF BENEFITS FOR GUARD AND RESERVE MEMBERS

The majority outlines several goals related to improving education benefits and outcomes for returning veterans; however, they fail to offer support for the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act, which is the top education priority for several of the largest VSOs. This legislation would ensure fairness for Guard/Reserve members when earning Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits.

In the post-9/11 era, the Reserve Component (defined as the Army and Air National Guards, and the Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, and Coast Guard Reserves) have become an integral part of

the United States' national defense plans as an Operational Reserve, a change from their traditional role as a Strategic Reserve. However, personnel and benefits policy has not kept pace with changes in operational roles. This is putting unfair strain on servicemembers, employers, and families.

There are increasing instances of servicemembers from the Active and Reserve Components serving next to each other, doing the same job, running the same risks, but receiving different pay and benefits. With the Reserve Component engaged in more training and operations, which carry inherent risk due to its role as an Operational Reserve, we are seeing an increase in major accidents and fatalities among Reserve Component service members.

This legislation has the support of the Student Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, the National Guard Association of the United States, and Veterans Education Success, among others. This legislation has bipartisan support in the House and Senate and has passed on the House floor in the 117th Congress with an overwhelming bipartisan roll call vote.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

We agree with the majority that the Committee should focus oversight efforts on issues pertaining to VA's workforce. However, we disagree with the majority's assertion that doubling down on their previously failed, unconstitutional tactics of stripping away due process rights from VA employees will provide meaningful change in the organization. We believe VA could benefit from improvements to supervisor training, performance management, and a more robust human resources function, but no organization can be improved by mass firing and demoralization.

We expect the majority will move quickly to pass their flawed Restore VA Accountability Act ("Restore Act"), their latest attempt to authorize removal of VA employees without due process. As the majority concedes in its Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress, its previous attempts during the first Trump Administration to dismantle the VA workforce were challenged in the courts and ultimately found to be unconstitutional subversions of the due process rights afforded to federal employees. There is evidence that throughout the Trump administration, the 2017 law was used disproportionately to fire thousands of lower-level employees, and only rarely to rid VA of managers or senior leaders who engaged in misconduct and poor performance. Litigation arising from the problematic 2017 law resulted in settlements with employees totaling over \$150 million, a cost footed by taxpayers. We expect the authorities in the Restore Act to be similarly challenged and scrutinized by the courts, resulting in more taxpayer dollars being wasted on the majority's attempts to undermine the federal workforce.

Further, throughout the 118th Congress, the majority initiated several investigations into alleged wrongdoing of VA employees, in an attempt to justify their Restore Act. In each of those cases, VA had already initiated investigations appropriately and was in the process of disciplining employees when misconduct was substantiated following a thorough investigation. The majority failed to demonstrate that their Restore Act would have improved or accel-

erated VA's disciplinary process or would have changed outcomes in any particular matter.

#### CIVIL SERVICE PROTECTIONS

The Committee should focus oversight on ensuring civil service protections are working as intended for the VA workforce. Over a third of the VA workforce are veterans themselves. However, there is already discussion about the Trump Administration's plans to reinstitute so-called Schedule F reclassifications, the result of which would be the weakening of civil service protections for employees across VA. Many federal employees have certain rights that allow them to perform their jobs free from political pressure. These protections do not prevent agencies from firing poor performers—they ensure that agencies do not unfairly discriminate or retaliate against their employees. Under Schedule F, VA could unilaterally reclassify huge numbers of its employees into this new category with fewer protections, making it easier for a president or political appointee to fire them, even without good reason. They could then be replaced en masse with partisan loyalists, exponentially increasing the number of civil servants hired primarily based on their political allegiance, rather than their professional qualifications. This policy could impact tens of thousands of employees across VA.

Committee Democrats are committed to protecting and strengthening civil service protections for the hundreds of thousands of employees who care for our Nation's veterans.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION

VA continues to struggle in its efforts to modernize its information technology systems. It has become apparent the issues are systemic, with most of the programs suffering from the same issues: poor requirements development, insufficient change management, ineffective governance, among other issues. To date, the Committee's oversight efforts have focused on the individual programs; treating the symptoms rather than the disease. The Committee should consider retooling its efforts to focus on the higher-level issues, in an effort to improve VA's modernization efforts.

Additionally, the federal government in general, but especially VA, has a long history of underfunding IT and physical infrastructure as mission-driven requirements take precedent. It makes little sense to put new, modern IT programs on VA's aging IT infrastructure, and even less sense to expect efficiency from a workforce using tools way beyond their service lives. The committee should focus its efforts on ensuring VA personnel have the best, and most up-to-date, tools available to support their efforts to provide care and benefits to veterans.

Finally, VA needs to be able to attract, hire, and maintain a highly qualified IT workforce. That starts by offering a competitive wage and speeding up the hiring process. VA will struggle to get the highest caliber of talent if they cannot compete with salaries offered elsewhere, and very few people are willing to wait the six months or more it takes to get hired at VA. The Committee should pay special attention to the issues impacting IT workforce hiring and retention to ensure that VA has highly qualified and com-

petent staff to manage and modernize its aging systems and infrastructure.

MARK TAKANO,  
*Ranking Member.*

JULIA BROWNLEY,  
*Ranking Member, Sub-*  
*committee on Health.*

CHRIS PAPPAS,  
*Ranking Member, Sub-*  
*committee on Economic*  
*Opportunity.*

SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK,  
*Member.*

MORGAN MCGARVEY,  
*Ranking Member, Sub-*  
*committee on Disability*  
*Assistance and Memorial*  
*Affairs.*

DELIA RAMIREZ,  
*Ranking Member, Sub-*  
*committee on Oversight*  
*and Investigations.*

NIKKI BUDZINSKI,  
*Ranking Member Sub-*  
*committee on Technology*  
*Modernization.*

TIMOTHY KENNEDY,  
*Member.*

MAXINE DEXTER,  
*Member.*

HERB CONAWAY,  
*Member.*

KELLY MORRISON,  
*Member.*



# COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

## OVERSIGHT AND AUTHORIZATION PLAN

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, January 14, 2025.*

Hon. JAMES COMER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. BRYAN STEIL,  
*Chairman, Committee on House Administration,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER AND CHAIRMAN STEIL: 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 119th Congress.

### I. Oversight

#### Matters under the Committee's Federal Budget Jurisdiction

- **Economic and Budget Outlook.** Oversight hearings and other activities with various Administration officials to discuss the President's budget proposals, 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 Priorities.** Hearings and other activities related to expiring provisions form the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). Discuss and consider appropriate tax relief for families, individuals and employers of all sizes.

- **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 119th Congress.

- **Tax Provisions in Public Laws Enacted During the 116th and 117th Congresses.** Continue hearings and other activities regarding implementation of and provisions in the following public laws: *Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Public Law 116-127; Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136; Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, Public Law 116-139; Consolidated Appropria-*

*tions Act, 2021, Public Law 116–260; American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117 2; and Inflation Reduction Act, Public Law 117–169.*

- **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 oversight over major operating areas of the agency to ensure the nation’s tax laws are being administered in a fair and impartial manner, particularly given the use of what was originally an infusion of \$80 billion in additional mandatory funding on top of the agency’s annual budget. Consider analyses and reports provided to the Congress by the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), and the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). Oversight of IRS funding and staffing levels needed to provide taxpayer assistance and enforce the tax law effectively and efficiently and modernize IRS information technology systems. Evaluate tax return filing seasons, including electronic filing, improper payments levels, identity theft, and fraud prevention efforts.

- **IRS Audit Selection Procedures.** Oversight of the processes the IRS uses to select individuals and groups for audit. Continue coordination with the GAO regarding ongoing audit work assessing IRS audit selection procedures and safeguards across all IRS business units. Evaluate the impact of IRS audit selection procedures on taxpayers making \$400,000 or less, particularly in connection with the additional mandatory funding for the agency provided in 2022.

- **Tax-Exempt Organizations.** Oversight of Federal tax laws, regulations, and filing requirements that affect tax-exempt organizations, particularly charities, foundations, and political groups operating as social welfare organizations. 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. This review comes in the context of the involvement of tax-exempt groups in the troubling explosion of antisemitism in the United States following the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas terrorists.

- **Tax Code Burdens.** Oversight of tax code and tax form complexity, particularly for individuals, families, farmers, and small businesses, 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. This includes evaluation of the \$600 threshold for 1099–K reporting imposed in the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117–2*. Evaluate simplification of information returns to assist taxpayers in determining taxable income.

- **Tax Scams and Improper Payments.** Oversight of the latest tax scams, tax shelters, and tax fraud activities with a goal of protecting taxpayers and preventing identity theft. Examine IRS initiatives and efforts to curb, and remedy 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 and Related Trust Funds.** Oversight review of Federal excise taxes, credits, and refunds, including the trust funds financed by these taxes.

- **International Tax Negotiations.** Oversight of the Administration's multilateral tax negotiations, including the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development Pillar I and Pillar II/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

- **Security of Taxpayer Information.** Oversight of the IRS and other federal agencies and their contractors that have access to confidential taxpayer information protected under Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code. Examine leaks of confidential taxpayer information in recent years to determine how these egregious leaks occurred and evaluate whether congressional action is needed to make sure such leaks do not happen again.

#### **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 119th 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 2025 and 2026 budgets.

- **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, promotion of value-based care models; program benefits; cost sharing; workforce supply; the doctor-patient relationship; quality improvement efforts; and waste, fraud, and abuse.

- **Medicare Advantage.** Oversight of Medicare Advantage health plans, including: enrollment; reimbursements; benefit packages; quality; beneficiary choice; and recent statutory and regulatory changes affecting Medicare Advantage 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 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; benefit design; and improving the program's long-term sustainability.

- **CMS Administration.** Oversight of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), including issuance of regulations and their impact on Medicare beneficiaries and providers; the beneficiary impact of Medicare coverage policies for drugs and devices; the adequacy and use of CMS' budget and staff; contracting activities; communications with beneficiaries; adherence to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA); and general agency accountability.

- **Private Health Insurance Coverage.** Oversight and review of private health coverage, including: affordability; robust access for individuals and employers; use of federal subsidies to purchase insurance; innovative benefit design and coverage options; the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA); health savings accounts, flexible spending arrangements, and health reimbursement arrangements; and options to reduce the cost of health insurance coverage and address the increasing rate of health care costs.

- **Surprise Medical Billing.** Oversight of the surprise medical billing ban that was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116–260. Specifically, to ensure patients are protected from paying more than their insurer’s network rates for specific charges, patients have access to the full suite of health care transparency protections guaranteed in the law, and to ensure that the arbitration process is implemented in line with the law and Congressional intent.

- **Prescription Drug and Medical Device Innovation and Availability.** Oversight of the implementation of prescription drug provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act, Public Law 117–169, including the impact on patient access to—and affordability of—new cures. Oversight of the federal policies or regulatory barriers that can be either strengthened or removed to promote innovation in payment and benefit design for curative therapies. Oversight of federal policies or regulatory barriers that promote and lead to shortages of critical pharmaceutical products and medical devices.

- **Rural Health.** Oversight of the Department of Health and Human Services programs and payment systems targeted at improving rural health outcomes and access disparities.

- **Health Care Workforce:** Oversight of the graduate medical education (GME) policies put in place in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116–260 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Public Law 117–164, including oversight of the GME slot formula and impact on rural communities.

- **Opioids/Substance Use Disorder.** Oversight of the implementation of any changes to Medicare payment policy in the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, Public Law 115–271, and continued support for patients affected by substance use disorder.

#### **Matters under the Committee’s Work and Welfare 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 accountability and performance of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, providing access to affordable child care, and other support services to help individuals enter the workforce, retain employment, and move up the economic ladder. As part of this process, ensure that programs are rigorously evaluated and held accountable for achieving measurable performance goals based on outcomes, including improving work and earnings outcomes for adult recipients. Also review opportunities to prevent duplication, overlap, and fragmentation, to improve the overall effectiveness of the social safety net. Promote the dignity of

work by examining associated barriers to increasing self-sufficiency among low-income families with children and adult beneficiaries who face barriers to employment.

- **Unemployment Compensation.** Provide oversight of the nation's unemployment compensation benefits system, including efforts to identify and recover billions in fraudulent unemployment benefits paid during the COVID-19 pandemic by extending the statute of limitations and incentivizing states to pursue fraudsters. Prevent future fraud by stopping the "pay and chase" model of benefit delivery. Examine ways to modernize state unemployment insurance systems, including through examination of the financing of state administration, to enhance capacity for verification of identity, employment and earnings history of individuals applying for benefits, strengthen cybersecurity, prevent inappropriate benefit payments, improve overpayment recovery, and accelerate returns to work.

- **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 implementation of the *Family First Prevention Services Act*, enacted in 2018, and efforts to promote adoption, strengthen family connections, support grandparents, relatives, and other kinship providers, and successfully address the health and educational needs of foster children. Examine opportunities to improve economic opportunity for youth transitioning out of foster care into adulthood, including through mentorship and strengthening connections to work through multiple career pathways. Review state policies pertaining to children in foster care who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or Social Security Survivor's Benefits to improve transparency and accountability.

#### **Matters under the Committee's Social Security Jurisdiction**

- **The Future of Social Security.** Examine the role of Social Security benefits for retired and disabled workers and their dependents. Explore the financing challenges facing Social Security, options to strengthen Social Security, and the cost of delay for today and tomorrow's workers and beneficiaries.

- **The Social Security Administration's (SSA) Service to the Public and Effective Administration of Benefits.** Examine the SSA's ability to serve the public, and provide the correct payment to the correct individual in a timely manner.

- **Social Security Disability Adjudication.** Examine the SSA's disability claims adjudication and appeal processes, options to strengthen the Disability Insurance program, and improve work incentives.

- **Deployment of Resources.** Oversee the SSA's deployment of resources to serve the public and taxpayers, including the development of modern service delivery approaches, contract and vendor management, and the SSA's role in supporting other federal programs through interagency and data sharing agreements. Identify and reduce instances of waste, fraud, and abuse.

- **Implementation of Legislation.** Oversee the SSA's implementation of legislation, including reforms in the collection and dis-

tribution of death data and reforms in the representative payee program.

- **Information Technology, Cybersecurity, Identity Theft, and Fraud.** Oversee the SSA's investments in information technology, including modernization efforts, cybersecurity at the SSA, and the prevention of imposter fraud and identity theft involving, and misuse of, Social Security numbers.

### **Matters under the Committee's Trade Jurisdiction**

- **Trade Negotiations.** Fully exercise Congress' constitutional role and oversight responsibilities regarding existing and new trade negotiations. Ensure the Administration's compliance with statutory Congressional notification, consultation, and transparency requirements for all trade negotiations. Possible consideration of other legislation to reassert Congressional prerogatives on trade policy.

- **Enforcement.** Oversight of enforcement of trade agreements, including the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), other bilateral and regional free trade agreements, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements, to hold U.S. trading partners accountable and render commitments secured from trading partners meaningful. Particular oversight of enforcement of USMCA commitments on agriculture, energy, and digital trade. Oversight of the administration of U.S. trade remedy laws, as well as enforcement related to U.S. intellectual property rights, import safety, and illegal transshipment.

- **China.** Oversight of issues related to systemic problems in U.S.-China trade, including issues related to China's consistent lack of protection and enforcement of U.S. intellectual property rights; excess production capacity for steel, aluminum, and many other commodities; indigenous innovation requirements; use of industrial subsidies; export restraints on key products; high level of government intervention including through state-owned enterprises; and currency policies.

- **Tariff Policy.** Oversight over the use of tariffs, including those imposed under Section 232 of the *Trade Expansion Act of 1962* and Section 301 of the *Trade Act of 1974*. Analysis of the goals and effectiveness of such tariffs.

- **Implemented Trade Agreements.** Oversight of the impact and effectiveness of, and possibility for updates to, implemented agreements with Colombia; Panama; Peru; Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (i.e., CAFTA-DR); Oman; Bahrain; Singapore; Chile; Australia; Morocco; Jordan; Canada and Mexico (USMCA); and Israel.

- **Trade Remedies.** Oversight and promotion of the enforcement of the trade remedy laws, in compliance with the legal and evidentiary requirements established by Congress. Oversight of implementation of the *Enforce and Protect Act of 2015* by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to address trade remedy evasion and ensure CBP's compliance with the law as written.

- **Preference Programs.** Oversight and consideration of reforms and updates to major U.S. trade preference programs, including the Generalized System of Preferences, the *African Growth and Opportunity Act*, the *Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act*, and

the *Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act*.

- **Agriculture.** Oversight and promotion of Administration efforts to increase enforcement and remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to markets for U.S. agriculture, including non-science based sanitary and phytosanitary measures and barriers to agriculture biotechnology. Continued analysis and assessment of the benefits of agriculture exports to U.S. farmers, ranchers, small businesses, workers, and rural communities, and the need to increase U.S. agriculture exports.

- **Manufacturing.** Oversight and promotion of Administration efforts to increase enforcement and remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to markets for U.S. manufacturing. Continued analysis and assessment of the benefits of manufacturing exports to U.S. manufacturers and their employees.

- **Services.** Oversight and promotion of Administration efforts to increase enforcement to remove barriers to the U.S. services sector. Analysis and assessment of the broad benefits of services to all sectors of the U.S. economy.

- **Digital Trade and E-commerce.** Oversight regarding trade barriers faced by U.S. manufacturers, service providers, and the agriculture sector in digital trade and e-commerce, particularly with respect to data issues (localization measures and data flows) and digital services taxes.

- **WTO Oversight.** Oversight of U.S. goals in the WTO, including reform proposals, negotiations, the functioning and reform of the dispute settlement system, and WTO accessions. Analysis of the impact of WTO membership for the United States, including the U.S. experience and record in WTO dispute settlement, the role of a rules-based system for U.S. producers, workers, farmers, small businesses, and consumers, and the cost of non-compliance or lack of compliance by other WTO members with WTO rules.

- **Trade Sanctions.** Oversight concerning import sanctions with, among others, China, Iran, Russia, Belarus, North Korea, Syria, and Cuba. Possible consideration of additional trade sanctions legislation.

- **Priorities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).** Oversight over USTR to evaluate priorities for the 118th Congress and the trade agenda, and to assure its statutory role with respect to trade policy. Oversight over trade advisory committees.

- **Priorities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).** Oversight over CBP and implementation of Customs revenue functions. Oversight of the implementation of the *Trade Facilitation and Enforcement Act of 2015* to ensure that the enforcement tools provided in the bill are being fully utilized by CBP, including provisions relating to evasion of trade remedy laws and forced labor. Oversight of the implementation of the *Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act*. Possible consideration of legislation to update CBP's authorization.

- **Priorities of the U.S. Department of Commerce.** Oversight of the Department of Commerce concerning priorities and operations related to international trade, including trade enforcement

(particularly antidumping, countervailing duty, and Section 232 tools) and supply chain resilience.

- **Priorities of the United States International Trade Commission.** Oversight over the Commission concerning overall priorities and operations.

## **II. Authorization of Programs within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means**

The Committee's review of authorizations within its jurisdiction will include, but not be limited to, the following programs:

- Work incentives planning and assistance program, \$23 million.
- State grants for work incentives assistance, \$10 million.
- Title IV–A of SSA, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (mandatory): authorized at \$16.4 billion.
- Title IV–E of SSA, Adoption Incentive and Legal Guardianship Payment to States (discretionary): authorized at \$43 million.

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 Committee's oversight priorities and particular concerns may change as the 119th Congress progresses over the coming two years.

Sincerely,

JASON SMITH,  
*Chairman.*

