

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
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**Ranking Member Joe Morelle (NY-25)**  
**Full Committee Markup**  
**Opening Statement Prepared for Delivery**  
**March 11, 2025**

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I want to thank the Chairman for calling this meeting to consider a number of important pieces of institutional legislation that enhance committee capacity and protect one of the core Constitutional responsibilities of the House of Representatives.

As we recently established during our series of funding hearings, we must make sufficient investment in our committees that allows them to hire and retain smart, dedicated staff and enables the execution of their respective missions under House Rules.

This investment is particularly important as we enter a post-*Chevron* deference world of legislating and the burden of drafting and enacting technical and complicated regulations shifts from executive branch agencies to Congress and our staffs.

In what I will charitably describe as a “chaotic” start to this administration, we must also ensure committees are able to exercise rigorous oversight as we endeavor to maintain the separation of powers that our federal government is predicated upon.

The omnibus committee expense resolution we are considering today accomplishes that. And while we’re on the topic of committee capacity building, we’ll also determine allocations for funding for committee interns, an important tool that provides personnel flexibility to committees as we recruit and train the next generation of public servants. Additionally, we will authorize financial allocations for official communications — or “franked mail” — from committees.

I also want to thank the Chair for docketing the dismissal of five deficient and frankly frivolous election contests.

The Constitution vests the House with the ultimate determinative authority of who can be seated as a Member, and that responsibility is further bequeathed to this Committee by the Federal Contested Elections Act. It is vitally important to the health of our democracy that we do not entertain contests that fall short of the requirements of the statute and dismiss them expeditiously.

With that, I support the pieces of legislation on the agenda today, urge my colleagues to do the same and I yield back.

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