



## **Ranking Member Morelle Opening Remarks During Day 1 of Committee Funding Hearings for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress**

The following remarks were prepared for delivery during the Committee on House Administration full committee hearing on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. ET. The hearing titled, “Part 1: Committee Funding for the 119th Congress” took place in room 1310 of the Longworth House Office Building.

“Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding to me and also for convening this series of hearings.

“The committee funding process is truly one of the more unique aspects of House Administration's duties, and I look forward to hearing from our fellow committee leaders today and tomorrow as we undertake this important process.

“The committee system is the hallmark of the United States Congress. The committees are where we exercise critical oversight, where we craft and debate policy proposals, and where we decide what to recommend to the broader House for consideration.

“The work is oftentimes not glamorous. It is certainly not easy. It is, however, fundamental to our system of representative government.

“Article One of the United States Constitution is clear about powers granted exclusively to Congress, including the power of the purse.

“Article One, Section One, all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

“Article One, Section seven, clause one, all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives.

“Article One, Section nine, clause seven, no money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law.

“It is important to remind the American public, the executive branch, and even some of our colleagues here in Congress, that unless the Constitution is amended, Congress is still the only authorizer and appropriator of federal public money, and as an appropriator, and I share that with a number of members here, we take this to heart.

“We've witnessed over the past three weeks, federal agencies that implement our laws are under an unchecked assault of questionable legality, and while assault is ongoing, it's important we give House committees the resources they need to execute their responsibilities, while what little separation of powers remain.

“For years, the bipartisan Select Committee on Modernization and our own Subcommittee on Modernization, led ably by my friend Ms. Bice has documented Congress's desperately needed infusion of resources, capacity and expertise.

“Whatever you believe about the Supreme Court's decision to end Chevron deference in a series of decisions last year, if you like me, think it's a badly misguided or others who feel it's appropriate, you cannot avoid the impact of how it impacts our work here in the Congress.

“These decisions, together with what seems like an endless assault on the federal government's regulatory authority in the last several weeks, makes adequate committee funding even more imperative.

“You'll recall experts from across the ideological spectrum stressed that a hearing before this committee just a few months ago, relative to Chevron that Congress must now craft laws with more technical expertise than ever before.

“Effective law making is dependent upon this expertise, and it does not come without significant investment.

“Committees also need to be adequately supported in their exercise of legitimate oversight.

“Oversight jurisdiction is one of the most effective tools we have in affirming the co-equal branch and status of the legislative Article One, responsibilities.

“I personally still believe in the powers and responsibilities of the Congress, which is why I'm glad we're having these hearings today and tomorrow.

“Though the federal government is being systematically dismantled by an unelected billionaire, and the foundational principle of checks and balances erodes more by the day, I'm hopeful we will stop it, not as Republicans and Democrats, but as public servants and members of Congress who swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution.

“With that I yield back.”

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