

Ranking Member Joe Morelle (NY-25)
Committee on House Administration
Full Committee Markup
“Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 119th Congress”
February 25, 2025, at 10:00 am
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery

I want to thank Chairman Steil for calling this meeting to consider the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan, and for providing the opportunity to submit our minority views.

While we have some major disagreements, we also agree on a great deal. I’m looking forward to continuing to work in a productive, bipartisan way to bolster and modernize the House so we can effectively assert the Article I authority vested in us by the Constitution.

As Congressional committees go, the Committee on House Administration may be small—but we punch way above our weight. We are stewards of this institution and oversee virtually every aspect of Congressional operations. Every day, we make decisions on how best to:

- Safeguard Congress with the Capitol Police and Sergeant at Arms;
- Facilitate a productive workplace with the Chief Administrative Officer;
- Consider legislation with the Clerk and Legislative Counsel;
- Administer elections with the Election Assistance Commission;
- And so much more with a broad array of agencies and offices across the Legislative Branch.

We can have a profound impact on how the House—and, as a result, our nation—address our most challenging issues.

But we can’t do that without the work of what I consider one of Congress’s greatest assets: our nonpartisan institutional staff.

In my first two years as Ranking Member of this Committee, I had the good fortune of getting to know institutional staff that included Capitol Police officers, skilled craftsmen, cybersecurity experts, auditors, food service staff, and tour guides, just to name a few.

I want to make sure these public servants who work so hard behind the scenes know they are appreciated and valued.

The plan we are considering today serves as a roadmap that will help us ensure these institutional staffers—along with all of us that make up the Congressional community—are both put in a position to succeed and held to the standards befitting the United States Congress.

Once again, I thank the Chairman for allowing us to submit these minority views, and for convening this meeting.

I yield back.

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