COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION 118th CONGRESS

A RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 118-14

Resolution to Approve the Committee's Views and Estimates

Be it resolved, pursuant to § 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and clause 4(f)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee adopts the following views and estimates for Fiscal Year 2024:

Committee on House Administration

FY 2024 Budget Views and Estimates

Introduction:

The Committee on House Administration oversees the internal operations of Congress. This includes the Architect of the Capitol, United States Capitol Police, the Government Publishing Office, the Library of Congress, the Chief Administrative Office of the House, and the House Sergeant at Arms, among other various Legislative Branch offices and initiatives. In addition, the committee oversees the administration of federal elections to ensure integrity, security, and access.

Over the past two Congresses, the Committee has failed to maintain regular order and hold accountable those who administer over \$3 billion of federal spending.

During that time, Congress has experienced enormous upheavals and institution-altering events that are sure to affect the long-term operations of the House and Senate.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, untold numbers of spending were made under prior leadership of the House and Senate without meaningful, transparent accountability of how those dollars were spent.

The January 6th Attack on the Capitol forever reimagined the threats posed to Congress, and it revealed systemic issues in the Capitol Security apparatus in training, intelligence, administration, and leadership.

For these reasons, the Committee on House Administration is committed to getting House back to regular standing order with a focus on oversight and accountability during this Congress.

The Committee's goal is to rebuild the House; a House that is accountable, open, accessible, transparent, professional, modern, and resilient.

The Committee has jurisdiction over federal elections and maintains responsibility to conduct thorough oversight of the conduct of elections to federal office across the country.

The Committee's priority is to ensure that the Congress maintains the constitutionally mandated order of the States' primary authority to set election law and administer federal elections and Congress' limited, secondary role, which is explained more fully in the Committee's Staff Report entitled *The Elections Clause: States' Primary Authority over Elections*, which the Committee published last Congress.

To this end, the Committee will re-engage in oversight and legislative work to ensure that the federal agencies involved in this space are good stewards of federal taxpayer dollars and effectively achieve against the metrics laid out for them by Congress.

U.S. Election Assistance Commission

- EAC was established a little over twenty years ago with a mission to assist state and local election officials with the administration of federal election.
- The agency's core responsibilities are to provide a testing a certification program for voting equipment, administer Help America Vote Act grants, and serve as a nation clearinghouse for election administration information.
- The committee appreciates the role the EAC has in assisting our state and local election officials and lauds the agency's successful efforts during the coronavirus pandemic and in the adoption of a new set of voluntary voting system guidelines, VVSG 2.0 last year.
- The Committee is pleased that the EAC installed a new Inspector General and want to ensure the EAC OIG office has sufficient funding to conduct investigations and audits as required under HAVA.
- Last EAC oversight Hearing was held by this Committee was in the Spring of 2019.
- At that hearing, the EAC made a request for increased funding to support additional human capital that the agency stated was necessary to continue to fully support its statutory obligations and programs.
- Since that time, the EAC received unprecedented levels of grant funding for disbursement to states as a result of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic and to increase the security of our elections.
- Specifically, the EAC received \$380 million in Election Security Grants in 2018, \$825 million in 2020 in Election Security Grants and CARES ACT, and \$75 million at the end of FY 2022.
- A formal request was made by the former Ranking Member of this Committee to the previous Chair of this committee to conduct the general and regular oversight hearings for the agency. To our dismay and surprise our request was declined.
- The Committee has not been afforded the opportunity to conduct proper and routine oversight of the EAC over the past four years.
- We recognize that with the additional grants appropriated to the EAC the increased engagement the area of election security in recent years, and expenses associated with relocation of its headquarters from Maryland back to Washington, DC an increase in EAC's operational budget was needed, however its budget has more than doubled in over the past five years.
- EAC has not been granted any new statutory authority since its establishment in 2002, and it remains unclear to the Committee the necessity for another significant increase in funding for its operations, to include 13 additional FTE positions.
- The Committee needs to better understand the justification for a 144% increase in FTEs requested from FY 2020 to FY 2023 and how it is critical to fulfill its mission as prescribed by HAVA.

- For these reasons, the Committee cannot support such a dramatic increase in funding requested by the agency. The Committee supports the mission of the EAC and will resume its oversight responsivities to ensure that the agency is a good steward of taxpayer dollars, meeting its obligations as set forth in HAVA, and its efforts are beneficial to the election community.
- While it can be assumed that the rapid and sizable increase in funding can be justified by recent security and support measures taken to support states after interest in and scrutiny surrounding elections drastically escalated following the 2020 Presidential Election, it is still of great interest to the Committee what precisely is the cause.
- The FEC during the FY 2020 to FY 2023 period has only modestly increased funding relative to the EAC (~16%), when adjusted for inflation based on CPI-U, their funding has *decreased*.

Federal Election Commission

- The First Amendment protects the right of all Americans to state their political views and donate money to the candidates, causes, and organizations of their choice without fear of retribution.
- The Federal Election Commission plays an important role as it is the governmental body responsible for enforcing laws impacting our First Amendment right to political speech.
- The Committee is pleased that the agency is operating with a full complement of commissioners, especially with the level of federal campaign activity anticipated in a presidential election cycle.
- As with all budget requests, we expect the FEC to allocate the funding and resources it receives to ensure proper and thoughtful oversight of our federal campaign finance system.
- The relatively small increase in the agency's budget request the past 10 years appears to comport with the funding needed to fulfil its statutory mission while accounting for inflation.
- The last time the FEC has appeared before this Committee to inform the members of the status of its agency operations was in 2019. The Committee plans on reengaging the agency and the Inspector General's office so ensure we are conducting appropriate oversight.

The Legislative Branch

The Committee supports the responsible and transparent use of taxpayer dollars, and supports the allocation of resources to enhance the capabilities and modernize the functions of the Legislative Branch. A strong Legislative Branch is essential to support and serve the American people, and to ensure proper oversight of the Executive Branch.

To accomplish this goal, the Committee plans to:

- Partner with House Officers to implement more cost effective and efficient operations within the House.
- Hold accountable the Architect of the Capitol, United States Capitol Police, House Sergeant at Arms, the Capitol Police Board, and other Legislative Branch entities.
- Implement plans that enhance the security of the Capitol campus for the House community, Members, and visitors of the Capitol.
- Coordinate the reauthorization of House entities with the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations to ensure transparency and accountability in House operations.
- Coordinate more effective and wholistic oversight of the Legislative Branch through better partnership with the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations.

- Conduct thorough oversight of the resources dedicated to post-January 6th security improvements across the Capitol campus to ensure accountability and increase transparency regarding the use of taxpayer dollars.
- Partner with House Officers and entities across the Legislative Branch to identify and implement actions that increase effectiveness and reduce costs.
- Coordinate with the Speaker and Officers of the House to facilitate more opportunities for Americans to engage with Congress.
- Oversee the implementation of the House Officers' strategic plans to increase Legislative Branch entities' efforts to recruit and retain a professional, skilled workforce.
- Examine proposals to increase the recruitment and retention of Americans from across the United States to work in Congress.
- Partner with entities across the Legislative Branch to continue the development of training programs to ensure the highest level of service to American people.
- Coordinate the development and implementation of the House Officers' and officials' strategic plans for the financial and administrative wellbeing of the House.
- Empower and support entities across the legislative branch in implementing recommendations made by their relevant Inspector General.
- Support the continued coordination among Legislative Branch entities to offer modern, effective support services to build a comprehensive district office support program, including IT, security, and administrative services.
- Coordinate support for implementing best practices regarding the adoption, review, testing, and improvement of IT security policies and services across all Legislative Branch entities.
- Oversee the coordination of services across the House entities to ensure Committees may host field hearings across the country and U.S. territories safely and effectively.
- Partner with House Officers and Officials to establish courses of action to address all outstanding Inspector General recommendations, management advisories, and initiatives.
- Strengthen the cybersecurity of the House through close coordination with the House Officers' and other Legislative Branch entities through continued development of defensive measures, including adoption of programs, IT security policies, training initiatives, and best practices.
- Continue coordination with House Officers to develop predictable, realistic financial and administrative goals with clear paths for implementation both in the short- and long-term.

Minority Views

Introduction

The Committee on House Administration (Committee) Minority appreciates the invitation to provide Minority Views on the Committee's views and estimates report (Views and Estimates). Traditionally, Views and Estimates are submitted after the release of the President's Budget. This year, however, the Committee on the Budget requested Views and Estimates prior to the release of the President's Budget, making it difficult to provide views for agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction with budget justifications included in the President's Budget, like the Federal Election Commission and Smithsonian Institution. As such, the specific views discussed herein are subject to change pending release of the President's Budget.

As a preliminary matter, the Committee Minority is deeply troubled that Speaker Kevin McCarthy, at the behest of extremists in the Republican Conference and as a means of securing the Speakership,¹ provided "unfettered access"² to tens of thousands of hours of sensitive Capitol security footage to Tucker Carlson. Mr. Carlson is a Fox News entertainer who regularly uses his platform to peddle in conspiracy theories, who has referred to the January 6, 2021, attack as a false flag operation,³ and who even Fox News has acknowledged in federal court should not be considered an objective source of information.⁴ As stated by a federal judge when granting the Department of Justice's motion for a protective order covering the footage,

"[P]roviding unfettered access to hours of extremely sensitive information to defendants who have already shown a desire to interfere with the democratic process will result in the layout, vulnerabilities and security weaknesses of the U.S. Capitol being collected, exposed and passed on to those who might wish to attack the Capitol again'... The Government has thus shown that maintaining the confidentiality of USCP's footage is vital to protecting the Capitol—especially as to those who have sought to attack it."⁵

The Committee Minority also intends to develop and implement recommendations, so this type of dangerous breach does not happen again.

Federal Elections

Election Assistance Commission (EAC)

¹ See, e.g., Sahil Kapur, *Tucker Carlson, with video provided by Speaker McCarthy, falsely depicts Jan. 6 riot as a peaceful gathering*, NBC News (March 6, 2023), <u>https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/tucker-carlson-new-video-provided-speaker-mccarthy-falsely-depicts-jan-rcna73673</u> ("Carlson acquired the tapes as part of a push by McCarthy, R-Calif., to win the speaker's gavel. When McCarthy was struggling to gather the votes to lead the House, Carlson used his program to list two 'concessions' he could make to win over far-right Republicans. 'First, release the January 6 files. Not some of the January 6 files and video — all of it,' Carlson, the most-watched host on cable news, said after McCarthy faced three failed votes. 'So that the rest of us can finally know what actually happened on January 6, 2021.' In the two months since McCarthy won the gavel, he has granted both."). ² Rebecca Shabad, *Tucker Carlson says he has access to 44,000 hours of Jan. 6 video*, NBC News (February 21, 2023), <u>https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/tucker-carlson-says-access-44000-hours-jan-6-video-footage-rcna71642</u> ("'So there are about 44,000 hours, and we have, you may have read, been granted access to that,' Carlson said on his prime-time show. 'We believe that access is unfettered. We believe we have secured the right to see whatever we want to see.'").

³ Meryl Kornfield and Jacqueline Alemany, *McCarthy gives Tucker Carlson exclusive access to Jan. 6 riot video*, The Washington Post (Feb. 21, 2023), <u>http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/02/21/tucker-carlson-kevin-mccarthy-jan-6-insurrection/</u> ("House Speaker Kevin McCarthy [R-Calif.] has provided exclusive access to a trove of U.S. Capitol surveillance footage from the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection to Fox News host Tucker Carlson, who has played down the deadly violence that occurred that day and claimed it was a 'false flag' operation."). ⁴ Memorandum in Support of Defendant's Motion to Dismiss, McDougal vs. Fox News Network, LLC, 489

F.Supp.3d 174 (S.D.N.Y. 2020) (No. 29 Civ. 1:19-cv-11161).

⁵ Memorandum Opinion, U.S. v. McCaughey & Stevens (D.D.C. April 21, 2021) (No. 39 1:21-cr-0040) (*quoting* Declaration of Thomas A. DiBiase [No. 26 1:21-cr-0040]).

Since its inception in the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) has provided support to states and election officials at all levels.

The EAC is funded through two accounts – one covering salaries and expenses and another providing for Election Security Grants to states. For FY 2022, the EAC's budget was \$20 million in operating funds, including \$1.5 million made available to NIST—a \$3 million increase in overall funding from FY 2021. In FY 2023, the EAC received a budget of \$28 million in operating funds, including \$1.5 million made available to NIST and a \$1 million allocation to the competitive Help America Vote College Program for poll worker recruitment. With its budgetary increases, the EAC has continued to modernize operations, increased the scope of its work, and increased its staff-size to match. The EAC onboarded 10 employees in 2022, representing a 20 percent increase in agency personnel, including Senior Election Subject Matter Expert, Compliance Officer, Grants Specialist, Finance Specialist, Contractor Officer Representative (COR), Director of Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program, Election Technology Specialist, and several Senior Election Technology Specialists. The EAC now has 55 full-time employees including the Commissioners.

Since 2018, the EAC has administered \$880 million in HAVA Election Security funds—\$380 million in 2018, \$425 million in 2020, and \$75 million in 2022—as well as an additional \$75 million from FY 2023 and \$400 million in HAVA funds appropriated under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The funds appropriated in 2018 were the first time since 2010 that Congress provided funding for federal election administration. In FY2021, the EAC made the grants program into a standalone office to reflect the importance of its function to the agency.

Additionally, in February 2021, the EAC approved the new Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0—the most significant update to the voting standards since the adoption of the original VVSG in 2005. In 2022, the EAC commissioners voted unanimously to approve the accreditation of two national labs as Voting System Test Laboratories (VSTL) to test voting systems to VVSG 2.0 standards.

The agency has also done significant work in enhancing election security, both physical and cyber security, assisting election officials and voters, promoting accessibility, highlighting best practices, working with sister agencies and stakeholders, combating mis- and disinformation, and more. To best continue fulfilling its mission, the agency should be fully funded.

The Committee Minority supports fully funding the EAC.

Federal Election Commission (FEC)

The Federal Election Commission is an independent regulatory agency responsible for administering, enforcing, defending and interpreting the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA).

The FEC is currently funded by a single annual appropriation for salaries and expenses. For FY 2022, the FEC received \$74,500,000 for salaries and expenses, an increase over the prior year's funding. For FY 2023, the FEC received \$81,674,000, nearly the entire request level. For FY 2023, the FEC's funding level requested more than a 9 percent increase from its FY 2022 appropriation. The funding level reflects a needed increase after flat funding in FY 2021, operating under an extended continuing resolution during FY 2022, and essentially flat funding for FEC operations between FY 2016 and FY 2021. Funding at this level allows the agency to fill many high-priority positions that were not filled over the past 10 years and utilize these positions to better serve the public. The funding also allows the FEC to maintain essential support functions, as well as contribute to its ongoing efforts to modernize its IT infrastructure and realize the attendant future efficiencies of these efforts.

FY 2023's funding will support the agency's disclosure mission during FY 2023 and in future years. Currently, the FEC receives campaign finance reports, statements and other disclosure documents from more than 16,000 political committees and other filers. During the 2020 election cycle, these filers reported more than 600 million financial transactions, which were reviewed by FEC staff and disclosed to the public on the FEC's website. This is more than double the number of transactions reported in the previous election cycle, and a nearly 400 percent increase compared to 2016, the last presidential election cycle.⁶

Changes in the way political committees raise and spend funds have contributed to this stark increase in the number of transactions disclosed to the FEC. This ever-growing volume of campaign finance disclosure data must be received, processed, and made available to the public within the agency's tight deadlines for public disclosure, and must be safeguarded to ensure the integrity and accessibility of the information.⁷

FY 2023's funding level helps the FEC face challenges in processing and reviewing historically high levels of campaign finance disclosure information, while satisfying an increased demand for customer service and data information requests from the public. FY 2023 funding helps the agency modernize applications essential to processing and reviewing campaign finance disclosure information. The agency has moved these applications to the cloud and now needs to modernize them to fully utilize all the advantages of the cloud.⁸

FY 2023 funding allows the agency to fund government-wide mandates and cybersecurity requirements and to sustain basic operations and maintenance, fund existing IT contracts that support the agency's mission, and continue work on ongoing projects, such as eFiling and IT modernization.⁹

The Committee Minority supports fully funding the FEC.

The House of Representatives and Legislative Branch Agencies

A summary of the Committee Minority's views on the House and Legislative Branch agency budgets are below. For a more exhaustive list of the Minority's priorities, please refer to the Minority Views section of the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan for the 118th Congress.

The Committee Minority agrees with the Majority that a strong Legislative Branch is essential to serve the American people and provide oversight of the Executive Branch. The Minority also associates itself with the Majority's goal of a House that is accountable, open, accessible, transparent, professional, modern, and resilient. The Minority is proud that, in addition to ensuring the Legislative Branch could fulfill its basic constitutional duties, Committee Democrats marshalled unprecedented reforms to the House during the 116th and 117th Congresses. These reforms improved the ability for the House to recruit and retain top talent and provided Members and staff with tools to perform their jobs more effectively, strengthening the institution. Advances included, among others:

- Creating the House Office of Diversity and Inclusion and House Office of Whistleblower Ombuds;
- Imposing a \$45,000.00 pay floor for full-time House staff;

⁶ Fed. Election Comm'n FY 2023 Budget Justification at 2, Fed. Election Comm'n, available at https://www.fec.gov/resources/cms-

content/documents/FEC_FY23_CBJ_March_28_2022.pdf#:~:text=SUMMARY%200F%20FY%202023%20BUD GET%20JUSTIFICATION,-

The%20Federal%20Election&text=For%20the%20fiscal%20year%20(FY,the%20FEC's%20FY%202022%20appropriation.

⁷ Id.

⁸ *Id.* at 3. ⁹ *Id.* at 4.

- Decoupling of Member and staff pay;
- Raising the staff pay cap;
- Increasing the lifetime maximum for the Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) and exempting SLRP payments from the pay cap;
- Adopting regulations recommended by the nonpartisan Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) providing for unionization and collective bargaining for House staff who choose to exercise such rights;
- Adoption of regulations recommended by OCWR relating to application of rights under the Family and Medical Leave Act and Fair Labor Standards Act for House staff;
- Extending the House Paid Internship Program to committees;
- Raising the maximum allowable compensation for interns;
- Growing committee capacity by increasing committee funding;
- Expanding the Congressional Staff Academy;
- Launching the CAO Coach Program;
- Creating the House Human Resources Hub;
- Enlarging the House Child Care Center; and
- Increasing the capacity of the Office of Employee Assistance.

The House of Representatives

The House of Representatives account includes funding for salaries for officers and employees of the House, including the Clerk, Sergeant at Arms, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds, Office of the Inspector General, Office of General Counsel, Office of the Parliamentarian, Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House, Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House, and the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, allowances for the compensation of interns, funding for modernization initiatives and other allowances and expenses.

The Committee Minority supports an increase to this account so the Committee may continue its efforts described above. These efforts build institutional capacity, improve employee recruitment and retention, and allow Congress to better serve the American people.

In particular, the Committee Minority asks for robust funding for the House Modernization Initiatives Account. This account is used to implement the bipartisan recommendations set forth by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress during the 116th and 117th Congresses. The Committee's Subcommittee on Modernization looks forward to working with House stakeholders to further implement the recommendations and provide valuable return on investment for the institution.

Architect of the Capitol

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is the builder and steward of the buildings and grounds of Capitol Hill. Among the agency's many areas of expertise are architecture, engineering, electrical, gardening, historic preservation, masonry, mechanics, painting, and visitor services.

The AOC is seeking \$1,128,086,000 for FY 2024, which is a 14.5 percent decrease from the FY 2023 enacted level. The Committee Minority supports this request. Important activities, programs, and initiatives associated with this funding request include, but are not limited to:

- Continuing restorations, repairs, and security improvements necessitated by the January 6, 2021, attack at the Capitol;
- National searches to hire a new permanent Architect and Deputy Architect;
- Improving agency diversity, particularly among senior leadership;
- Phase IV of the Cannon House Office Building Renovation Project;
- Sustainability efforts, including initiatives to reduce energy consumption and waste in the Capitol Complex; and
- Closing open AOC Inspector General recommendations.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress (Library) is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, photographs, recordings, newspapers, maps, and manuscripts in its collections. It is also home to the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the U.S. Copyright Office.

The Library is seeking \$895,204,000 for FY 2024, which is an eight percent increase from the FY 2023 enacted level. The Committee Minority supports this request. Important activities, programs, and initiatives associated with this funding request include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing access to the Library and its collections, particularly though the Visitor Experience Initiative and renovations to the Thomas Jefferson Building;
- CRS operations, including diversity/inclusion, staff morale, attrition rates, work conditions, resource allocation, and administrative support for subject matter experts;
- Continued modernization of the Copyright Office, including development and implementation of the Enterprise Copyright System;
- Continued modernization of the Library's information technology, consistent with guidance from the Government Accountability Office;
- Activities of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, including efforts to increase the number of users and plan a move to a new physical headquarters; and
- Closing open Library Inspector General recommendations.

Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Institution is a quasi-federal agency consisting of museum, education, research, and revenue generating entities with facilities and activities across the United States and world. Founded by Congress in 1846, the Smithsonian is governmental in nature but organizationally separate and distinct from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. Approximately 70% of the Smithsonian's budget comes from federal appropriations, while 30% comes from private support.

Unfortunately, the Budget Committee requested the views and estimates presented herein prior to the release of the President's Budget, which includes the Smithsonian Institution. While the Minority cannot, therefore, opine on the budget request, it does support robust funding for the Smithsonian, particularly with respect to the construction of the National Museum of the American Latino and American Women's History Museum. Both museums were authorized through the efforts of Committee Democrats during the 116th and 117th Congresses, and the Minority is committed to ensuring both museums take their rightfully places on the National Mall. In addition, the Minority supports robust funding for:

- Efforts to improve workplace culture, particularly at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI);
- Efforts to protect Smithsonian facilities and collections from the effects of climate change, including implementation of the Smithsonian's Climate Change Action Plan;
- Continued renovations at the National Air and Space Museum;
- Expansion of the Smithsonian Affiliates Program;
- Initiatives to improve diversity at the Smithsonian, both at senior employment levels and in exhibits/collections; and
- Efforts to improve access to the Smithsonian through traveling exhibitions and digital resources.

Government Publishing Office

The Government Publishing Office (GPO) is a legislative branch agency responsible for producing, procuring, cataloging, indexing, authenticating, disseminating, and preserving the official information products of the Federal Government. Such information products include the official publications of Congress and the White House, passports, and the official publications of other Federal agencies and the courts.

GPO is seeking \$129,854,000 for FY 2024, which is a two percent increase from FY 2023 enacted levels. The Committee Minority supports this request. Important activities, programs, and initiatives associated with this funding request include, but are not limited to:

- Digitization of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP);
- Continued work related to the Committee Print Project;
- XPub system development;
- Enhancing cybersecurity based on an evolving threat environment; and
- Continuing improvements to govinfo, including new content collections, enhanced accessibility, and improved discoverability of hosted information; and
- Meeting Congressional printing requirements.

United States Capitol Police

The United States Capitol Police Department (Department) is responsible for policing the Capitol Buildings and Grounds under the direction of the Capitol Police Board. This includes protecting Members, staff, visitors, and facilities so that Congress can fulfill its constitutional and legislative responsibilities safely, securely, and transparently.

The Department is seeking \$840,942,000 for FY 2024, which is a 14.5 percent increase from FY 2023 enacted levels. The Committee Minority supports this request, which brings the Department's funding levels in line with the supplemental security bill passed by the House during the 117th Congress without any Republican votes. Important activities, programs, and initiatives associated with this funding request include, but are not limited to:

- Continued overhaul of the Training Services Bureau, including opportunities for in service training and leadership training, as well as procedures for quality control;
- Expansion of the Howard C. "Howie" Liebengood Center for Wellness;
- Efforts to improve security for Members of Congress outside Washington, DC, including in their districts and in transit;
- Improving recruitment and retention so that all authorized officer slots are filled;

- Increasing the Department's intelligence capabilities and competencies;
- Continued improvements to relationships with National Capitol Region law enforcement partners;
- Replacing outdated or ineffective equipment; and
- Continued use of contract security officers to augment the Department's workforce.

Office of Congressional Workplace Rights

The Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) was established to administer the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA). Its mission is to advance workplace rights, safety, and health for employees in the legislative branch, as well as ensure accessibility for members of the public.

OCWR is seeking \$8,549,646 for FY 2024, which is a six percent increase over FY 2023 enacted levels. The Committee Minority supports this request. Important activities, programs, and initiatives associated with this funding request include, but are not limited to:

- Confidential advising;
- Hearings and mediations;
- Safety and health inspections;
- Unfair labor practice investigations;
- Americans with Disabilities Act investigations; and
- Improvements to cybersecurity capabilities.