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AUTHORIZATION AND OVERSIGHT PLANS

FOR ALL

HOUSE COMMITTEES

BY THE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Required by House Rule X, Clause 2)



APRIL 15, 2021.—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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 15, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: In accordance with to Rule X (2) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the oversight plans of each specified standing committee together with recommendations to ensure the most effective coordination of such plans and otherwise achieve the objectives of the House Rules.

CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
Chairwoman.

Union Calendar No. 5

117TH CONGRESS *1st Session* | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT 117–17

OVERSIGHT PLANS FOR ALL HOUSE COMMITTEES WITH ACCOMPANYING RECOMMENDATIONS

APRIL 15, 2021.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Ms. CAROLYN B. MALONEY, from the Committee on Oversight and Reform, submitted the following

R E P O R T

OVERSIGHT IN THE 117TH CONGRESS

RECOMMENDATIONS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

I. OVERVIEW

Conducting oversight is a core responsibility of Congress under the Constitution. It is through the oversight function that Congress performs its role as a check on abuses by the other branches of government. Oversight is also critical to Congress's legislative function. It is Congress's responsibility to utilize the oversight process to review, monitor, and supervise the implementation of public policy to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the nation's laws, as well as to recommend improvements to those laws.

As the Supreme Court recognized more than 60 years ago in *Watkins* v. *United States*:

> The power of the Congress to conduct investigations is inherent in the legislative process. That power is broad. It encompasses inquiries concerning the administration of existing laws as well as proposed or possibly needed statutes. It includes

surveys of defects in our social, economic or political system for the purpose of enabling Congress to remedy them.[1]

The Supreme Court recently reaffirmed the importance of Congress's investigatory power in *Trump* v. *Mazars* stating, "Without information, Congress would be shooting in the dark, unable to legislate 'wisely or effectively.'"[2] In its decision in Mazars, the Supreme Court cited *Watkins* and affirmed that Congress's investigatory powers are indeed "'broad' and 'indispensable.'"[3]

It is by conducting oversight that the 117th Congress will identify ways to lower health care costs for the American people, increase wages for working families, and fix the nation's crumbling roads, bridges, and infrastructure.

It is by conducting oversight that Congress will ensure that taxpayer funds go to the programs and services for which they are intended. In fiscal year 2020, the federal government made $6.6 trillion in outlays to fund operations and programs.[4] Congress has a responsibility to conduct oversight to ensure that those funds are protected from waste, fraud, and abuse.

Oversight will also enable Congress to root out government corruption, strengthen democracy by countering threats to voting rights and election security, and provide transparency to improve ethics laws and ensure that government officials are working in the public's interest.

Congressional oversight makes a tangible impact. For example, nine investigations conducted by the Committee on Oversight and Reform in the 116th Congress saved American taxpayers nearly $5.8 billion. While the Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives, the various standing House committees each play an important role in conducting oversight on matters within their respective jurisdictions.

House Rule X, Clause 2, recognizes Congress's critical oversight duties by establishing a process whereby each standing committee is required to adopt an oversight plan at the beginning of a new Congress. Under this rule, the Committee on Oversight and Reform is to review the various plans and, in consultation with the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader, report to the House the oversight plans along with any recommendations that the House leadership and the Committee may have to ensure effective coordination. Pursuant to this rule, the Committee on Oversight and Reform has reviewed and consulted with House leadership about the oversight plans of the standing House committees for the 117th Congress. These plans outline a thoughtful and thorough approach for carrying out Congress's oversight responsibilities. The oversight agendas of the various House committees address a broad array of priorities focused on developing policy solutions for working families.

The Oversight Committee makes the following recommendations regarding coordination of oversight in the House of Representatives.

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[1] *Watkins* v. *United States,* 354 U.S. 178, 187 (1957).
[2] *Trump* v. *Mazars* USA, LLP, 140 S. Ct. 2019, 2034 (2020).
[3] *Id.*
[4] Government Accountability Office, *GAO's 2021 High-Risk Series: Dedicated Leadership Needed to Address Limited Progress in Most High-Risk Areas* (GAO–21–119SP) (Mar. 2, 2021).

The Committee recommends that all committees draw on the wide variety of available oversight resources in their ongoing efforts to evaluate oversight needs and priorities. The Government Accountability Office (GAO), in particular, has vast experience both in conducting and evaluating the need for oversight. On March 2, 2021, GAO issued its biennial "High-Risk Report," which identifies government programs that are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud, or abuse.[5] Since its first iteration in 1990, the High Risk Report "has focused attention on government operations with greater vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, or that are in need of transformation to address economy, efficiency, or effectiveness challenges."[6] GAO has determined that addressing high-risk issues highlighted by its work has saved the federal government nearly $575 billion since 2006.[7] Approximately $225 billion in savings were achieved just in the last two years.[8]

Agency inspectors general are another valuable resource for congressional oversight, and can provide guidance to Congress through their audit plans, investigations, and individual counsel. According to the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE):

> In FY 2019, approximately thirteen-thousand employees at seventy-three OIG [Office of Inspector General] conducted audits, inspections, evaluations, and investigations . . . result[ing] in significant improvements to the economy and efficiency of programs governmentwide, with potential savings totaling approximately $40.8 billion. CIGIE further reported: "The potential savings total includes: $29.2 billion in potential savings from audit recommendations, and $11.6 billion from investigative receivables and recoveries."[9]

Finally, the task of ensuring accountability and appropriate policies on complex issues often requires the participation of multiple committees. Based on their respective jurisdictions and experience, different committees can lend varying types of expertise to the evaluation of a given matter. The oversight plans submitted by the standing committees for the 117th Congress recognize that a number of key issues demand scrutiny by several different committees. With respect to these issues, committees and subcommittees should coordinate to ensure that they share the benefits of their findings and unique expertise. When appropriate, committees should also consult the Committee on House Administration and Committee on Ethics if any questions arise regarding appropriate use of House resources and the standards of conduct applicable to members and staff.

Part II below contains examples of important areas identified by committees for which these recommendations may be instructive.

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[5] *Id*.

[6] *Id*.

[7] Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Hearing on the 2021 GAO High-Risk List: Blueprint for a Safer, Stronger, More Effective America* (Mar. 2, 2021).

[8] *Id*.

[9] Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, *Annual Report to the President and Congress* (Fiscal Year 2019) (online at www.ignet.gov/sites/default/files/files/FY19_Annual_Report_to_the_President_and_Congress.pdf).

II. EXAMPLES OF KEY OVERSIGHT AREAS

CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

The recent outbreak and global spread of the coronavirus necessitated extraordinary measures to respond to the crisis. To date, tens of millions of Americans have been infected, and more than half a million have succumbed to the virus. The impact of the pandemic has been wide-ranging and devastating. The broad impact of and response to the crisis require broad oversight to be coordinated among House committees.

In April 2020, the House established the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, a subcommittee within the Committee on Oversight on Reform, to "conduct a full and complete investigation" of "the use of taxpayer funds and relief programs to address the coronavirus crisis," "preparedness for and response to the coronavirus crisis," "the economic impact of the coronavirus crisis," and other issues related to the pandemic.[10] The Select Subcommittee was reauthorized in the 117th Congress to continue its robust oversight and ensure the nation's ongoing response to the pandemic is effective, efficient, and equitable. The Select Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight to detect and root out waste, fraud, and abuse in pandemic-related relief programs, contracts, and loans. The Select Subcommittee will also conduct investigations on topics such as political interference with the pandemic response, the development and distribution of coronavirus vaccines, the acquisition and distribution of critical supplies, the impact of the pandemic on nursing homes and residents, and the implementation and efficacy of federal programs aimed at addressing the economic and financial impacts of the coronavirus crisis.

In consultation with the Select Subcommittee, the full Committee on Oversight and Reform will examine the effectiveness and equity of our national response to the coronavirus pandemic and ensure the appropriate expenditure of taxpayer funds. The full Committee will also examine whether federal resources are being used to promote transparency into the pandemic's disproportionate impact on marginalized populations—including people with disabilities—and to prioritize science in policymaking in order to better prepare our country to confront future pandemics.

The Committee on Agriculture plans to monitor the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on rural communities, farmers, ranchers, food and farmworkers, agriculture and food supply chains, zoonotic surveillance, and domestic and international hunger. The Committee will review federal food assistance programs to ensure efforts are equitable across sectors and will examine support for socially disadvantaged producers.

The Committee on Budget will examine budgetary measures related to rescuing an economy damaged by the coronavirus pandemic. In so doing, the Committee will evaluate the effects of the pandemic and the associated government response across the various sectors of the U.S. economy.

The Committee on Education and Labor plans to conduct oversight of efforts to ensure that students, teachers, workers, and their families are adequately protected during the coronavirus pan-

[10] H. Res. 935, 116th Cong. (2020); H. Res. 8, sec. 4(f), 117th Cong. (2021).

demic. As part of this work, the Committee will assess the effectiveness of federal agencies' coronavirus pandemic policies at high-risk worksites. Additionally, the Committee will monitor the administration of child nutrition programs during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce will review pharmaceutical manufacturers' efforts to develop and produce coronavirus vaccines, as well as the federal government's role in supporting those efforts and ensuring equitable distribution of the vaccines. The Committee will also continue to examine issues related to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) producing and disseminating reliable public health data and information, and efforts by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to review, authorize, and approve drugs, vaccines, and devices in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

The Committee on Financial Services plans to conduct oversight of housing protections and relief programs established during the coronavirus pandemic in order to ensure proper implementation, compliance with fair housing and fair lending laws, and equitable treatment of the hardest-hit communities. The Committee will review the effectiveness of eviction and foreclosure moratoria and mortgage forbearance in keeping people safely housed and will examine how consumers have been affected by the pandemic.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs plans to examine the ongoing effects of the coronavirus pandemic on broader global health efforts. The Committee will conduct oversight on global health security efforts, including infectious disease surveillance and control and strengthening of health care systems.

The Committee on Homeland Security will conduct oversight of the role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in responding to the coronavirus pandemic. The Committee will focus on monitoring FEMA's work with the CDC and other federal agencies to coordinate with state, local, tribal, and territorial entities and the private sector to assist with coronavirus vaccine distribution.

The Committee on Natural Resources will examine the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Indigenous Peoples. The Committee will conduct oversight of the Indian Health Service's coronavirus pandemic response and will review its ability to maintain the health and well-being of tribal communities during the pandemic. The Committee will also conduct oversight activities to ensure tribes and insular areas receive the resources needed to address the coronavirus pandemic and other emergencies.

The Committee on Science, Space and Technology plans to examine how scientific integrity failures may have contributed to the coronavirus pandemic's severity in the United States and will evaluate strategies for addressing future outbreaks of infectious disease. The Committee will also examine how the vast societal and economic changes forced by the coronavirus pandemic have temporarily affected global environmental air quality and consider implications for environmental management strategies going forward.

The Committee on Small Business plans to monitor the Small Business Administration's (SBA) spending and efforts related to the coronavirus pandemic response and fully account for

coronavirus pandemic-related appropriations. The Committee will conduct oversight of programs to provide emergency stimulative capital to small businesses, including programs designed to provide small businesses access to federal coronavirus pandemic support resources.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure plans to continue to review the unique impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the U.S. aviation industry and will conduct oversight of the implementation of relief programs for airlines, airports, and other aviation stakeholders. The Committee will examine the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on surface transportation networks, including Amtrak. In addition, because the coronavirus pandemic has changed the way federal workers utilize real property, the Committee will examine changes the coronavirus pandemic will have on federal workspace.

The Committee on Veterans Affairs plans to conduct oversight of efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to address the delays in medical disability exams and the backlog of claims resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. The Committee will also examine the Veterans Health Administration's response to the pandemic, the long-term health of veterans who were diagnosed with COVID–19 and potential ongoing impacts of delays in care, and mental strain due to the increased stress and isolation caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Committee on Ways and Means plans to conduct oversight of the implementation of tax provisions designed to address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and will review the nation's unemployment compensation benefits and financing systems, including the temporary programs enacted during the coronavirus pandemic. The Committee also plans to conduct oversight on the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the Social Security Administration's services.

The Committee on Armed Services will review the Department of Defense's (DOD) role in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. The Committee also plans to conduct oversight of DOD's science and technology investments in countermeasures to adversary capabilities and emerging threats, such as infectious diseases and biotechnologies.

The Committee on House Administration will oversee collaboration among House Officers and other Legislative Branch entities with respect to the House of Representatives' response to the coronavirus pandemic. The Committee plans to oversee legislative process adjustments necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic and will also review other issues related to the coronavirus pandemic, such as member, congressional staff, and U.S. Capitol Police Department testing and vaccination.

HEALTH CARE

The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the longstanding need for Americans to have equitable access to affordable health care. The nation's health care system continues to be one of the most expensive in the world. In particular, prescription drug prices continue to impose tremendous burdens on patients, taxpayers, and the entire health care system. While more than 20 million Americans gained health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act

(ACA) and Medicaid expansion, millions of Americans still lack coverage.[11] The Biden Administration has taken several initial actions to make health care coverage available for millions of additional people, lower premiums, and address racial heath inequities. Legislation has been introduced in the House to further address these issues. House committees will continue to conduct coordinated oversight aimed at lowering health care costs, ensuring access to care, and reducing health disparities.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce plans to examine the availability, affordability, and quality of health care, including the implementation of the ACA and the Medicaid program; the roles of the National Institutes of Health and FDA in the discovery, development, and delivery of innovative medications; and initiatives to address high prescription drug prices and other medical costs. The Committee will also examine efforts to address the opioid epidemic and the health impacts caused by gun violence in our communities. In addition, the Committee will investigate racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality as well as the appropriate collection of demographic data related to health and health care.

The Committee on Ways and Means will conduct oversight of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the administration of the Medicare program. The Committee will continue to examine the implementation of the ACA and review issues related to private health coverage, including surprise billing and prescription drug prices. The Committee will also conduct oversight of the quality of care delivered to nursing home patients.

The Committee on Armed Services will conduct reviews of military health policies, including TRICARE benefits, wounded warrior programs, and policies to address opioid use. The Committee will also conduct oversight of the ongoing reform efforts at military treatment facilities.

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs will work to improve health care provided to veterans by conducting oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to develop Community Care Networks, improve mental health and suicide-prevention efforts, reduce health inequities among veterans, monitor the expansion of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, and review proposed measures concerning veterans' access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs will conduct oversight on global health security efforts and examine the impacts of the Trump Administration's reimposition of the Global Gag Rule and elimination of funding to the United Nations Population Fund on women's health services and access to reproductive health. The Committee will also examine the progress of global HIV/AIDS-epidemic initiatives, global malnutrition elimination, support for maternal and child health, and U.S. engagement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

The Committee on Education and Labor will investigate inequities that prevent individuals and communities from accessing needed health care and prescription drugs. The Committee on Agriculture plans to review access to health and mental health services

[11] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Chart Book: Accomplishments of Affordable Care Act* (Mar. 19, 2019) (online at www.cbpp.org/research/health/chart-book-accomplishments-of-affordable-care-act).

in rural areas and examine the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's and the Emergency Food Assistance Program's ability to respond to a public health emergency. The Committee on Financial Services will examine health hazards in the nation's public housing system. The Committee on Natural Resources will examine health disparities among Indigenous Peoples and the ongoing operation of the Indian Health Service. The Committee on Small Business will examine the cost and availability of health insurance to small businesses and their employees, along with ways to improve the provision of health care while reducing costs to small businesses that offer their workers health insurance.

Finally, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will investigate the actions of drug companies in raising prescription drug prices in the United States and limiting competition and will conduct oversight to ensure the effectiveness of federal actions to lower drug prices. The Committee will also continue to examine the origins of the opioid crisis and the need for expanded access to treatment and support services for those with opioid and other substance-use disorders.[12] The Committee will examine systemic discrimination in health care settings, health inequities, and other barriers that prevent marginalized populations from accessing high-quality, nondiscriminatory medical care in the United States.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the mismanagement and policies of the Trump Administration, the United States is in the midst of an economic crisis. More than 18 million Americans are receiving unemployment benefits, and it is estimated that as many as 40 million Americans cannot afford to pay rent and fear eviction.[13] Nearly 23 million Americans, including as many as 11 million children, are living in households experiencing food insecurity.[14] Over 2.3 million women have been forced to leave the workforce entirely, including nearly 1 million mothers, and many minority businesses have teetered on the brink of closure.[15]

During the 117th Congress, House committees will examine ways to promote economic recovery, jobs, higher wages, and prosperity; review investments in infrastructure and innovation industries; and respond to challenges faced by workers seeking to collectively negotiate strong protections in the workplace.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure plans to examine infrastructure investments to bring the nation's crumbling

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[12] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Overdose Deaths Accelerating During Covid–19* (Dec. 17, 2020) (online at www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p1218-overdose-deaths-covid-19.html); Kaiser Family Foundation, *The Implications of Covid-19 for Mental Health and Substance Use* (Feb. 10, 2021) (online at www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-implications-of-covid-19-for-mental-health-and-substance-use/).

[13] Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims* (Apr. 8 2021) (online at www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf); National Low-Income Housing Coalition, *Press Release: 30-40 Million People in America Could Be Evicted from Their Homes by the End of 2020* (Aug. 7, 2020) (online at nlihc.org/news/30-40-million-people-america-could-be-evicted-their-homes-end-2020).

[14] Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, New Data: *Millions Struggling to Eat and Pay Rent* (Sept. 23, 2020) (online at www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/new-data-millions-struggling-to-eat-and-pay-rent).

[15] National Women's Law Center, *Another 275,000 Women Left the Labor Force in January* (Feb. 5, 2021) (online at nwlc.org/resources/january-jobs-day-2021/); *A Million American Mothers Are out of Work,* Axios (Feb. 10, 2021) (online at www.axios.com/mothers-out-of-work-pandemic-692c26d2-009e-4534-9162-0862ae269499.html); *Few Minority-Owned Businesses Got Relief Loans They Asked for*, New York Times (May 18, 2020) (online at www.nytimes.com/2020/05/18/business/minority-businesses-coronavirus-loans.html).

transportation infrastructure to a state of good repair while examining new technologies and innovative mobility solutions to move people and goods more safely and efficiently. The Committee will also monitor the status and solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and its ability to fund currently authorized programs and meet future surface-transportation investment needs. In addition, the Committee will examine the need for continued investment in U.S. water-related infrastructure that: (1) prioritizes the creation of American jobs and the utilization of American-made products, (2) supports a healthy and sustainable economy and environment, and (3) protects public health and safety.

The Committee on Financial Services plans to evaluate methods to expand equitable access to the traditional financial services system, including methods to broaden homeownership, increase wages, promote employment within high-growth industries, and encourage savings (including retirement savings) and investments. The Committee will also evaluate consumer financial laws to ensure that they are meeting the evolving needs of the American people and that they reduce the disparities in opportunity that persist across different segments of our society.

The Committee on Education and Labor plans to conduct oversight of Department of Labor programs, policies, and enforcement practices and their impact on our nation's workers. The Committee will examine the costs and consequences to workers, retirees, businesses, and communities, as well as to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, if Congress does not address the multiemployer pension crisis. Through its oversight, the Committee will ensure that community-support programs and federal funding targeted to improving equity for vulnerable populations achieve the stated goals.

The Committee on Small Business plans to investigate policies to encourage more participation in the labor market through initiatives that can be offered by small businesses, such as paid sick and parental leave. The Committee will monitor the effectiveness of capital access programs to generate jobs in small and underserved businesses, investigate whether lenders are meeting their goals to lend to small businesses and create jobs, and examine methods to enhance equity financing to meet the needs of small-business borrowers. The Committee will also review federal actions to assist employers in workforce training, analyze ways to meet the growing need for more skilled workers, and study the effectiveness of efforts to encourage more underserved workers to enter fields where skilled labor is needed.

The Committee on Ways and Means will examine ways within its jurisdiction to encourage robust investment in American infrastructure directed at modernizing how Americans travel and how the American economy grows, and at creating good jobs and meaningful economic development at the local, state, and federal levels. The Committee will also conduct oversight of the impact of trade on U.S. jobs, wages, communities, and economic growth or displacement, with particular attention to whether trade has a disparate impact on underprivileged groups. The Committee also plans to conduct oversight of, and promote, Administration efforts to enforce provisions relating to tariff and non-tariff barriers to U.S. manufacturing, and will assess the need to increase U.S. manufacturing ex-

ports that also promote jobs and economic opportunities for diverse and multiracial communities.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce will focus attention on the transition to a clean energy economy, the impact on traditional energy employment, and the increased need for a skilled workforce in the growing areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and storage. The Committee will continue its ongoing examination of diversity in the energy workforce and pathways to ensure underrepresented groups and veterans are able to obtain employment and benefit from the transition to a clean-energy economy.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform plans to focus on remedying the impacts of the Trump Administration's repeated attacks on the federal workforce and collective bargaining. The Committee will examine the effects of the Trump Administration's efforts to weaken the federal civil service and will work to revitalize the federal workforce. The Committee will also examine the impact of federal agency vacancies at all levels, staffing reductions, and diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The standing committees of the House will conduct oversight on ways to protect the environment and address the generational crisis posed by climate change. On January 9, 2019, the House made oversight of these issues a priority when, through House Resolution 6, the House authorized the establishment of a Select Committee on the Climate Crisis with investigative jurisdiction to "study, make findings, and develop recommendations on policies, strategies, and innovations to achieve substantial and permanent reductions in pollution and other activities that contribute to the climate crisis."[16] On January 4, 2021, the House reauthorized the Select Committeefor the 117th Congress through House Resolution 8.[17] The standing committees of the House will continue to conduct robust oversight to augment the work of the Select Committee.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce intends to focus on the economic, environmental, and health effects of climate change, including the disproportionate impacts on low-income communities and other historically overburdened populations. The Committee will review actions needed to meet the United States' obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement and examine the climate impacts of federal regulatory efforts and programs. The Committee plans to examine activities and policies to protect and improve the nation's air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Committee will also assess efforts to ensure states and local communities have the resources needed to prepare for and respond to severe weather events and natural disasters.

The Committee on Natural Resources will review the ongoing effects of climate change on tribal communities, incorporate environmental justice strategies, discuss the adaption of strategies employed in those communities, and address any unmet needs. The Committee plans to continue to focus on understanding the impacts of climate change on public lands and ensuring that public lands serve as a key part of the climate solution. The Committee will ex-

[16] H. Res. 6 116th Cong. (2019).
[17] H. Res. 8.

amine strategies to aid local communities that will need to transition away from economic dependence on fossil fuel extraction.

The Committee on Science, Space and Technology plans to aggressively track emerging issues and scientific studies regarding global warming and climate science. The Committee will also examine issues surrounding extreme weather events, including the science behind these hazards and how climate change has increased the frequency and severity of these events, improvements to forecasting and warning, and proposed methods to reduce their impact.

The Committee on Agriculture will review the role of America's farmers, ranchers, and foresters in mitigating climate change, including small-scale, limited-resource, and socially disadvantaged producers. The Committee will also review the Department of Agriculture's role in providing cost-share funding, incentives, research, technical expertise, and other tools related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will examine the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the U.S. transportation system and review how transitioning to a more sustainable surface transportation system may bring the opportunity for new U.S. job bases and a more competitive position in the global economy. The Committee will examine means of reducing the impacts of carbon pollution from the transportation sector and building stronger, more resilient, and adaptive transportation networks. The Committee will also seek opportunities to address potential inequities in communities that may be disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs plans to examine the effectiveness of U.S. policy on climate change, including the impact of the Trump Administration's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord on our diplomatic relations, our development assistance, and multilateral engagement. The Committee will explore the impacts of climate change on national security, its contributions to displacement and social unrest across the globe, and how to advance a path toward climate stabilization. The Committee will consider the evolution of the global energy landscape, emphasize good governance of existing resources, and work to assure energy security for the United States and our allies. The Committee on Ways and Means will conduct oversight of efforts to address the impact of climate change through the use of trade tools.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform will continue to examine government and private sector policies and actions related to the environment, natural resources, and public health. In particular, the Committee will review how current policies and actions affect marginalized communities, which often lack public health infrastructure and bear the brunt of the consequences of climate change, including the social and environmental determinants of health. The Committee will focus on job creation in the transition to clean energy and a green economy, environmental justice, and the harmful effects of disinformation in the fight against climate change.

III. CONCLUSION

The oversight plans submitted by the standing House committees together form a coherent blueprint for Congress's efforts to address issues of concern to working families across the country. The Committee on Oversight and Reform will continue to work with the other House committees and House leadership throughout the 117th Congress to promote effective congressional oversight. The oversight plans of all House committees follow.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TO: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman, House Committee on Oversight and Reform, The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, Chairperson, Committee on House Administration
FROM: The Honorable David Scott, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture
DATE: March 1, 2021
SUBJECT: Oversight Plan for the House Committee on Agriculture for the 117th Congress

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to Rule X, clause 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 117th Congress. This plan was prepared in consultation with the Ranking Member and was presented to the Members of the Committee, with proper notice, for their consideration.

While much of the work in the 117th Congress will focus on continued recovery from impacts related to the COVID–19 pandemic, the Committee and its subcommittees expect to exercise appropriate oversight activity regarding the issues listed below, as well as to begin consideration and formulation of the 2023 Farm Bill. The Committee will also have a general focus on the condition of rural communities; the farm economy, including ways to support equity for minority and socially disadvantaged producers; food security; and food and agriculture supply chain resilience. The Committee will also conduct any other general oversight as necessary. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other committees of the House that may share subject matter interest.

117TH CONGRESS

OVERSIGHT PLAN

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

General

• Review rulemakings, guidance, and other actions under the jurisdiction of the Committee taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Farm Credit Administration, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Environmental Protection Agency, and any other applicable Federal agency or Department, for consistency and compliance with applicable laws and Congressional intent, generally and specifically with regard to:

Animal Health and Welfare

- Review U.S. animal health threats and prevention and response capabilities, including animal traceability;
- Review USDA's authorities and functions under the Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act; and
- Monitor strategies and opportunities to reduce and resolve livestock predation and conflicts between wildlife and people, including feral hogs.

Biotechnology

- Review USDA's efforts to develop and promote the benefits of biotechnology for combatting climate change, increasing agricultural productivity, and combating hunger globally;
- Review the regulatory process for gene-edited plants and animals, including the SECURE rule; and
- Review USDA's implementation of biotechnology labeling standards.

Climate

- Review the role of America's farmers, ranchers, and foresters in mitigating climate change, including small-scale, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged producers; and
- Review USDA's role in providing cost-share funding, incentives, research, technical expertise, and other tools related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Commodity Exchanges

- 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;
- Review the impact of COVID–19 on derivatives markets;
- Review international treatment of the U.S. derivatives industry, including market participants and infrastructure;
- Review the impacts of increased coordinated market participation of retail traders; and
- Review the existing and potential market risk in derivatives markets posed by climate change.

Conservation and Forestry

- Review the effectiveness of Farm Bill conservation programs in addressing wildlife habitat, water quality/quantity, and promoting soil health;

• Review the interaction between conservation practices and risk management;
• Review USDA's realignment that resulted in the Farm Production and Conservation mission area, including its impact on programs, customers, and staff;
• Review actual and planned staffing levels, trends, and plans for the Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and U.S. Forest Service (USFS);
• Review USDA policies and programs related to the outdoor recreation economy;
• Review current USFS management and workforce challenges;
• Review USFS's strategy related to wildfire, including firefighter pay and retention; use and impact of various hiring authorities to supplement permanent workforce; fire preparedness; and, use of authorities, agreements, partnerships, and technology;
• Review impact of USFS budget modernization efforts on staffing and program delivery, including actual and planned staffing and resource needs;
• Review USFS forest management, forest health, work to combat invasive species, and work to support the climate sink opportunity of USFS managed lands, including grasslands and forests; and
• Review effectiveness of USDA programs in delivering and maximizing ecosystem service benefits on National Forest System lands, and USDA metrics and staff performance reviews in encouraging those benefits in the field.

Coronavirus Response

• Monitor the impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic on rural communities, farmers, ranchers, food and farmworkers, agriculture and food supply chains, zoonotic surveillance, and domestic and international hunger;
• Review USDA's COVID–19 response efforts under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, Families First Coronavirus Response Act, CARES Act, H.R. 133, and any other applicable statute;
• Review USDA's COVID–19 response, including the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) 1, CFAP 2, and the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, to ensure efforts are equitable across sectors and support communities in need, small-scale, and socially disadvantaged producers; and
• Review status of funding spent and remaining available to be spent under the programs and authorities noted above.

Dairy, Livestock, and Poultry

• Monitor and examine factors related to dairy, livestock, and poultry market conditions and pricing, including reauthorization of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program and factors that influence on-farm profitability;
• Review risk management and safety net tools available to dairy, livestock, and poultry producers;
• Evaluate processes for and impacts of USDA purchases of dairy, meat, and poultry products; and

• Review the U.S. generic dairy, meat, and poultry research and promotion programs.

Department Operations

• Examine programmatic and staffing impacts of the previous administration's reorganization efforts and use of the business center concept in Farm Production and Conservation; Research, Education, and Extension; Marketing and Regulatory Programs; and other mission areas;
• Review the historical inequality within USDA facing Black, Indigenous, and Other People of Color (BIPOC);
• Review the civil rights and programs appeals processes for both USDA employees and customers; and
• Monitor USDA's efforts to ensure the safety of the Department's computer networks and systems and efforts to maintain the security of program and customer data; and
• Monitor USDA's compliance with laws intended to protect the privacy of producer data.

Disaster

• Monitor the effectiveness of USDA's ad hoc disaster programs, including funding remaining to cover 2019 losses and the estimated losses for 2020 and potential 2021 losses.

Energy

• Review agriculture's role in a renewable energy and biobased economy;
• Review the implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard and its impact on agriculture; and
• Review USDA's Farm Bill energy programs.

Farm Credit, Rural Development, and the Rural Economy

• Review of implementation of rural development policies and authorities contained in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;
• Review the economic state of rural America and the impacts of COVID–19 on rural economies;
• Review credit conditions and the impact of COVID–19 on credit availability in rural America;
• Review the availability of mental health counseling and mediation services in rural areas;
• Review the technical capacity of rural areas in accessing Federal programs;
• Review access to and success of rural development programs in minority communities;
• Review broadband delivery and needs in rural America, including barriers to expansion of telehealth services and distance learning; and
• Review rural development loan and grant programs, including their role in increasing medical care in rural areas.

Federal Crop Insurance, Commodity Crop Safety Net, and Risk Management

• Review the role and effectiveness of Federal crop insurance, including policies developed through 508(h) process, and including

applicability for new, beginning, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers;

- Review the development and delivery of new crop insurance products for livestock, specialty crops, timber, and dairy;
- Review USDA's realignment that resulted in the Farm Production and Conservation mission area, including its impact on programs, customers, and staff;
- Review implementation of changes to the Price Loss Coverage program, Agriculture Risk Coverage program, and marketing assistance loans as enacted in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;
- Review USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation's (CCC) authorities;
- Review impacts of COVID–19 on the farm economy, including examining the resiliency of the agricultural supply chain;
- Review FSA program accessibility for socially disadvantaged and underserved farmers; and
- Review USDA's enforcement of the Grain Standards Act and inspection activities.

Food Loss and Waste

- Review current activities and future opportunities within USDA programs to reduce food loss and waste; and
- Examine opportunities to encourage and incentivize private sector improvements to increase consumer awareness of food loss and waste and to recover food that would otherwise be lost or wasted.

Food Safety

- Review USDA's inspection of meat, poultry, and egg products; and
- Examine availability of meat and poultry processed under benefit of Federal inspection or state inspection conducted under cooperative agreement with USDA.

Horticulture and Organic Agriculture

- Review USDA's ongoing implementation of horticulture and organic related programs authorized in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;
- Review USDA's regulation of organic standards and pending organic rulemaking;
- Review USDA's implementation of organic certification cost-share and other efforts to assist producers transitioning to organic production;
- Review USDA's purchasing programs for opportunities to expand access to specialty crops, including fresh fruits and vegetables;
- Review USDA's programming as it relates to local food production, marketing, urban agriculture, and effort to strengthen local and regional food systems;
- Review implementation of the Domestic Hemp Production Program and its impacts on the hemp sector, as well as interagency coordination on hemp issues;
- Review the use of commodity checkoff programs; and

• Review the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Nutrition

• Review the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP) ability to respond to a public health emergency, including the use of Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT);
• Review the Emergency Food Assistance Program's (TEFAP) ability to respond to a public health emergency and food banks' capacity to manage large increases in distribution;
• Review the challenges states encountered administering nutrition programs to efficiently provide assistance during the COVID–19 crisis;
• Review retailer operations;
• Review the process by which the 2025 2030 Dietary Guidelines for America (DGA) will be decided, including the charter and DGA Committee operations;
• Review the challenges related to the SNAP EBT system, SNAP online purchasing, and other SNAP technologies; and
• Review USDA's implementation of nutrition programs and authorities in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.

Outreach and Civil Rights

• Review USDA's implementation of outreach and civil rights policies, programs and authorities authorized in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;
• Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to beginning, small, and underserved (e.g. socially disadvantaged and Veteran) farmers and ranchers; and
• Monitor USDA's outreach efforts to military veterans interested in careers in agriculture.

Regulations

• Review the effect of regulatory activities carried out pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, or any proposed legislative changes to such Act, on agricultural producers and rural communities;
• Review the effect of regulatory activities carried out pursuant to the Clean Air and Clean Water Act on agricultural producers and rural communities; and
• Review the effect of regulatory activities by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) relative to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act on agricultural producers and industry stakeholders.

Research, Education, and Extension

• Review USDA's implementation of research, education and extension programs authorized in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;
• Review the operation of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Economic Research Service (ERS);Review the sufficiency of research funding and staffing under the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Economic Research Service (ERS), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

• Review USDA-supported research contributing to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency, both within ARS and through NIFA;
• Review the capabilities of Land-grant institutions, minority serving institutions, and Cooperative Extension to support farmers and ranchers, including socially disadvantaged farmers and underserved communities;
• Review the effectiveness of data gathering at NASS, including outreach to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers;
• Review access to and release of World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates;
• Review access to and release of World Agricultural Outlook Board meetings data; and
• Review efforts to leverage Federal research investment with state, local, and private sources of funding.

Trade Facilitation

• Review pending—and review existing—trade agreements and disputes and their impact on agriculture;
• Review USDA's trade promotion and technical trade facilitation activities;
• Review the effectiveness of USDA's trade mitigation programs;
• Review the activities of the Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs;
• Review the legacy impact of Trump Administration retaliatory tariffs and trade war on U.S. agricultural producers and agribusinesses; and
• Review the impacts of USDA and USAID international food aid programs on global food security.

Consultation with Other Committees

• With Natural Resources on forestry issues, livestock predation, and aquaculture;
• With Science, Space and Technology on research;
• With Ways and Means and Education and Labor on nutrition programs;
• With Ways and Means on tax and trade issues;
• With Judiciary on immigrant agricultural labor and hemp issues involving the Drug Enforcement Agency;
• With Energy and Commerce on broadband, food safety, food waste, regulation of cell-cultured meat, gene-edited animals, hemp products including CBD, and biomass energy;
• With Transportation and Infrastructure on certain Clean Water Act compliance issues, livestock hauling, and food aid delivery;
• With Financial Services on Dodd-Frank and emerging issues such as digital assets;
• With Foreign Affairs on food aid and trade issues;
• With Homeland Security on biodefense and border inspection and security measures related to agriculture;
• With Small Business on addressing economic opportunities for rural America and assessing the impact of COVID–19 on rural communities and small business; and
• Any other committee as appropriate.

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, House Committee on Administration

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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INTRODUCTION

The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on Armed Services are conducted throughout the calendar year. They are instrumental in the committee's' consideration of the annual defense authorization bill, which covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense as well as the national security functions of the Department of Energy and other related areas. The annual national defense budget involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The complexity of the current threat environment will continue to encompass a range of topics requiring committee oversight including strategic, operational, and budgetary issues.

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).

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

1. Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; 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 and general oversight function, 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.

OVERSIGHT AGENDA

The committee will continue its oversight and assessment of threats to U.S. national security as it considers the fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023 defense budget requests. This effort will involve appropriate oversight hearings with the Secretary of Defense; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the individual military service secretaries and chiefs of staff; combatant commanders; other officials of the Department of Defense 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 Department of Energy. To conduct such oversight and threat assessment, the committee will invite a diverse range of views and perspectives of outside experts in academia, industry, associations and advocacy organizations, and those in private life with expertise on these matters. Further, the committee will continue its aggressive outreach program to seek a wide perspective of views of service members and their families to include Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members across the United States and at deployed locations overseas.

The committee carries out its oversight of the Department of Defense and its subordinate departments and agencies as well as portions of the Department of Energy through activities involving the full committee and its standing subcommittees. The committee will continue to conduct robust oversight, investigate matters, and address inequities within the jurisdiction of the committee. Certain issues and activities will require more extensive review. Investigatory work that may support the oversight responsibilities of standing subcommittees will be conducted in a coordinated manner. Each subcommittee will conduct oversight of the programs within its jurisdiction in accordance with the committee's rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The oversight agenda, unless otherwise noted, is designed to support the consideration by the committee and, ultimately, the House of Representatives of the annual defense authorization bill, as well as the committee's broader oversight responsibilities. The issues identified are expected to be ongoing areas of oversight activity throughout the 117th Congress. In addition, the committee will

continue to pay attention to the mandates placed on executive departments and agencies. In this context, pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will continue to emphasize the examination of relevant rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy for their effects on efficiency and good management practices. To this end, the committee will provide oversight of issues of inequities, including systemic challenges to diversity and inclusion and equitable access to resources to achieve national defense goals.

Given the unique nature of national security issues and related oversight of the Armed Forces, the committee believes that a qualifier is once again necessary with regard to the ability to plan comprehensively and predict all oversight activities. Much of the committee's most demanding oversight will be, by definition, event-driven and not subject to prior planning. Such events significantly complicate the ability to prescribe with great accuracy or specificity the committee's entire oversight agenda. For instance, the oversight of defense activities by the committee has historically involved in-depth assessments of military operations and other major events that are generally difficult to predict in advance. These reviews can dominate committee and staff resources, sometimes at the expense of other planned activities. The committee fully expects that this type of event-driven oversight will continue to be required.

The committee has a long tradition of translating oversight activities into legislative action. In general, the committee will continue to maintain a strong linkage between formal oversight efforts and legislative initiatives.

In addition to the above, the following specific areas and subjects are identified for special attention during the 117th Congress.

POLICY ISSUES

NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY, NATIONAL MILITARY STRATEGY, AND RELATED DEFENSE POLICY ISSUES

The committee will monitor how the Department of Defense addresses complex security demands through the formulation and implementation of the National Defense Strategy, the National Military Strategy, and other strategic guidance. The committee will evaluate how the Department identifies and prioritizes strategic objectives toward meeting those demands and how it applies resources toward achieving its prioritized objectives. The committee will conduct oversight regarding vital Department of Defense capacities and functions, including readiness, doctrinal development, planning, organization, training and exercises, education, materiel inventories, production, facilities, leadership, and personnel, are appropriately aligned to support strategic requirements. In its oversight, the committee will take a comprehensive approach to evaluating the strategic risks confronting the United States and to assessing the factors that compound or amplify strategic risks as well as the factors that contain or reduce them. The committee will examine the assumptions inherent to the Department's' strategic guidance and planning for balancing strategic risk and for match-

ing resources with strategic objectives. The committee will evaluate ongoing operational demands within the context of a broad strategic framework as well as how those operational demands will affect the strategic risks associated with future challenges. The committee will also endeavor to reinforce the civil-military balance in the Department's' formulation and implementation of strategy and national defense policy.

DETERRENCE

The committee recognizes that U.S. defense posture must effectively deter actors posing strategic challenges to the United States, its allies, and partners. In particular, the committee will focus on efforts to ensure that the United States, in concert with allies and partners, is properly postured and pursuing appropriate policies to deter military threats and to counter efforts by such actors to weaken our shared values, undermine our systems of government, threaten international norms, and disrupt the cohesion of our alliances and partnerships.

The committee will continue to oversee the Department's' global efforts to bolster military deterrence against Russian aggression and malign activity. This will include oversight of a range of posture, force structure, force readiness initiatives, and other efforts aimed at achieving and maintaining an effective, sustained deterrent posture against Russian hostility; measures to enhance cohesion of U.S. alliances and partnerships; and efforts to support the ability to respond to attempts to undermine U.S. values and democratic norms. At the same time, the committee will conduct oversight to ensure that concerns about strategic stability, miscalculation, and misunderstanding are properly accounted for as a component of deterrence against Russia.

China continues its efforts to modernize its military, leverage its influence, and undermine the rules-based international order. China frequently employs its capabilities in a manner that erodes security norms and increases the risk of conflict, particularly in the South China Sea, East China Sea, and along the border with India. The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Department's' response to China's' activities, including its efforts to invest in its military forces and extend its reach. At the same time, the committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Department of Defense's military posture, force structure, and force readiness efforts, and plans to enhance capabilities, forward presence, posture, logistics, and training and exercises to deter and counter acts of aggression and protect vital U.S. and ally and partner interests.

North Korea continues to pose a threat to the Korean Peninsula, the United States, U.S. forces, allies, and partners in East Asia. North Korea continues to advance its weapons programs, including its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile capabilities. As such, with respect to East Asia, the committee will continue to oversee the Department of Defense's efforts to implement a range of posture, force structure, and force readiness initiatives; infrastructure and force realignments, including agreements with regional allies; and bilateral and multilateral training and exercises.

The Government of Iran continues to conduct destabilizing activities in the Middle East region that pose challenges to the United

States, its allies, and partners. The committee will conduct oversight to determine how the Department plans to deter Iran's' malign activities without escalating toward conflict and pursue a sustainable regional posture and partner engagement in accordance with the Department's global priorities.

Alliances and partnerships are essential to advance U.S. national security objectives, promote global security, preserve regional stability, deter adversaries, uphold and strengthen shared values, and address common security challenges. The committee will conduct oversight of Department of Defense activities related to enduring alliances, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and other ongoing partnerships to ensure that they are supported and utilized in a manner that enhances these goals. The committee will continue to oversee and, where appropriate, encourage the Department of Defense's efforts to strengthen its partnerships and cooperative efforts to ensure global stability and security.

Strategic Deterrence

With regard to strategic deterrence, the committee will continue to conduct oversight of nuclear deterrence policy and posture. This oversight will include examining adversaries nuclear developments; the role of nuclear weapons and purpose of nuclear deterrence; options, such as arms control, to reduce the risk of miscalculation that could lead to nuclear war in a crisis and reduce the risk of a nuclear arms race or a lowered threshold to nuclear weapons use; options to maintain credible nuclear extended deterrence; and the impact of proposed new nuclear weapons capabilities and policies on regional and strategic stability and on deterring adversaries.

The committee will also conduct oversight of issues both within the space, conventional prompt strike, and missile defense portfolios that contribute to strategic deterrence, particularly in regards to alignment of acquisition objectives within the military services, Missile Defense Agency, and Space Development Agency, with any potential impacts to strategic deterrent policies and priorities of the Department of Defense.

IRREGULAR WARFARE, EMERGING THREATS, AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS

The committee will conduct oversight as the Department of Defense addresses irregular threats in concert with other Government agencies. Malign actors employ both military and non-military means to accomplish their strategic national objectives. Hybrid warfare tactics applied across the spectrum of conflict by threat actors undermine the national security interests of the United States, our allies, and our partners.

During the 117th Congress, the committee will conduct oversight to ensure that the posture and policies of the Department are properly structured, resourced, and aligned to effectively deter acts of terror and counter violent extremist organizations that threaten the United States, its allies, and partners. This includes examining the planning for and execution of counterterrorism operations, efforts to strengthen the capabilities and practices employed by partners and allies to counter such violence, and the detention policy related to counterterrorism activities undertaken by the Depart-

ment. The committee will also conduct rigorous oversight of unique operational authorities to enable operations to deter violent extremist activity and counter irregular efforts by certain adversaries.

The committee recognizes that countering violent ideology spread by al-Qaida, ISIS, and other extremist groups requires a coordinated interagency and international approach. The committee will examine the role of the Department of Defense in addressing this challenge alongside other U.S. departments and agencies and foreign partners.

U.S. and coalition forces continue to conduct operations against the ISIS as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. The committee will continue to assess the sufficiency of authorities, resources, equipment, basing, and personnel to support the Operation Inherent Resolve missions and policy objectives. The committee will maintain congressional oversight of the effectiveness of the Counter-ISIS Train and Equip programs and any additional follow-on programs.

The committee appreciates the complexity of the security landscape in Iraq and the Syria. The committee will examine the presence and influence exerted by external actors in Syria and U.S. objectives in the region regarding ISIS, regional security, and stability.

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan with a focus on the security situation, the posture of deployed U.S. forces, the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces, and U.S. objectives in Afghanistan as well as the region. The committee will continue its oversight activities on the U.S.-led Operation Freedom's Sentinel counterterrorism mission and any changes to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Resolute Support Mission train, advise, and assist mission based on the reduction of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Additionally, the committee will examine the regional security environment with a focus on Pakistan and the Central Asian states.

Further, the committee will oversee implementation of provisions relating to reducing civilian casualties included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115–91) and the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232) and examine ways to further reduce civilian casualties resulting from military operations.

The committee will also continue to examine the legal basis for the President's' military actions against ISIS, other terrorist groups, and regional actors. The committee will examine the President's use of aspects of the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107–40) and the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107–243) relevant to its jurisdiction.

Additionally, committee oversight will include limited authorities provided to the Department to support to foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals engaged in supporting or facilitating ongoing irregular warfare operations by U.S. Special Operations Forces. The committee will examine the prudent and appropriate use of this limited authority as well as scrutinize related operational authorities.

Further, the committee will conduct rigorous oversight of sensitive military operations outside of the United States to ensure that sensitive military operations conducted outside of the United States and outside of Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan are in line with national security strategy and policy, as well as supported and coordinated as appropriate with interagency partners.

The committee will also evaluate special operations forces current and future force posture and deployment cycles, training programs, and capability modernization efforts to ensure platform efficacy in semi- and non-permissive environments in order to better understand how special operations forces will compete in future threat environments.

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of military operations in the information environment, including oversight of U.S. Special Operations Command, which maintains responsibility to develop and train military information support operations personnel and activities, across all mediums, including cyberspace. Such oversight will include legal, operational, and funding authorities. The committee will also examine ways to strengthen interagency collaboration and cohesion for effective strategic communications in support of U.S. national security.

In addition to maintaining oversight of the authorities and activities related to the conduct of irregular warfare by special operations forces, the committee will also conduct rigorous oversight related the culture and climate of special operations. Following two decades of regular application of special operations forces to execute myriad number of global missions, the committee is aware of the psychological and physical toll on the operator and impacts on morale. The committee will conduct oversight over any potential gaps or deficiencies in the ability of the Command to create a healthy, sustainable, and professional force.

The committee will continue to monitor the progress made by U.S. Special Operations Command to ensure a force representative of the gender, racial, and religious fabric of the United States. The committee will also focus on the steps taken to ensure the integration of women into previously closed positions of special operations forces and assess the sufficiency of these efforts to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all members of special operations forces.

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE, CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY, AND NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

The committee will continue oversight of the health and resiliency of the defense industrial base. The committee will pay particular attention to sectors of the industrial base that involve emerging and critical technologies. Committee oversight will ensure that the Department is responsibly using its authorities to develop, acquire, field, and sustain cutting-edge solutions, including from nontraditional defense contractors. The committee will utilize recent industrial base assessments and the experience responding to COVID–19 to identify and mitigate risks, and to encourage the Department to build on successful acquisition approaches.

The committee will review the Department's strategic approach to protecting national security information in executing the expansion of the capacity and capability of the defense industrial base.

The committee will also continue oversight of the Department's efforts to protect critical technology and national security information while maintaining respect for civil liberties and a robust research environment. Further, the committee will oversee efforts to develop a strong science and technology workforce, including emphasis on innovation, science, technology, engineering, and math in academia.

The committee will examine the Department's efforts to improve cybersecurity standards, to ensure compliance with those standards by all stakeholders in the defense industrial base, and to neutralize counterintelligence threats. The committee will also oversee cybersecurity and supply chain security initiatives.

In each of these lines of oversight, the committee will emphasize the importance of collaboration with allies and partners.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The committee will review the organization of the Department of Defense and oversee its management. The committee will: carefully review organizational changes, work to enhance organizational performance and to promote efficient and cost-effective practices throughout the Department of Defense enterprise, work to enable specific Department of Defense mission sets and to ensure that they are optimally aligned within the Department's' organizational structure, and apply strict managerial accountability standards to the Department's' leadership. In overseeing the Department's' organization and management, the committee will endeavor to preserve and enhance the Department's' civil-military balance.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The committee will continue to oversee military effectiveness and fiscal responsibility in a dynamic budgeting environment. With the expiration of the discretionary spending caps found in Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–25), as modified by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–23) and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–37), the committee confronts an environment of increased fiscal uncertainty, with concomitant challenges for budgetary and programmatic oversight.

The Comptroller General of the United States has consistently identified the Department of Defense's financial management as a high-risk area since 1995. The Department of Defense has made some progress in modernizing its financial management capabilities, but arcane and obsolete financial management systems and processes continue to struggle with the immense task of tracking and accounting for Department assets. The management of that challenge, and the financial management systems, organizations, and processes that are tasked to address it, requires significant and sustained congressional oversight.

The committee will continue to review efforts to implement the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) plan, as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84). The Inspector General of the Department of Defense conducted the first agency-wide financial audit of the Department in fiscal year 2018, and has continued to conduct such audits annually. The Department has shown steady progress

in identifying and addressing challenges to its goal of an unmodified audit opinion, but remediation and corrective actions continue to require a high level of senior leadership attention and oversight, both from Congress and the Department. The committee will continue to oversee the Department's efforts to achieve an unmodified audit opinion, including corrective actions and process improvements .

The committee will monitor the interdependencies between the FIAR plan and investments in business and financial systems modernization programs as the Department works to correct the weaknesses in its financial statements. Both the Department and Congress depend on the objective tools provided by proper financial management processes and statements in order to make informed decisions.

HOMELAND DEFENSE

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the missions and capabilities of U.S. Northern Command and the Department of Defense's Homeland Defense and Global Security directorate. The committee will review and conduct oversight with regard to integration into response planning and exercises and requests for support from other departments, to include the costs and implications to the military readiness of those requests. The committee will also review Defense Support of Civil Authorities and the execution of the Department's policies and procedures. The committee will continue to review the Department's support to civilian law enforcement, the COVID–19 pandemic fight, and domestic relief operations.

ACQUISITION

The committee will continue efforts to improve the efficiency, flexibility, and streamlining of the Department of Defense acquisition system to support a more responsive and resilient approach to national security. In undertaking this effort, the committee will solicit diverse input from the Department and other outside experts. Through its oversight function, the committee will monitor the efforts of the Department to implement statutory changes and recommendations of commissioned reports. The committee will also continue to ensure equity, integrity, transparency, and accountability in the acquisition process.

The committee will oversee efforts to lower barriers to enhance the Department's ability to take advantage of innovative technologies, leverage efficiency through data analytics, meet demands by scaling to need, and partner with a wide range of businesses, including small, medium, and small disadvantaged firms. The committee will oversee efforts to address the need to attract, inspire, and retain a highly-skilled acquisition workforce, including professionals with the experience and ability to recognize the benefit of new technology capabilities. The committee will also examine the policies related to industrial base incentives, including for infrastructure improvements and participation in the Department's supply chain. Finally, the committee will also oversee the Department's efforts to leverage its buying power to advance national security sustainably.

INTELLIGENCE

The committee recognizes the threats presented by our competitors, primarily China and Russia, but also Iran and North Korea, through activities in the gray zone. These activities include malign influence campaigns, active measures, economic espionage, and political coercion; which occur below the threshold of armed conflict and yet can realize strategic effects.

The committee will examine how the Defense Intelligence Enterprise (DIE) is postured to analyze and address these new and trending threats, while balancing intelligence support to established National Defense Strategy priority challenges and ongoing counterterrorism operations. The committee is particularly interested in how the DIE is countering disinformation and false narratives from our adversaries and competitors. The committee will assess the extent to which the DIE has adopted policies and procedures to more rapidly assemble and release focused intelligence to expose malign behaviors, particularly as unclassified data injected into the public domain.

The committee will scrutinize current and planned modernization activities, including developments in machine learning and artificial intelligence across the Defense Intelligence Enterprise as a means to create current, informed foundational intelligence to support military operations and advanced weapons systems, including an examination of the strategy and plans for Project Maven and MARS. As the Defense Intelligence Enterprise increasingly relies on commercially available data, the committee will conduct oversight to ensure that any acquisition, storage, or use of U.S. sourced data does not infringe on Fourth Amendment rights of U.S. persons.

Additionally, the committee will conduct rigorous oversight of the roles and responsibilities of the security arm of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, including an examination of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency's priority missions: counterintelligence; protecting critical technology; personnel vetting; and insider threat management. The committee will probe the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency on Trusted Workforce 2.0 and the personnel security clearance vetting process. The committee also looks forward to the results of the ongoing Government Accountability Office's review of Personnel Vetting Reform.

In addition to conducting oversight of intelligence capabilities, the committee will conduct oversight to ensure the Defense Intelligence Enterprise recruits, retains, and develops the best and brightest workforce from all segments of our society. Policies that promote diversity and inclusion are paramount to ensuring that the Defense Intelligence Enterprise is able to attract the broadest base of talent to solve the most complex challenges. The committee looks forward to understanding what the various components of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise are doing to ensure diversity of thought at all levels and throughout the enterprise.

Finally, the committee will conduct oversight of title 10, U.S. Code, and Department of Defense title 50, U.S. Code, activities in accordance with the committee's jurisdiction. The committee will

continue to coordinate as appropriate with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on matters related to Department of Defense intelligence and counterintelligence activities in the course of oversight and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.

INFORMATION OPERATIONS

In addition to presenting challenges to U.S. national security, the global information environment provides an opportunity to gain an advantage in military planning and operations, as well as to achieve strategic U.S. objectives through a whole-of-government approach.

Information is crucial to military operations as the global information environment continues to evolve and grow. Both state and non-state actors seek to exploit this domain and spread disinformation to sow discord in our society and undermine confidence in democratic institutions, including the political process, the press, and other foundational societal structures, including the U.S. military.

In the 117th Congress, the committee will focus oversight on legislation established by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92) and the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283), which expanded the strategic activities and established leadership regarding information operations. The establishment of a Principal Information Operations Advisor to act as the primary advisor to the Secretary of Defense on all aspects of information operations and the requirement that service members receive training on the danger of disinformation are critical areas of evolution as the Department of Defense continues efforts to develop an updated comprehensive strategy for successful operations in the information environment.

The committee will continue to examine the Department's initiatives to strengthen interagency collaboration and cohesion for effective information operations to support the United States' military and strategic objectives. Also, the committee intends to pursue complementary lines of oversight effort outlined in additional sections.

READINESS

MAINTENANCE TRAINING

The military services are developing new operational concepts and seeking to invest in modernization, replacing legacy weapon systems with next generation capabilities. As they do this, the committee will focus on how legacy platforms are being sustained through their retirement, how training requirements are changing to support new capabilities entering the force, and how the sustainment infrastructure and enterprise will be postured to support these next generation weapon systems and capabilities.

The committee will conduct oversight of Navy shipyard maintenance availabilities to ensure they are performed on budget and schedule; Army force generation and large-scale training exercises; Marine Corps amphibious training; and aircraft sustainment and

training across the military services. The committee also recognizes the importance of training for the broad range of future missions the military may face, from gray-zone conflict to high-intensity conflict. The committee will conduct oversight of how the military services adapt training concepts, maintenance plans, and analytical tools to ensure personnel and equipment are adequately prepared to meet these threats.

Finally, the committee notes the importance of prioritizing long-term readiness and believes that it can be best achieved by emphasizing the training on and maintenance and sustainment of weapon systems that the Department has already made substantial investments in developing and procuring. To that end, the committee will examine the Department's investments to support training and sustainment of existing weapon systems and how their actual availability and mission capability rates compare to service requirements.

LOGISTICS

The Department of Defense continues its efforts to implement the National Defense Strategy, adjust force structure and posture concepts, and invest in modernization of the force. The committee remains concerned with the perceived lack of focus within the Department on the capabilities and capacity of the current logistics enterprise required to project and sustain a military force in a contested security environment. These concerns will only be exacerbated as the Department moves toward a more distributed force posture concept, especially in regions such as the Indo-Pacific. To this end, the committee will conduct oversight of the Department's efforts toward contested logistics, including: capability, capacity, and readiness of strategic airlift and surge sealift; capability, capacity, and readiness of tactical airlift and sealift; contested logistic aware weapon systems development and procurement; procurement, storage, transportation, and distribution of fuel; prepositioning of equipment and supplies in forward locations; locations and infrastructure to support permanent, rotational, and surge forces; and maintenance and repair capabilities for equipment and weapon systems.

LIFE CYCLE SUSTAINMENT

The committee will focus on the Department's initiatives to reduce the total-ownership costs of weapons systems and equipment while ensuring the Department is appropriately considering life-cycle support and sustainment requirements when it develops acquisition strategies for each program. The committee will also hold the Department accountable for improving its estimates of total weapon system life-cycle costs to better inform sustainment strategies. Finally, the committee will continue to monitor the military services' reset strategies to repair, recapitalize, and replace equipment used in ongoing operations, and will also monitor progress toward reconstitution of prepositioned stocks.

ORGANIC INDUSTRIAL BASE

Our Nation's organic industrial base is vital to achieving and maintaining warfighting readiness across all domains. The military services' arsenals, depots, air logistics complexes, and shipyards provide long-term sustainment through programmed maintenance and conduct repair and modernization upgrades. These facilities and their skilled workforces provide a national-level insurance policy against unforeseen strategic contingencies. The committee is concerned about the current state and future health of the organic industrial base as a result of an extended period of fiscal uncertainty, increasing maintenance and sustainment requirements, workforce attrition and recruiting challenges, and an emphasis on modernization initiatives at the expense of investments in maintaining legacy weapon systems.

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the extent to which the Department's organic industrial base is viably positioned for long-term sustainability and possesses the workforce and technologies needed for efficient operations to meet the Nation's current and future requirements. This will include oversight of how the military services plan to recruit, train, support, and retain the future industrial base workforce. In addition, the committee will conduct oversight into the use of new technologies such as additive manufacturing, predictive maintenance, robotics, and artificial intelligence as pathways to improve maintenance activities, management of spares inventory, and supply chain operations. The committee will also continue oversight of depot, arsenal, and shipyard operations and management, the use of performance-based logistics, the role of public-private partnerships, and the military services' logistics enterprise resource planning systems.

The committee will continue its work to oversee funded but unfinished maintenance work (carryover) in order to improve workload planning and incentivize sound depot management. The committee will also conduct oversight of the Department's investments in the organic industrial base to ensure they continue to maintain a level of capability to meet the needs of the Armed Forces. Finally, the committee will ensure that the military services are funding and implementing infrastructure optimization plans to improve operations and modernize aging infrastructure at the depots, arsenals, and shipyards.

CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

The Federal civilian workforce of the Department of Defense plays a critical role in advancing national security, contributes unique skillsets to the Department's mission, and serves as a force multiplier for the uniformed military force. The Department employs more Federal civilians than any other Federal agency and these personnel perform disparate and essential missions across the globe. The committee will focus on providing the Department with the proper tools to invest in and support a strong civilian workforce that contributes effectively to the success of the Department's mission.

The majority of Department of Defense civilian personnel policies are governed by requirements set forth in title 5 of the U.S. Code

and corresponding regulations under the purview of the Office of Personnel Management. Although the Committee on Armed Services does not have jurisdiction over title 5 of the U.S. Code, it has in recent years provided numerous extraordinary hiring and management authorities tailored to specific segments of the Department of Defense civilian workforce. Many of these authorities are temporary and will expire in the next few years. The committee will conduct oversight to evaluate the effectiveness of these authorities and to ensure that they are used appropriately and comply with merit-based competitive personnel policies.

The Department meets its manpower requirements through a mix of military, civilian, and contractor personnel. It is critical for the Department to ensure the appropriate mix of different types of employees to provide flexibility, continuity, and a base of talent across the force. The committee will ensure that the Department assesses the impact of any potential reductions to the civilian workforce on cost, operational effectiveness, borrowed military manpower, workload, lethality, and readiness. The committee will also conduct oversight of the Department's efforts to promote a civilian workforce that reflects the diverse population of the United States. Further, the committee will carefully examine the use of contractors within the Department and ensure that the Department improves its data collection on the use of contractors and the associated costs to the taxpayer.

Finally, the committee will continue its oversight of the timeliness, quality, and cost of processing Federal security clearance applications and of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency's transition to government-wide continuous vetting to ensure the trustworthiness of clearance-holders.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Energy is a key readiness enabler for the Department of Defense. Energy resilient installations and increased efficiency provide cost savings and guard against mission failure. A robust operational energy program enhances operational effectiveness of the military and improves our national security posture through the mitigation logistics challenges in contested environments. Therefore, the committee will conduct oversight of the Department and military services' efforts to address resiliency gaps and improve energy efficiency on military installations and for military operations.

In addition, the committee will conduct oversight of the Department and military services' environmental management. The committee believes more attention is required to monitor the Department's efforts to address the impacts of climate change on training and installation resilience. The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Department's efforts with respect to emerging contaminants including adherence to Federal, state, and local compliance requirements and the phase-out of per- and polyfluoroalkyl compound-containing fire-fighting agents. The committee will continue to provide oversight of the military services' efforts to remediate existing contamination both on and off Federal lands with particular attention paid to locations where contamination may be affecting local populations. Additionally, the committee will oversee Department efforts to leverage technological innovation and imple-

mentation of best practices to minimize adverse environmental impacts and thereby reduce future cleanup costs. The committee intends to continue to monitor activities of the Department to ensure that military training is in full compliance with applicable Federal, state, and local environmental laws.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, AND REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The committee will review the Department of Defense's military construction program to manage the overall capacity of the Department's infrastructure and to ensure prudent long-term military construction investments that are resilient to natural and manmade threats. The committee will also oversee the Department's investments in facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization, as well as the Department's utilization of authorities such as emergency and contingency construction. The committee will continue to oversee the execution and implementation of requirements from the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92) and the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) that will enhance installation resiliency and increase transparency.

The real property management process requires extensive oversight to maintain over $750.0 billion in infrastructure. The committee is concerned that continued poor requirements development, and inadequate planning and design result in poorly coordinated investment decisions and sub-optimal facility construction. The committee will provide increased oversight of investments made outside of the United States and its territories. The committee will seek to apply best practices across the Department of Defense to efficiently develop and maintain the military services' ranges, facilities, and infrastructure.

HOUSING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES AND UNACCOMPANIED SERVICE MEMBERS

The committee will continue to provide increased oversight of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) program. The committee will monitor the execution and implementation of requirements from the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92) and the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) that reformed the MHPI program. In particular, the committee will monitor investments related to maintenance and sustainment of housing developments, the financial health of individual projects, communication with tenants, and ensure that best practices are being uniformly adopted to ensure that housing is free of environmental hazards.

The committee is concerned about chronic under-investment in unaccompanied service-member housing. Accordingly, the committee will conduct increased oversight of the investments in sustainment and restoration of existing unaccompanied housing as well as the replacement of facilities that are no longer viable.

MILITARY PERSONNEL AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

MILITARY MANPOWER AND FORCE STRUCTURE

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue to assess the military's manpower requirements to meet its current and future global military commitments. Specifically, the committee will continue to provide aggressive oversight of military manpower levels, skill sets, and force structure to ensure they support the National Defense Strategy. During the 116th Congress, the end strength increased for each military service to meet demands and growth in specialized fields such as cyber, intelligence, pilots, and maintainers. In the 117th Congress, the committee will examine trends in overall total force structure requirements, end strength, recruiting, retention, morale, and benefits and compensation. The committee will continue its oversight of military recruiting, particularly the quality and diversity of the recruits needed to fulfill the specialized end-strength requirements and ways to address those potential recruits that may possess violent extremist views.

MILITARY BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

During the 117th Congress, the committee will scrutinize any proposals from the Department of Defense or other organizations calling for any changes to military compensation and other benefit programs. Specifically, there will be close scrutiny of the 2020 Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC). The QRMC and any other proposals must ensure they are thoroughly assessed with respect to their positive or negative impacts to the All-Volunteer Force. Specifically, the expected Department of Defense proposals to reform the Reserve Component call-up duty status authorities will overhaul the way a Reserve Component service member is activated. The committee's oversight in this area will concentrate on the proper implementation of the new authorities to ensure that the pay and benefits for Reserve Component including the new Space Force Reserve Component members are not adversely affected.

MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue its oversight of military health policies of the Department of Defense. The Department will be charged with both supporting the readiness requirements of the warfighter and delivering a robust military health benefit, all while creating efficiencies and implementing cost savings initiatives that may alter the composition of the existing Military Health System. The committee will examine military medical manning requirements, TRICARE benefit delivery, wounded warrior programs, resiliency, opioid policy, and ongoing reform efforts that are transitioning Military Treatment Facilities and other organizational structures from the military service departments to the Defense Heath Agency. The committee will also continue to monitor the implementation of the Genesis Electronic Health Record, as well as other health-related collaborations between the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs. The committee will also take particular interest in implementation of

Military Healthcare Reform as directed by the National Defense Authorization Acts for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) and the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232). Also, the committee will monitor the Department of Defense's implementation of the Stayskal Act as directed in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92). Finally, the committee will seek a better understanding of environmental health challenges that may be related to burn pits, mold, lead paint, contaminated water, and other potential exposure issues.

MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

During the 117th Congress, the personnel policies of the Department of Defense will remain under considerable scrutiny as the military services compete to recruit, manage, and retain the best and brightest men and women. The committee will continue to give close examination to proposals from the Department of Defense and other organizations calling for any major changes to personnel policies including recruiting, promotions, career paths, or changes to military retention and other policy programs in order to assess the impact of any proposed changes on the viability of the All-Volunteer Force. The committee will provide oversight of the implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion policy requirements from the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283) as well as the implementation of the President's Executive Order. Additionally, the committee will monitor how the Department of Defense's policies are structured to prepare service-members and veterans for the possibility of being targeted by extremist organizations during their service and after they leave military service.

UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

The committee will continue to provide oversight of military justice, specifically the role of the commander in prosecutions. The committee will also continue its robust oversight of the Department of Defense's sexual assault prevention and response programs with a focus on implementation of best practices for prevention programs. Additionally, the committee will put renewed focus on the oversight of the Department of Defense's policies and procedures for combatting extremism within the ranks.

MILITARY FAMILY READINESS

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue to focus on the support provided to families of service members, particularly during deployments. The committee will assess the methods used by the military services to identify the needs of military families and to identify the programs and policies that can be implemented or modified to improve their quality of life. As end strength grows across the Armed Forces, the committee will examine the Department of Defense and military service family support programs to ensure the programs are adequately resourced to support an increase in family members. In addition, the committee will continue its oversight on the quality and availability of services at Depart-

ment of Defense child development centers and the implementation of new requirements to bring uniformity to the Exceptional Family Member Program across the military services.

MORALE, WELFARE AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND MILITARY RESALE PROGRAMS

The committee believes the cost-efficient sustainment of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and military resale programs (commissaries and exchanges) is required to protect quality of life in military communities. The committee will provide oversight efforts directed toward that end in conjunction with major reforms, yet to be accomplished that were begun in the 114th Congress, to ensure the viability of these programs. Additionally, the committee believes that MWR and military resale programs must remain competitive with private sector entities to ensure that service members and their families benefit fully from these programs. The committee will monitor current practices and policies to ensure that MWR and military resale programs are employing the full range of strategies available to private sector competitors to inform authorized patrons about the benefits associated with these programs and encourage their participation. Finally, the committee will monitor and oversee the changes required by the commissary reform plan with an emphasis on maintaining this valuable benefit without interruption.

PRISONER OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the Department of Defense's Prisoner of War/Missing in Action activities. Specifically, the committee will focus on the operations of the Defense Personnel Accounting Agency to ensure they are meeting the requirement that the accounting effort achieve at least 200 identifications annually.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The committee will continue its oversight from the 116th Congress of Arlington National Cemetery. The John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232) directed the Secretary of the Army to establish revised eligibility criteria for interment at Arlington National Cemetery to ensure that the cemetery remains an active burial ground well into the future. The committee will monitor the criteria and changes to burial policy as they are structured.

MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

OVERVIEW

During the 117th Congress, the committee will conduct oversight of military equipment modernization strategies and programs and assess the effectiveness of those strategies to mitigate threats in the near- and long-term from near-peer and peer competitors. The committees' efforts will continue to focus on full-spectrum, combat-effective lethality and survivability through near-term modernization efforts that utilize acquisition reform initiatives to better

streamline the development and fielding of solutions to the warfighter in a timely and efficient manner. The committee will devote attention to the military services' implementation and utilization of new, innovative agile acquisition reform authorities to recapitalize, upgrade, or enhance the performance of current and future combat systems. Concurrently, the committee will conduct oversight on the military services' ability to aggressively control development and procurement costs, implement reasonable, executable, and accountable sustainment strategies that preserve system affordability, as well as manage strategic risk in critical areas of the U.S. defense industrial base.

The committee, through diligent oversight and legislative action, will implement actions and provide resources to help mitigate cost growth and schedule delays of modernization programs. The committee will assess the need for legislative action, if required, by: late determination of programmatic requirements; unjustified requirements growth and failure to properly mitigate requirements changes; insufficient analyses of alternatives; concurrency in test and evaluation master plans; military services proceeding prematurely with development of immature technology; poor cost estimating; inadequate funding profiles; over-estimation of potential production rates; program instability; and, improper use of new and agile acquisition reform authorities.

ARMORED VEHICLE MODERNIZATION

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps' evolving plans to improve the capability and extend the operating lives of its current heavy and medium-weight armored combat vehicles, as well as lay the foundation for successful development, production, and timely fielding of its next generation of these systems. The committee will specifically monitor management and performance of these programs: research and development of the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle, the M1 Abrams tank, the M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, the family of Stryker Combat Vehicles, the family of Amphibious Combat Vehicles, the Light Armored Vehicle, the M109A7 Paladin Integrated Management, the Armored Multipurpose Vehicle, the Army's mobile protected firepower, and Active Protection Systems for combat vehicles.

TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLES

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps' sustainment and modernization of their current and future tactical wheeled vehicle (TWV) fleets, including their families of light, medium, and heavy TWVs, as well as other engineer and bridging vehicles. The committee will specifically oversee management of these programs: Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles, Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck, Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, Infantry Squad Vehicle, Palletized Load System, Heavy Equipment Transporters, Line Haul Tractor Trailers, and High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle. The committee will give particular interest to the Department of Defense's identification and management of risk in the TWV industrial base.

ROTORCRAFT PROGRAMS

The committee will focus oversight efforts on rotorcraft modernization, force structure, and readiness, with an emphasis on how the military services are managing plans to accelerate development of next generation rotorcraft platforms while satisfying requirements to upgrade current rotorcraft platforms. Committee oversight will focus on, but not be limited to, the following rotorcraft programs: UH–60 Black Hawk utility rotorcraft, AH–64 Apache Attack rotorcraft, CH–47 Chinook heavy lift rotorcraft, UH–1 Huey utility helicopters, AH–1 attack rotorcraft, the CH–53K heavy lift rotorcraft program, the MH–60 Seahawk rotorcraft program, the MH–139 utility helicopter, Combat Rescue Helicopter, the TH–73A trainer helicopter replacement program, and the Future Vertical Lift (FVL) development program.

The committee will also focus oversight efforts on the need for advanced aircraft survivability equipment upgrades to provide warning and protection against evolving threats, as well as monitor the Improved Turbine Engine program designed to improve lift capability on the AH–64, UH–60, and FVL platforms.

COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORK PROGRAMS

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the research, development, and procurement of tactical battlefield communications networks. Specifically, the committee will conduct oversight of the Army's plans for future battlefield network research and development programs, the Army's Tactical Network Modernization roadmap, and efforts on the incremental development and fielding of the Integrated Tactical Network and other tactical radio programs.

FIXED-WING TRAINING AND TACTICAL AIRCRAFT AND RELATED MUNITIONS

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue efforts overseeing the size, composition, capability, and capacity of the Department of Defense's tactical and training aircraft force structure and acquisition programs. The committee will continue engaging the Department to understand its aircraft force-mix strategy and composition regarding procurement of significantly advanced 4th, 5th and 6th generation tactical aircraft to replace existing tactical aircraft to ensure that mission areas related to air superiority, interdiction, and kinetic support to ground forces maintain combat effectiveness and lethality requirements. The committee will engage with the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps to understand the strategies to mitigate any potential tactical aircraft inventory shortfalls that would impact the Department's ability to meet the tenets and implementation of the National Defense Strategy. The committee will monitor the Department's efforts to improve capabilities and reliability among the existing fleets of aircraft to maintain, and where necessary, gain sufficient force-structure capacity and lethality that complements next-generation aircraft. The committee will continue to monitor the impact on aviation readiness related to procurement of initial spare or repaired parts, depot-standup activities and supplies and critical information necessary

to meet warfighter requirements. In addition, the committee will have particular interest in the Air Force's newly implemented Digital Century Series acquisition strategy for aircraft and munitions. The committee will also continue monitoring Air Force and Navy execution of efforts for mitigating physiological episodes that were experienced by pilots operating various tactical and training aircraft.

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the F–35 program, particularly with regard to affordability issues and concerns related to program life-cycle cost, production and fielding schedules, aircraft and support system performance, and sustainment strategy planning and execution. The committee will also focus efforts on the F–35s' performance during the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation phase, Technical Refresh 3 hardware and Block 4 software development, and the follow-on modernization program known as Continuous Capability Development and Delivery. The committee's area of focus on the F–35 will include but not be limited to production efficiency, software development and testing related to the operational flight program and mission data files, addressing F135 engine problems and repair capacity, the Autonomic Logistics Information System development and transition to the Operational Data Integrated Network, fielding and integration into operational F–35 units, depot stand-up, and supply chain management required to support concurrent production and operational maintenance and sustainment requirements.

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue engaging the Department of Defense to understand testing and war-reserve material requirements and subsequent production strategies to support and maintain sufficient inventories of air-launched preferred and precision-guided conventional missiles and munitions at an acceptable operational risk level. The committee will continue focusing its attention on the Department's identification, assessment, and strategies for effective management of risk in the associated defense industrial base and issues related to diminishing manufacturing sources, obsolescence issues, sole-source supply of components and major sub-systems, and production capabilities needed to support both annual production and occasional surge requirements for preferred and precision-guided conventional missiles and munitions.

INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER AND MARINE EQUIPMENT

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the research, development, and procurement of soldier and marine individual equipment, in addition to other complementary personal protective equipment programs. Focus areas will continue to include, but are not limited to: advances in weight reduction ("lightening the load") in individual equipment; development and procurement of the Enhanced Night Vision Goggle-Binocular; small arms and small caliber ammunition modernization with particular emphasis on the Army's next generation squad weapon system; procurement and fielding of enhanced performance small caliber rounds; improved combat helmets to help mitigate traumatic brain injury; development of female-sized personal protective equipment; and the devel-

opment and fielding of the Integrated Visual Augmentation System.

LONG RANGE MUNITIONS, AMMUNITION, AND AMMUNITION INDUSTRIAL BASE

The committee will continue to conduct oversight on the Army and Marine Corps Long Range Precision Fires and munitions modernization efforts, as well as other ammunition and ammunition industrial base concerns. Specifically, programs of interest to the committee include development, production and divestiture of "smart" munitions; "critical" munitions;" and "conventional" ammunition programs. The committee will also continue to examine the management of the ammunition industrial base, specifically issues involving safety practices and production standards, supply chain concerns, and development of alternative ammunition production materials and sources.

AIR FORCE AND ARMY INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, AND RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMS

The committee will focus oversight activities on cost, schedule, and performance of tactical manned and unmanned aerial (UAS) intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) systems. The committee will examine the ISR enterprise for sufficient capacity, satisfaction of military collection requirements, timeliness and redundancy of dissemination architecture, and modernization of analysis and exploitation capabilities for video and imagery. The committee will also scrutinize the Department of Defense's ISR policy development and implementation.

In particular, the committee will evaluate the Army and Air Force long-term ISR architecture modernization and next-generation acquisition strategies, the supporting analyses behind programmatic decisions, and the management of risk across ISR collection capabilities and capacities, and the corresponding resources to process, exploit, and disseminate raw data and finished analysis. The committee will monitor improvements made to ISR transmission and down-link architecture that provide rapid delivery of collected information supporting timely and effective defense operations.

The committee's oversight efforts will focus on, but not be limited to, the following ISR programs: RQ–4 Global Hawk UAS Block 30 and Block 40, MQ–9 Reaper UAS, MQ–1C Gray Eagle UAS, the Future Tactical UAS program, legacy E–8 JSTARS, E–3 AWACS, the family of RC–135 aircraft, U–2 Dragon Lady, and the Advanced Battle Management System.

ELECTRONIC WARFARE EQUIPMENT AND MODERNIZATION

The committee will focus oversight efforts on the Department of Defense's developing Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO) strategy and associated electronic warfare (EW) systems. The committee will examine how the Department is identifying requirements, developing policies, and establishing the necessary governance structures to manage the EMSO enterprise. The committee will also evaluate the Department's ability to address

emerging EMSO and EW threats and the military services' progress in developing and fielding next-generation capabilities to counter these threats. The committee will assess airborne EW systems, including the EC–130H Compass Call aircraft, the EC–37B Compass Call re-host aircraft, the Navy's Next Generation Jammer airborne electronic attack capability, and the Army's Multi-Function EW Air, as well as ground-based EW capabilities including the Terrestrial Layer System.

BOMBER FORCE STRUCTURE

During the 117th Congress, the committee anticipates that the Air Force will continue to propose significant investments for engineering, manufacturing, and development of the B–21A Raider long-range strike bomber aircraft. While many details regarding the specific requirements and capabilities of the new bomber remain classified, the committee will maintain oversight of the new bomber acquisition program to ensure that the Air Force develops an affordable aircraft to timely meet future requirements and partially recapitalize the long-range strike bomber fleet.

As Global Strike Command's bomber road map continues to solidify, the committee will monitor how the Air Force chooses to invest and modernize its current fleet of bombers to ensure they can continue to effectively respond to current and future threats.

AERIAL REFUELING AIRCRAFT

During the 117th Congress, the committee will review the Air Force aerial refueling aircraft modernization, recapitalization and retirement plans for the KC–10A, KC–46A and KC–135R/T.

Currently, the Air Force requires 479 air refueling tankers to meet the National Military Strategy but only possesses 393 KC–135R/T and 50 KC–10A tankers for a total of 443 legacy tankers. The addition of 42 KC–46A aircraft toward the future buy of 179 KC–46A will start replacing the legacy tanker fleet once the Remote Vision System on the KC–46A is fixed and the aircraft becomes operational. The committee is monitoring the KC–46A program closely. The committee will also monitor how the Air Force plans to modernize the KC–135R/T and conduct aerial refueling operations in a future contested airspace.

The committee will also review the MQ–25 program as the Navy seeks to develop an unmanned aerial vehicle that provides aerial refueling to the carrier wing. The committee will also monitor the possibility to add additional capabilities to the MQ–25 should the Navy chooses to pursue them.

AIRLIFT PROGRAMS

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue to assess the risk in the Air Force's current plan to maintain the intratheater airlift aircraft inventory required by the Mobility Capability Requirements Study that was required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115–91). While pleased with Air Force efforts to modernize Air National Guard and Reserve C–130H aircraft with Avionics Modernization Programs, propulsion and propeller upgrades, the committee will

continue to review the C–130H modernization program to ensure it is capable of meeting airlift requirements. The committee is committed in supporting technologies that increase capabilities, increase reliability and decrease overall life cycle costs.

The committee will continue oversight of all airlift aircraft inventories and capabilities during the 117th Congress to ensure that a robust and effective fleet of airlift aircraft is maintained to meet mobility airlift requirements of the Department of Defense.

SURFACE WARFARE PROGRAMS

The Department of the Navy must grow the fleet of surface combatants in order to support the National Security Strategy. The fleet must be capable of operating in contested areas such as the South China Sea. The committee will provide oversight of the composition, capacity, and capabilities of the surface fleet. The committee will also assess the large and small surface combatant requirements to ensure oversight of the force structure and the associated weapons and sensors employed on the surface force with a specific emphasis on Frigate capabilities. The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Littoral Combat Ship and specifically look at what they will play in the future fleet. Further oversight of the amphibious forces will also be pursued to include amphibious assault in a contested environment, integration of advanced data capabilities and how these ships will be utilized to support expeditionary advanced basing operations. The committee will continue its oversight of the DDG–51 Arleigh Burke class Destroyer program and it transitions to the Flight III variant that will incorporate the new air and missile defense radar. The committee will also monitor the requirements associated with the new large surface combatant DDG(X). In addition to the manned platforms, the committee will review options for the Navy to augment the surface force structure with both unmanned and potentially optionally manned platforms. Finally, the committee will review the combat logistics forces and the Maritime Security Program to ensure sufficient capacity is available to support national security objectives.

As part of this oversight, the committee will continue to place a significant emphasis on improving affordability in shipbuilding programs through: ensuring stable requirements; the use of acquisition best practices; stability within the overall program; increased reliance on common systems and open architecture; and industrial base capacity, process, and facility improvements at the shipyards.

UNDERSEA WARFARE PROGRAMS

The ability to operate freely at sea is one of the most important enablers of joint and interagency operations, and sea control requires capabilities in all aspects of the maritime domain. There are many challenges to our ability to exercise sea control, perhaps none as significant as the growing number of nations operating submarines, both advanced diesel-electric and nuclear propelled. Exercising sea control in the undersea domain is essential to maintaining the freedom of navigation in support of U.S. maritime interests. The committee will continue to review the undersea domain to ensure warfare dominance. Specifically, the committee will review

short- and long-term options to reverse the decline in the attack submarine force structure as well as options to augment the undersea fleet with unmanned underwater vehicles. The committee will also assess whether sufficient resources and technological maturity are available for the recapitalization of the ballistic missile submarine force. The committee will continue to closely monitor the Virginia class acquisition program and will encourage the Navy to take all necessary measures to ensure we have a stable build rate of no fewer than two submarines per year. Additionally, the committee will monitor the development of the requirements associated with the follow-on attack submarine to the Virginia class. Finally, the committee will assess the weapons and sensors employed in the undersea domain to retain maritime dominance, to include the capacity and capabilities of unmanned undersea vehicles.

As part of this oversight, the committee will place specific emphasis on the efficacy of multi-year procurement, rigorous assessment of requirements, and management of an expanding undersea industrial base capacity.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, AND RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMS

During the 117th Congress, the committee will continue oversight efforts on the size, composition, capability, and capacity of the Department of Defense's maritime intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft force structure. The committee continues to monitor the recapitalization of the remaining P–3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft with the P–8 Poseidon aircraft. The committee continues to assess the risk in the Navy's current plan to maintain and procure the MQ–4 Triton.

The committee will monitor the E–2D Advanced Hawkeye Airborne Early Warning Command and Control aircraft as it gains inflight air refueling capability and continues to replace the E–2C Hawkeye.

During the 117th Congress the committee will also review advanced unmanned capabilities provided by the MQ–8B/C Firescout and new MUX/MALE for the Marine Corps.

STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL FORCES

The committee will provide oversight of the U.S. nuclear policy, posture, and programs; extended deterrence policy; arms control activities; and nuclear force structure requirements. Particular emphasis will be placed on oversight of nuclear weapon employment and declaratory policies, force structure, arms control agreements, and modernization plans. In addition, the committee will continue oversight of nuclear command and control and strategic conventional strike programs. The committee will also continue to monitor the development of foreign nuclear programs and U.S. nonproliferation programs. Across all activities, the committee will pay particular attention to conducting oversight of nuclear enterprise personnel issues, including to ensure a world class, diverse workforce.

The committee oversees the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and nuclear policies and programs of the Department of Defense to ensure the safety, security, reliability, and credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent. The committee will

ensure that the United States maintains a safe, secure, and reliable nuclear arsenal to address current and future threats. The committee will conduct oversight of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense's nuclear modernization and sustainment plans.

In particular, the committee will oversee funding levels and requirements for the nuclear deterrence mission and nuclear enterprise, including relevant nuclear delivery platforms and their associated warheads to ensure resources are provided and allocated effectively and efficiently across Department of Energy and Department of Defense. With regard to the Department of Defense, the committee will emphasize oversight of major acquisition programs that will recapitalize U.S. nuclear forces and the supporting complex for decades into the future, including but not limited to the Ground-based Strategic Deterrent system, the Long-Range Standoff cruise missile, and missiles associated with the new Columbia-class submarine. The committee will also place particular emphasis on investments in nuclear enterprise programs that fall under the purview of the Department of Energy, including but not limited to infrastructure investments, warhead life extension programs, stockpile stewardship programs, stockpile management programs, cost savings and efficiency initiatives, safety and security, and progress on the nuclear clean-up activities.

In addition, the committee will continue oversight of the nuclear command and control programs that underpin a reliable nuclear deterrent. The committee will also continue oversight of strategic conventional systems, such as the Common Hypersonic Glide Body program.

The committee will continue to monitor the National Nuclear Security Administrations Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation activities. The threat of nuclear weapons-grade material, technology, and know-how remains a threat to the United States, particularly in light of new technological developments that may complicate the cost and the ability to detect such activity. The committee will focus on U.S. capabilities related to detection of proliferation to ensure their sustainability, and international cooperation on safeguarding and reducing the use of nuclear weapons grade materials. The spread of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons-usable materials remain a grave threat to the United States, and as such, the committee is committed to ensuring oversight over these critical activities and leveraging new technologies and opportunities as they arise.

MISSILE DEFENSE

The committee oversees the Department of Defense's efforts to develop, test, and field layered missile defense capabilities to protect the United States, its deployed forces, and allies and partners against missile threats.

The committee will continue to place emphasis on cost-effective and reliable missile defenses that contribute to strategic stability. The committee will continue to oversee U.S. homeland missile defense development, developmental and operational testing, cyber security to protect ballistic missile defense system data, force structure and inventory requirements, continued integration of "left-of-

launch" capabilities, and science and technology investments (in areas such as boost-phase intercept, space sensor layer, and continuous improvements to discrimination). The committee will emphasize oversight of major acquisition programs that will recapitalize U.S. missile defenses, including but not limited to Ground-based Midcourse Defense, the Next Generation Interceptor program, and Layered Homeland Defense. The committee will also monitor progress of the Department of Defense Conventional Prompt Strike program as a potential "left-of-launch" capability and related policies that minimize the risk of ambiguity and miscalculation.

The committee will continue to oversee implementation of the 2019 Missile Defense Review by the Department of Defense and opportunities to strengthen international missile defense cooperation with allies and partners to defend against ballistic and cruise missiles.

The committee will continue to provide oversight of the roles, responsibilities, and acquisition policies of the Missile Defense Agency and military services as they relate to integrated air and missile defense.

The committee also intends to continue overseeing the Army's Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense System modernization efforts, including the Patriot weapon system, the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor (as that program transitions to a rapid prototyping effort), and efforts to improve interoperability of Army and Ballistic Missile Defense System capabilities.

NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE

The committee oversees the national security space policies and programs of the Department of Defense, including combat support agencies and elements of the Department of Defense that are also part of the intelligence community. The committee will place attention on current and projected foreign space threats and development of effective deterrence policies for space. The committee will also assess the Department's space security and defense programs to include space situational awareness, space protection, space control, resilience, operationally responsive space activities including capabilities for rapid constellation reconstitution and replenishment and use of commercial capabilities and international cooperation. The committee will initiate efforts with the Department of Defense in developing a policy framework to address how best to achieve rules-based order in space with allies, partners and adversaries.

The committee will also focus on improving the organization and management of the Space Force, and related policies that support maintaining and improving the nation's space advantage, address new threats in space, elevate the focus within the Department on space as a warfighting domain, and create a culture that recognizes the importance of space for national security.

The committee will continue oversight of national security space activities in support of warfighter operations and plans; improvement of space acquisition strategies that provide necessary warfighter capability while reducing cost and technical risk and supporting the industrial base; maintaining cost-effective and competitive assured access to space; efforts to address gaps in space ca-

pabilities for key warfighter needs; investments in science and technology to improve the capabilities of space systems; efforts to appropriately leverage commercial space capabilities; improvements of the synchronization between satellite, ground, and terminal acquisition programs; and efforts that develop and sustain an expert space workforce.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CYBERSPACE ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Military operations in cyberspace have become increasingly important as state and non-state actors seek to exploit the information environment to achieve political, military, and economic objectives. Cyber operations by threat actors below the level of conflict, such as Russian cyber intrusions to undermine democratic institutions or exfiltration of controlled unclassified information from the defense industrial base by cyber actors affiliated with the People's Republic of China, pose a dynamic challenge to U.S. national security. The Department of Defense, when appropriate, must be prepared to address cyber threats across the spectrum of operations and in all types of conflict.

Significant progress in Congress' oversight over military operations in cyberspace has been enacted with the last two National Defense Authorization Acts, and the committee will leverage this progress in new actions for the 117th Congress. The committee will ensure that the Department of Defense adheres to both the spirit and intent of recently enacted legislation to ensure that Congress can conduct rigorous oversight. The committee will also ensure that new initiatives driven by legislation are thoroughly examined and acted upon to guarantee the United States' persistent advantage in cyberspace, including the expansion of tier one cyberspace operations organizations as part of the Cyber Mission Force and Cyber Operations Forces.

The ability of the United States to maintain a comparative advantage in cyberspace is dependent on its ability to expand the Nation's cyber-proficient workforce through support and investment in primary, secondary, and post-secondary education. While the committee applauds efforts to date, significant work is required to harmonize and rationalize how these investments are executed. The committee will push the Department to inventory its existing programs and harmonize as appropriate.

The committee remains concerned that cyberspace operations have long been considered a component divorced from the wider operational picture. To enable future success, the committee will continue in its efforts to break down stovepipes and push for greater integration between cyberspace operations and operations conducted in other recognized warfighting domains.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The committee will ensure that the Department of Defense fosters a robust and balanced science and technology (S&T) ecosystem comprised of agencies; offices; laboratories; federally funded research and development centers; university affiliated research centers; academic partnerships; test and evaluation entities; and partnerships with the private sector, including small businesses; in

order to deliver the best capabilities to the warfighter in the near-, mid-, and long-term. Specifically, the committee will conduct oversight of the Department's S&T activities to ensure planning and execution of investments are aligned with national strategies and other interagency efforts to maintain technological superiority. This includes examination of the Department's S&T annual investments and trends over time; the Department's efforts to advance technologies aligned with the National Defense Strategy (NDS) and the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering's (USD(R&E)'s) eleven modernization priorities; and how R&E, the military services, and the many innovation organizations in the Department advance these modernization priorities while protecting important science and technology investments.

The committee will continue to oversee performance of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Defense Innovation Unit, and Strategic Capabilities Office, as well as other service-specific innovation centers and partnerships with private industry to ensure coordination, synchronization, transition of technology, and prudent use of fiscal resources. Further, the current global COVID–19 pandemic only underscores the importance of the subcommittee's oversight of S&T investments in countermeasures to adversary capabilities and emerging threats, such as infectious diseases, biotechnologies, and climate change.

The committee will examine the Department's S&T strategy and doctrine, concepts of employment, and other organizing concepts pursued by the military services and the Office of Secretary of Defense. This includes examination of how capabilities contribute to new security strategies; how they are supported by rigorous technical analysis and relevant concepts of employment; and how the Department will develop plans to transition matured technologies to the field. The committee will review how the Department is strategically developing policies on how the U.S. should use and deploy future technologies, such as the rapid technological advancements outlined in the NDS, as well as the R&E modernization priorities, and how these emerging capabilities will contribute to new security strategies, as was directed in in the 116th Congress in section 232 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92).

In the 117th Congress the committee will continue to examine the Department's level of use of the dozens of congressionally provided authorities together intended to improve the Department's S&T facilities, infrastructure, and access to small businesses, academia, and the tech sector. Congress has provided these authorities over a number of years in order to ensure that the Department and the country have the innovation base and technical workforce needed to maintain and strengthen the country's technological advantage. The committee will also continue its focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. Providing and maintaining infrastructure, both digital and brick and mortar, is paramount to attracting the best talent, and in the 117th Congress the committee will oversee the implementation plans for use of authorities and improvement of S&T infrastructure as was directed in the 116th Congress.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERSIGHT

Under clause 2(d) of House rule X, the Chair of each Committee is required to prepare, in consultation with the Ranking Member, and submit to the Committees on Oversight and Reform and House Administration an oversight plan by March 1 of the first session of each Congress.[18] The Budget Committee's oversight responsibilities are determined by both the breadth of the federal budget and the relatively narrow focus of the Committee's legislative jurisdiction.

Under clause 1(d)(1) of House rule X, the primary responsibility of the Budget Committee is to develop a concurrent resolution on the budget for the fiscal year. This concurrent resolution sets spending and revenue levels in aggregate 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, 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 House rule X, the major laws falling within its oversight include the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, the Congressional Budget 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, and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. The two agencies with primary responsibility for administering elements of these laws and hence which fall under the Committee's jurisdiction are the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

In addition to these general oversight responsibilities, the Budget Committee has the special oversight responsibility under clauses 3(c) and 4(b) of House rule X to study the effect on budget outlays of existing and proposed legislation and to request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures.

[18] Consistent with House rules, a copy of this plan was provided to each Member of the Committee at least seven calendar days before submission.

OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 117TH 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 President's budget submissions, review other budget priorities, and evaluate evidence on the state of the economy and the role of federal investments on employment and the nation's long-term economic outlook.

In the 117th Congress, the Committee will be active in its oversight duties. The Committee plans to focus on a range of issues, including rescuing an economy damaged by COVID, creating opportunities to combat and mitigate climate change, improving health care, ending poverty and systemic inequities, ensuring that communities are not left behind regardless of geographic location or density, and creating a fairer tax code. The Committee will focus on how these issues, in the broadest terms, impact the federal budget. In every area of inquiry, the Committee will examine how budgetary policies may affect people based on factors such as race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, and national origin. The Committee will explore how additional information could be provided through the budget process to better understand these distributional effects.

The Committee will continue its efforts to strengthen Congress' power of the purse, through recommending specific reforms to ensure spending and revenue decisions are transparent and effectively carried out by the Executive Branch. This will include assessing OMB's legal authorities to manage federal spending, including the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. 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. It will also review budget rules and processes.

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 ongoing 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. It will also provide oversight of CBO's work, including scoring of legislation moving through Congress, production of baseline estimates, and longer-term projects on important budgetary issues.

The Committee will 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. The Committee will also monitor compliance with the House Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) rule requiring that direct spending increases and revenue losses be offset with either direct spending reductions or revenue increases.

Federal Spending and Tax Incentives

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

OVERSIGHT SCHEDULE

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

First Session (2021)

Spring 2021—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook: Director of CBO.

Spring 2021—Hearings on the President's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget: Director of OMB; Secretary of the Treasury; Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services; Secretary of the Department of Defense.

Spring 2021—Hearing on Budget Priorities for the 2022 Budget: Members of Congress.

Spring 2021—Receive Views and Estimates from other committees to coordinate development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Possible additional hearings on the view of the economy from the Federal Reserve, the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic and the associated government response across all sectors of the U.S. economy, Article I and Congress's power of the purse, congressional budget process and enforcement, the shift in thinking on debt, including Modern Monetary Theory, opportunities for investments in climate action, and other topics to be announced.

Second Session (2022)

Winter 2022—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook: Director of CBO.

Winter 2022—Hearings on the President's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget: Director of OMB; Secretary of the Treasury Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services; Secretary of the Department of Defense.

Winter 2022—Hearing on Budget Priorities for the 2023 Budget: Members of Congress.

Winter 2022—Hearing on the economy, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Winter 2022—Receive Views and Estimates from other committees to coordinate development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Possible hearings on the causes, effects, and budgetary implications of rising income inequality, the long-term benefits of federal investments in building a stronger and fairer economy for all working families, future-oriented energy policies, solutions to increase the affordability of raising a family, the implications of demographic trends for the longer-term budget and economic outlook, and other topics to be announced.

MINORITY VIEWS

OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

The Committee's oversight activities should be focused on ensuring both the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Federal Government are open, transparent, and forthcoming in providing information regarding their expenditure of taxpayer resources. The Committee should make sure relevant budgetary deadlines are adhered to by both branches of government and exert its proper authority when budget laws and precedent are not followed.

Oversight of the Office of Management and Budget

While the Majority's Committee Oversight Plan discusses oversight of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), these efforts should also include review of OMB's decision- making process and legal authorities, including budget execution and enforcement. We hope to join Committee Democrats in ensuring the President's budget submission is timely, complete, and transparent regarding the Administration's plans. Simply put, American taxpayers deserve to not only know what the White House's true agenda is, but also how much it will cost and whether it includes tax increases on the working-class. American families, taxpayers and small businesses should know the economic consequences of the Administration's policy priorities.

Committee Republicans appreciate the continued interest in examining Congress's power of the purse. Given the critical role OMB plays in executing the Administration's policy priorities, Committee Republicans hope these oversight efforts verify the Executive Branch is transparent in implementing its budgetary decisions. Moreover, as Democrat leaders seek to use the reconciliation process to quickly enact another $1.9 trillion in federal funding, Committee Republicans believe transparency and accountability at OMB is crucial, considering that approximately $1 trillion in similar, previously enacted funding is yet to be spent. Congress's power to make funding decisions plays a critical role in the checks and balances it has on the Executive Branch.

The Budget Committee has a unique oversight responsibility to study the effects of existing and proposed legislation and policies. However, notably absent from the Committee's Oversight Plan are the budgetary impacts of executive actions by the Administration—such as terminating the southern border wall, canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline contract, and displacing thousands of American workers. Additionally, the removal of Administrative PAYGO will increase costs for Executive Branch agencies and taxpayers since those same agencies will no longer have to propose offsets for the costs associated with discretionary administrative actions. Since

the Committee's Oversight Plan includes evaluating the impact of policy on protected classes, the Committee should also assess the impact of policies on the working-class, who will undoubtedly bear the adverse effects of costly executive actions, as well as how these policies impact different regions across our country—particularly rural Americans. Committee Republicans welcome the opportunity to work in a bipartisan manner to ensure transparency and accountability of the Executive Branch and in monitoring the far-reaching economic consequences of its actions.

The Budget Committee should also work with our counterparts in the Senate to provide appropriate and necessary oversight of potential OMB nominees. Given its role in assisting the President in implementing the Administration's policies across the Executive Branch, it is crucial that Congress continue to have a bipartisan working relationship with OMB in order to best serve the American people.

Additionally, the Budget Committee should be prepared to support authorizing committees in their oversight of respective federal agency spending to ensure programs within their jurisdiction are operating effectively and efficiently and that these programs fulfill their statutory intent. This Committee should work with authorizing committees to review government-wide spending and implement programmatic changes that will maintain the responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars and address the looming debt crisis. Committee Republicans also support additional oversight efforts to review the expenditure of taxpayer dollars to verify they are not enriching corporate America and non-citizens at the expense of small businesses. To date, the Biden Administration has already issued 34 executive orders, many of which significantly impact the economy through lost jobs. Democrats' policies, including executive orders and additional stimulus spending, will impair the economy and lead to higher prices for goods and services for all Americans. The economy is already rapidly recovering, and unemployment continues to decline. This Committee should examine ways to support such economic growth and not serve as an impediment to it.

Oversight of the Congressional Budget Office

The primary responsibility of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is serving the House and Senate Committees on the Budget by providing information on the federal budget, legislation considered by Congress, federal spending and revenues—including cost estimates of legislation—and related matters. The Committee appreciates CBO's transparency and responsiveness.

Although oversight of CBO is addressed in the Committee Oversight Plan, the plan fails to specifically address the availability of cost estimates of legislation in a timely manner. It is imperative for Congress to have prompt and expedient access to cost estimates of major legislation, especially before consideration of such legislation. The Committee should also review the accuracy of previous estimates. This informed decision-making will provide greater transparency and efficiency in the budget process.

CBO operates on a permanent authorization, stemming from the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and therefore, has never been

fully reauthorized. As the official budgetary agency for the Legislative Branch, it is important that this Committee conducts a comprehensive review and reauthorization of CBO.

Congressional Budget Enforcement and Process

We appreciate Committee Democrats' commitment to working with the Appropriations and authorizing committees to ensure legislation complies with the budget resolution's levels as required pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the House Pay-As-You-Go rule. We are disappointed, however, that the Committee's Oversight Plan does not include any required consultation by the Chairman with the Ranking Member regarding the compliance of legislation with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the House Pay-As-You-Go rule particularly the budgetary exemptions adopted in H. Res. 8 for the 117th Congress. A lack of consultation with the Ranking Member demonstrates the absence of transparency in congressional budget enforcement.

The Committee's Oversight Plan also fails to examine the modern-day effectiveness of the congressional budget process, enforcement, and proper uses of reconciliation. Democrats failed to adopt a budget resolution all of last Congress. A Fiscal Year 2021 budget resolution was adopted by Congress this year after the deadline under law and after all funding for the fiscal year was appropriated. Democrats' efforts for a Fiscal Year 2021 budget resolution were driven by the desire to enact $1.9 trillion in stimulus spending through reconciliation. Moreover, the use of reconciliation by Democrats to enact funding for state and local governments based on both population and unemployment actually punishes states that have reopened and allowed businesses and Americans to return to work. It is important for this Committee to abide by both budget enforcement and the reconciliation process and its proper uses.

Since its enactment, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been amended numerous times, which has led to Congress abandoning the process outlined in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 for ad hoc procedures. The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 provides several budget enforcement tools. The use of ad hoc procedures for budgeting often results in a failure to enforce the budget. Consequently, failure to effectively enforce the budget resolution leads to increased costs to taxpayers because Congress fails to comply with its own budget by enacting legislation without offsets. As a result, it is imperative for this Committee to review budget enforcement to ensure it is effective and work together to adhere to strict budget enforcement.

The implementation of COVID–19 related funding, review of congressional budget enforcement, and the budgetary impacts on small businesses and the working-class are examples of national priority issues that should be addressed from a federal budget context as well. It is disappointing that these issues were overlooked in the Committee's Oversight Plan, and Committee Republicans look forward to addressing these matters moving forward.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

117TH CONGRESS

SUBMISSION OF OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

Mr. SCOTT, from the Committee on Education and Labor, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and 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, the chair of each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Ethics, and the Committee on Rules) shall—

(A) prepare, in consultation with the ranking minority member, an oversight plan for that Congress;

(B) provide a copy of that plan to each member of the committee for at least seven calendar days before its submission; and

(C) submit that plan (including any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a member of the committee) simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on House Administration.

Jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor

Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives vests in the Committee on Education and Labor (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.

Addressing Issues of Inequities

Pursuant to H. Res. 8, adopted by the House of Representatives in the 117th Congress, Clause 2(d)(2)(F) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives added the following new requirement to committee oversight plans:

> (F) give priority consideration to including in the plan a discuss of how the committee's work will address issues of inequities on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin.

This Committee has and will continue to work toward an America where everyone can succeed, not just the wealthy few, by conducting oversight to ensure that federal laws are applied without illegal discrimination and federal programs are implemented to improve the lives of all children, students, workers, retirees, and families. The Committee's commitment to realize equity in and access to quality education, achieve safe and inclusive workplaces where workers can earn a livable wage and collectively bargain, and expand access to quality and affordable health care are fundamental to its oversight activities.

In the 117th Congress, the Committee will continue to deliver on its promise to the people across this great nation by shedding light on longstanding inequities and achievement gaps in education, unsafe and exclusionary workplaces, and limited or no access to quality and affordable health care for those who need it most. As it has always done, the Committee will continue to use its oversight authority to ensure that the federal government and its partners are delivering for the people, and it is pleased that this provision has been added to the Rules to ensure that other committees are doing the same.

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, DC 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 (Ag), and Justice (DOJ).

The Committee will lead aggressive oversight in its areas of jurisdiction, which include programs and statutes administered and enforced by ED, DOL, HHS, Ag, 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 they 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 117th Congress. These areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **COVID–19 Relief:** To respond to the COVID–19 pandemic, Congress appropriated significant resources in the 116th Congress. The Committee will oversee the implementation of these laws and future COVID–19 relief legislation to ensure that students, teachers, patients, workers, and their families are adequately protected. As part of this work, the Committee will continue to conduct oversight of ED's COVID–19 relief efforts to ensure it appropriately distributes funds to Puerto Rico.
- **Civil Rights:** The Committee will oversee the implementation of civil rights laws pertaining to education, labor and employment, and health to ensure that such protections are sustained and robustly enforced. Oversight shall include reviewing the policies and priorities of ED's Office for Civil Rights, DOL's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In addition, the Committee will investigate the Trump Administration's rollback of civil rights policies and ensure the Biden Administration works to benefit all workers and students. The Committee will assess the longstanding education gaps that have deepened due to institutional educational inequities rooted in racism. The Committee will also conduct oversight on DOL's, ED's, and HHS' rules and use of faith-based exemptions to ensure that they are not used to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or any other protected class in federal programs and contracts. Further, the Committee will investigate maternal and infant issues, food insecurity, and other institutional inequities that impact access to quality health care and community supports.
- **Implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act:** ED has not implemented the bipartisan *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) with fidelity. Accordingly, the Committee will ensure ED fully and appropriately implements ESSA, with a focus on ESSA's accountability and supplement not supplant provisions.

• **Restarting Student Loan Payments:** Congress and President Trump have suspended all payments and collections on federally-held student loans since March 2020 due to the pandemic-induced recession. This will present operational challenges when servicers are charged with reinitiating collections and payments for the entire student borrower portfolio. The Committee will investigate whether servicers are sufficiently prepared to resume collecting student loan payments and, when payments resume, will conduct oversight to ensure servicers are complying with all statutory and contractual requirements.

• **Student Aid:** The Committee will conduct oversight on the policies and priorities of the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA), especially as they relate to institutional accountability, monitoring of the incentive compensation ban, reducing abuse among institutions reliant on online program management companies, and monitoring institutional financial solvency. Further, the Committee will continue to investigate and monitor FSA's procurement of components of the NextGen initiative, FSA's implementation of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, and FSA's implementation of the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) grants program.

• **For-Profit Institution Conversions:** Over the last decade, for-profit institutions have converted to non-profit institutions at an accelerated rate and with insufficient monitoring from ED. Some of these conversions have allowed for-profit owners and executives to improperly benefit from non-profit organizations and have posed financial risks to students and taxpayers. The Committee will investigate recently converted institutions and those seeking new conversions to evaluate and mitigate risks.

• **Borrower Defense:** The Trump Administration repealed student borrower protections and replaced them with corporate-friendly regulations that made obtaining meaningful relief for defrauded borrowers nearly impossible. The Committee will oversee ED's implementation and re-regulation of these provisions to ensure borrowers are protected from institutional misconduct and made whole when evidence of fraud is uncovered.

• **Students and Workers with Disabilities:** The Committee will conduct oversight on ED's implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's significant disproportionality requirements. Though this requirement was meant to protect Black and Latino students from overrepresentation in special education, ED has failed to effectively enforce this provision. The Committee also will monitor the activities of DOL's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) to ensure it is fulfilling its mission to improve educational opportunities for people with disabilities and provide technical assistance to employers to support people with disabilities in the workplace.

• **Department of Labor's Workforce Development Programs:** The Committee will conduct oversight on DOL's work-

force training programs. This includes reviewing the policies and expenditures of apprenticeship programs operated by DOL, and evaluating the various programs under the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*, including Job Corps, the Dislocated Worker program, and the Re-entry Employment Opportunity program.

- **Worker Wages:** The Committee will conduct oversight on the DOL's Wage and Hour Division's (WHD) actions regarding overtime pay, protections for tipped workers, and child labor protections under the *Fair Labor Standards Act*. The Committee will evaluate the WHD's enforcement of prevailing wage laws.
- **Workplace Safety and Health:** The Committee will conduct oversight on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) actions regarding workplace health and safety standards, including infectious disease protections, occupational heat stress, workplace violence in health care and social service settings, and hazardous substances. The Committee will assess the adequacy of OSHA's COVID–19 policies and the effectiveness of its enforcement efforts at high-risk worksites, including warehouses, meat packing plants, and nursing homes.
- **Mine Safety and Health:** The Committee will evaluate the Mine Safety and Health Administration's actions to stem the rising rates of black lung disease and assess whether changes to its enforcement policies have compromised miners' safety.
- **Workers' Compensation Programs:** The Committee will evaluate risks to the solvency of the Black Lung Benefits Disability Trust Fund, review the adequacy of COVID–19 compensation coverage under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) and the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, and evaluate DOL's implementation of recommendations issued by the Government Accountability Office with respect to the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.
- **Retirement Security and Pensions:** The Committee will examine the costs and consequences to workers, retirees, businesses, and communities, as well as to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, if Congress does not address the multiemployer pension crisis. The Committee also will continue to monitor the impact of "midnight" rules (retirement investment advice, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing, and proxy voting) that were finalized by DOL during the final months of the Trump Administration.
- **International Labor Rights:** The Committee will investigate, where appropriate, international labor issues, including those involving trade agreements and labor rights abuses, and oversee the management and operations of the International Labor Affairs Bureau within DOL.
- **Guestworker Programs:** The Committee will conduct oversight on the implementation of the provisions in the Immigration and *Nationality Act* that protect the wages and working conditions of both U.S. and foreign workers.

- **Collective Bargaining Rights:** The Committee will conduct oversight and investigations to ensure that the National Labor Relations Board is fairly and ethically enforcing the *National Labor Relations Act*. This includes ensuring that any structural changes to the National Labor Relations Board are aligned with its mission to protect workers.
- **Child Nutrition:** The Committee will monitor and conduct oversight on the Department of Agriculture's administration of child nutrition programs within the Committee's jurisdiction and any proposed policies and regulations that impact these nutrition programs, including during the COVID–19 pandemic.
- **Health Care:** The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that all people are receiving equitable and affordable access to health care, including investigating inequities that prevent individuals and communities from accessing needed health care. This includes ensuring that all individuals and families can access needed prescription drugs.
- **Supporting Communities:** The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that community support programs and federal funding targeted to improving equity for vulnerable populations achieves that goal.

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

117TH CONGRESS

SUBMISSION OF OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

MINORITY VIEWS

The American people deserve an open, accountable government that works efficiently, effectively, and in adherence to the law. Congress must use its constitutional authority to ensure that laws are properly enforced, taxpayer money is spent wisely in accordance with congressional intent, and government policy does not harm the American people. Congressional oversight of federal programs and activities is a critical part of this authority. Oversight is a constitutional prerogative, an important responsibility of the Congress, and a core objective of the Committee. Accordingly, the Committee should responsibly oversee, investigate, and hold accountable the various agencies, departments, and programs within its jurisdiction.

As we said last Congress, oversight may not be glamorous or exciting, but it is important to be diligent, thoughtful, and responsible in its implementation. It is equally important to be objective. If the Committee's work is to be effective, then it is important for all Members to keep open minds, examine potential problems, assess the actual facts and evidence, and finally determine if there are concerns that need to be addressed.

Exercise of Oversight Responsibilities

Under the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee has jurisdiction over programs and statutes administered and enforced by the U.S. Departments of Education, Labor, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, and Justice, as well as various independent agencies. The Committee should continue to ensure these programs and statutes are implemented in an effective and efficient manner and consistent with the appropriate federal role following congressional intent. In so doing, the Committee should actively consult with House committees that have concurrent or related jurisdiction.

The Committee should pursue several areas for oversight and investigation in the 117th Congress. These areas are discussed below:

- **Coronavirus Relief.** Significant waiver authority has been authorized to allow secretaries to waive legal requirements and limitations in federal law. Additionally, billions of taxpayer dollars have been provided over the past year to states to assist students, schools, employees and employers, and other entities. The Committee must ensure these funds are being used effectively and in compliance with the law and

ensure the waiver authority granted is used appropriately and fairly.

- **Every Student Succeeds Act.** In 2015, Congress passed, and the President signed, a bipartisan, bicameral bill to replace No Child Left Behind with commonsense reforms to allow states and communities the flexibility needed to provide all students an excellent education. The Committee should ensure the Biden administration continues the Trump administration's commitment to follow the letter of the law and congressional intent in its implementation of the law.
- **Student Aid.** The U.S. Department of Education oversees $1.5 trillion in outstanding federal student loans and disburses billions in grants and work-study funds each year. The Committee should continue to monitor the costs and performance of these programs. The Committee should also examine both the Office of Federal Student Aid's internal reorganization and its contracts with student loan servicers and private collection agencies.
- **Higher Education Regulations.** Institutions of higher education are subject to myriad federal regulations and reporting requirements that are often burdensome and costly. The Committee should continue its oversight of regulatory policies and challenge those that enlarge the federal footprint in postsecondary education, which tends to interfere with academic freedom, infringe on the authorities of the states, limit student choice and freedom of expression, and unfairly target particular sectors of higher education.
- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.** In 2014, Congress passed, and the President signed, a bipartisan, bicameral bill to fix the nation's broken workforce development system. The Committee should examine the impact of the pandemic on the programs under the law and ensure the law is properly implemented so that it continues to help workers attain skills for 21st century jobs.
- **Health Care.** The Committee should continue oversight of health care issues, including the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and implementation of the No Surprises Act. In particular, the Committee should focus on how the ACA regulations and subregulatory guidance have harmed employers' ability to provide high quality, affordable health care to employees, including educators and school staff. The Committee should also support actions to provide relief from these costly and burdensome requirements.
- **Employer and Employee Protections.** The Committee should conduct oversight and investigations, as appropriate, to ensure employee and employer rights under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) are protected and applied consistently without bias. Additionally, the Committee should work to ensure the NLRA is upheld during the Biden administration by maintaining the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) ability to operate independently and free from political interference. The Committee should also conduct oversight into President Biden's unprecedented firing of the Senate-confirmed

NLRB General Counsel 10 months before the expiration of his term.

• **Workplace Safety.** The Committee has a duty to ensure that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) are appropriately carrying out their missions to protect the safety and health of America's workers. The Committee should conduct oversight on the rulemaking process by ensuring agencies solicit necessary and required feedback from stakeholders so that workplace safety regulations are responsible and feasible. The Committee should also be closely monitoring the Biden administration OSHA and MSHA COVID–19 responses—including plans to issue emergency temporary standards—to ensure that the agencies' regulatory approach is legal, appropriate, and does not hinder employers from protecting workers from COVID–19 in the workplace.

• **Retirement Security.** The retirement system works best when workers have access to voluntary, robust, portable, and secure savings options. The Committee should monitor the U.S. Department of Labor's activities to ensure regulations and sub-regulatory guidance benefit the long-term retirement security of working families and do not restrict access to affordable retirement advice.

• **Multiemployer Pensions.** Extreme and continued underfunding in multiemployer defined benefit pension plans threaten the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's (PBGC) solvency as well as benefits promised to workers and retirees who participate in these plans. To prevent further deterioration of the plans' funding and protect the security of worker and retiree benefits, the Committee should consider meaningful, forward-looking and fiscally responsible structural reforms consistent with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Legislation should include meaningful compromises involving all stakeholders, including unions and employers, to avoid the moral hazard of open-ended taxpayer commitments. Without systemic reforms, Congress would simply be rewarding multiemployer plan trustees for years of poor management. The Committee should also continue to monitor the implementation of the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 and the activities of the PBGC to develop needed bipartisan reforms that will protect both taxpayers and workers.

• **Regulatory Process.** An open and transparent process for revising and implementing regulations will benefit students, institutions, employers, and workers alike. The Committee should work to ensure that stakeholders have sufficient time to review and provide public comment on regulatory actions within the Committee's jurisdiction.

• **Wage and Hour Laws.** Significant federal labor laws were enacted more than 70 years ago for a very different workforce from the one that exists today. The Committee should continue to examine how these outdated laws affect economic growth and job creation. In addition, the Committee should continue to encourage the agencies in its jurisdiction, especially the U.S. Department of Labor, to focus on compliance assist-

ance, rather than punitive enforcement measures, to help employers understand and follow federal labor laws.

- **Government Spending.** The Committee should closely monitor all agencies under its jurisdiction to determine whether the expenditure of taxpayers' money is leading to efficient, high-quality outcomes for students and workers.
- **Union Transparency.** Workers who have chosen to be represented by unions want to be sure their dues are being properly managed. The Committee should examine the efficacy of current union reporting requirements and work to ensure that employees have access to information that clearly shows how their dues are spent. In particular, the Committee should conduct oversight to investigate and examine notable cases of union corruption involving the embezzlement of workers' union dues.
- **Executive Action.** The Obama administration took a number of executive actions that encroach on the constitutional authority of Congress to write the law; unfortunately, the Biden administration seems to have adopted that flawed approach to governing. The Committee should monitor and analyze these actions and work together to reclaim Congress' role as the legislative branch of government.

Along with the oversight objectives already outlined, the Committee should examine the programs within its jurisdiction whose authorizations have expired or will soon expire. Based upon the results of that oversight, the Committee should determine the appropriate next steps.

Conclusion

Committee Republicans believe responsible, fact-driven oversight of the agencies over which this Committee has jurisdiction is vitally important. The Committee must ensure that agencies are being good stewards of hard-working taxpayer dollars and are implementing the laws Congress passed with fidelity. Committee Republicans look forward to pursuing oversight opportunities that meet those goals and working with our majority colleagues in this endeavor.

Signatories:

VIRGINIA FOXX,
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TIM WALBERG.
GLENN GROTHMAN.
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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 117TH CONGRESS

THE HONORABLE FRANK PALLONE, JR., CHAIRMAN

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 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 117th Congress. It includes areas where the Committee expects to conduct oversight during the 117th 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.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

CLIMATE CRISIS

Climate change is a crisis that affects every region of the country and threatens the economy, the environment, and public health. In the midst of a severe economic downturn, the Committee intends to examine opportunities and mechanisms for a green and just economic recovery for all Americans. The Committee will focus on the economic, environmental, and health effects of climate change, including the disproportionate impacts on low-income communities, communities of color, tribal communities, and other historically overburdened populations. The Committee will identify opportunities to reduce negative impacts, create new businesses and jobs, and make all communities safer and more resilient. The Committee

will also review actions needed to meet our obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement and examine the climate impacts of regulatory efforts and programs by the Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and other agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee plans to examine governmental and nongovernmental activities and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Committee will also assess state funding programs and other efforts by agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction to ensure states and local communities have the resources needed to prepare for and respond to severe weather events and natural disasters.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The Committee expects to review significant rulemakings and program implementation under the Clean Air Act and associated public health and environmental benefits. The Committee will conduct oversight of EPA decisions, management strategies, and other actions affecting efforts to meet Clean Air Act standards, including EPA actions that affect state efforts to meet public health goals. This review will include a close examination of the costs and benefits of Clean Air Act actions, and the role these analyses have played in perpetuating disparate air pollution, for historically overburdened communities. Additionally, the Committee will examine the current role of and proposed changes to the accounting of cost, benefits, and feasibility in Clean Air Act rulemakings. The Committee will also continue to conduct oversight of EPA's implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard, including program transparency and opportunities for that authority to address climate change and pollution disparities.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND CLEANUP

The Committee will conduct oversight of EPA's implementation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA). This will include the cleanup of sites vulnerable to the effects of climate change and sites that contribute to the disparate burden of pollution in historically overburdened communities. The Committee will also oversee implementation of recent updates to the Brownfields program. The Committee anticipates investigating the public health, environmental, and economic impacts of the expiration of Superfund taxes and EPA's decisions regarding financial responsibility requirements under CERCLA Section 108(b).

HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE

The Committee will examine state and federal implementation of our waste laws, including the disparate impacts of unsafe waste disposal on historically overburdened communities. This review will focus on the public health and environmental impacts, including climate impacts, of plastic waste and recycling, coal ash, waste materials containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, landfill gas, and various waste disposal methods.

REGULATION OF DANGEROUS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES

The Committee will conduct oversight of EPA's implementation of the reformed Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) as EPA moves forward with the first risk management rules under the law and revises its framework rules in light of judicial decisions. This oversight will look at EPA's efforts to reexamine and incorporate into its regulatory framework previously excluded uses, exposures, vulnerable populations, and scientific studies. The Committee will examine the impacts these decisions are having on the most vulnerable and disproportionately impacted, including workers, infants and children, and historically overburdened communities. The Committee will also examine risk management activities and decisions related to pesticides and other non-TSCA regulated chemicals, as well as the actions of other agencies in the Committee's jurisdiction charged with addressing these issues, including DOE and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

DRINKING WATER RISKS AND SAFETY

The Committee will continue its oversight of the standard setting process under the Safe Drinking Water Act, including obstacles to timely action and to addressing disparate risks to historically overburdened communities. The Committee will also examine serious threats to the safety of our drinking water, including risks from lead service lines and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. In addition, the Committee will continue to review the impact on communities of regulatory ambiguity under the Safe Drinking Water Act regarding hydraulic fracturing, as well as transparency and potential risks to communities from the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing.

EPA MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will conduct general oversight of EPA. This will include review of agency enforcement activities (including the use of those activities to address disparate pollution burdens in historically overburdened communities), funding decisions, staff and other resource allocations, office and program reorganization, grants, research activities, and contracts awarded to outside parties. The Committee will also conduct general oversight of EPA's relations with state, local, and tribal governments, as well as its public transparency, and adherence to economic, procedural, public health, and environmental standards in regulatory actions.

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

The Committee will examine policies that relate to energy efficiency and conservation, and the exploration, production, transmission, distribution, and consumption of electricity, oil and natural gas, coal, hydroelectric power, nuclear power, and renewable energy. The Committee will continue to address associated climate issues as well as the impacts of such activities on safety, security, and public health. Further, the Committee will investigate the disparate costs, benefits, risks, and opportunities of these policies for historically overburdened communities. The Committee will also re-

view the electrification of the transportation sector, and examine the electric grid needs for increased charging infrastructure. The Committee will inquire into the impact of government policies and programs—including those established in the recently enacted Energy Act of 2020—on the exploration, production, storage, supply, marketing, pricing, and regulation of domestic energy resources, including issues relating to the nation's energy infrastructure. The Committee will review existing federal interstate transmission policies and explore how they should be revised to facilitate increased integration of renewable energy resources and reduced costs to consumers. The Committee will also explore electric utility responses to the impacts of climate change-induced extreme weather events to determine where improvements can be made to mitigate adverse impacts and expedite recovery. Additionally, the Committee will examine energy access, energy poverty, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as necessary.

ELECTRICITY AND NATURAL GAS MARKETS AND REGULATION

The Committee will review the federal electricity and natural gas policies of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Department of Energy (DOE) related to competitive markets for compliance with relevant statutes. The Committee will also examine FERC and DOE activities relating to consumer protection and the environment with regard to electricity, natural gas, and hydroelectric power, including the development of efficient and vigorous wholesale markets for electricity. The Committee will explore ways to increase transparency into regulatory proceedings at FERC to ensure that members of the public, particularly landowners subject to pipeline-related eminent domain proceedings, have the ability to understand and actively engage with FERC on these matters. Similarly, the Committee will look specifically at tribal roles in statutes implemented by FERC. Additionally, the Committee will closely examine actions regarding pipeline safety by the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration as well as actions regarding pipeline security by the Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The Committee will also review the need for modernizing the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act.

ENERGY AND FUEL EFFICIENCY MANDATES

The Committee will continue to oversee federal programs setting energy efficiency standards for home appliances crafted by DOE, to ensure that the programs maximize the benefit to consumers, public health, and the environment. The Committee will also examine greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards for motor vehicles developed by EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), respectively. Additionally, the Committee will review energy efficiency and carbon reduction efforts within the federal government and the Federal Energy Management Program, generally. The Committee will also continue its oversight of building energy efficiency codes, the process for setting those codes, and DOE's role in fostering their adoption.

MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ITS NATIONAL LABORATORIES

The Committee will continue to oversee governance, management, and operations issues at DOE, including the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the National Laboratories. This will include a continued focus on DOE's management of the contractors that operate the national laboratories. The Committee's oversight work will also include review of the implementation of management, security, and safety reforms at NNSA and DOE facilities, ongoing safety and security matters, as well as the work of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. The Committee will continue to oversee the Office of Environmental Management's efforts to cleanup waste and contamination from nuclear weapons production and research, including the significant increases in environmental liabilities in recent years. This work will also include the Committee's oversight functions over DOE grant and loan guarantee programs as well as programs and activities relating to nonmilitary energy research and development.

NUCLEAR WASTE

The Committee will continue to review the actions of DOE and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding obligations of these agencies under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The Committee will also examine other nuclear waste cleanup and disposal programs under its jurisdiction.

THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

The Committee will continue its longstanding oversight of the energy workforce. The Committee will focus attention on the transition to a clean energy economy, the impact on traditional energy employment, and the increased need for a skilled workforce in the growing areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and storage, among other things. The Committee will continue its ongoing examination of diversity in the energy workforce and pathways to ensure underrepresented groups including Native Americans, people of color, women and veterans are able to obtain employment and benefit from the transition to a clean energy economy.

HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE OF 2019 (COVID–19)

The Committee will continue general oversight of the response to the COVID–19 pandemic. The Committee will review pharmaceutical manufacturers' efforts to develop and produce COVID–19

vaccines, and the federal government's role in supporting those efforts and ensuring equitable distribution of the vaccines. The Committee will also continue to examine issues related to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) producing and disseminating reliable public health data and information, and efforts by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to review, authorize, and approve drugs, vaccines, and devices in the fight against COVID–19.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The Committee will continue to examine issues related to the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including decisions by the Trump Administration to administratively and illegally undermine the ACA. This oversight will also examine the effect the Trump Administration's decisions have had on access to comprehensive, affordable health care. The Committee will also examine the role the ACA has played in providing health insurance coverage during the COVID–19 crisis and associated economic downturn, as well as explore ways to strengthen the law in order to ensure all Americans have access to comprehensive, affordable health care.

HHS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will conduct general oversight of HHS and its agencies to ensure it is fulfilling its mission to enhance and protect the health of all Americans. The Committee will also review HHS's response to the COVID–19 pandemic, including actions taken by FDA, CDC, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) related to the prevention of, preparation for, and response to COVID–19. The Committee will also review actions taken by political leadership at HHS during the Trump Administration that have undermined professional morale and the public health mission of the agency.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

The Committee will review the management, operations, and activities of CMS and the programs it administers. The Committee will study the positive economic effect of Medicaid expansion and impact of Medicaid expansion on access to care. The Committee will review insurance coverage rates for children and state outreach efforts to enroll uninsured children. The Committee will examine attempts by the Trump Administration to administratively and illegally undermine the Medicaid program, which provides critical services to over 70 million individuals, and the disparate impact that these illegal actions had on access to care for communities of color. The Committee will also continue to examine the increasing out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors under the Medicare program, including drug therapies intended to treat COVID–19. The Committee will examine the positive effects of capping out-of-pocket costs in Medicare Part D and providing the Secretary of HHS the authority to negotiate drug prices, particularly for drugs that lack robust market competition.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND PRODUCT SAFETY

The Committee will review the management, operations, and activities of the FDA, including the ability of the agency to ensure the safety of the nation's food, drugs, devices, and cosmetics, as well as the impact of tobacco use on public health. The Committee will examine the agency's implementation of emergency use authorities during COVID–19 response, including authorizations for drugs, including vaccines and devices. The Committee will also investigate FDA's enforcement of current drug supply chain and safety laws and its foreign drug inspection program. The Committee will also oversee implementation of the Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act, including the establishment and collection of user fees. Further, the Committee will review FDA's efforts to improve and modernize the regulatory framework for medical devices and medical device safety, as well as examine FDA oversight and evaluation of diagnostic tests, including laboratory-developed tests. The Committee will also continue to review the FDA's efforts to combat youth access to tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) products, as well as the agency's enforcement and implementation of the Tobacco Control Act, including the agency's review of premarket tobacco product applications of new tobacco products. The Committee intends to review the safety of cosmetics and personal care products in light of the substantial increase in cosmetic imports, one of FDA's larger categories of imports. The Committee will also examine FDA's statutory authorities for protecting the nation's food supply with a view towards identifying any gaps and whether FDA's financial and personnel resources are adequate to protect the public from unsafe food.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

The Committee will examine the roles of various federal agencies responsible for protecting public health, including program management and implementation. Specifically, the Committee will continue to conduct oversight of federal efforts on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, including the COVID–19 pandemic as well as other infectious diseases. Oversight will include examination of resources and programs such as the Strategic National Stockpile, public health laboratory capacity, and disease surveillance, as well as the United States' response to additional emerging foreign infectious disease threats. The Committee will continue oversight of COVID–19 vaccine distribution, administration, and promotion, as well as activities to combat the underutilization of vaccines for other vaccine-preventable diseases. The Committee will also continue its review of efforts to combat the drug epidemic, including opioids and stimulants. The Committee will examine federal coordination carried out by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, state and local responses, and the roles of participants in the health care delivery chain. Additionally, the Committee will study the role our federal public health agencies play and the actions such agencies can take to reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic minorities, and to address the health impacts caused by gun violence in our communities. Fur-

ther, the Committee will also review and monitor any efforts that stymie or hinder access to comprehensive women's health care and reproductive health care services, which disproportionately impact low-income women and women of color. Finally, the Committee will also continue to monitor implementation of mental health reforms and the work done by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, the mental health impact of the COVID–19 pandemic, as well as issues related to the health and safety of athletes, including youth athletes.

HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY

The Committee will examine the Administration's actions and policies related to the rising costs of health care and prescriptions drugs. This will include examining the role FDA and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) play in the discovery, development, and delivery of innovative medications. The Committee will also investigate the impacts higher health care costs, including rising out-of-pocket costs, are having on American families, including seniors, and what actions may be taken to improve affordability within our health care system. The Committee will conduct oversight on the implementation of legislative and administrative actions taken to end surprise billing practices. The Committee will also continue to review policies proposed by the Administration to lower the costs of prescription drugs and will investigate how actions taken by brand name and generic drug manufacturers have impacted such costs, including abuses and gaming of current regulatory requirements. Further, the Committee will study the role rebates play in the costs of prescription drugs and to our federal health care system and how changes to rebates may impact such costs.

REUNIFICATION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

The Committee will continue to monitor and oversee HHS and the Office of Refugee Resettlement's efforts to provide appropriate care to unaccompanied children who are awaiting placement with sponsors in the United States. The Committee will also review HHS's role in significant policies that affect the placement and coordination of unaccompanied children, including changes to protocols that could delay the placement of unaccompanied children with sponsors. The Committee's review will also include monitoring HHS-contracted facilities' compliance with federal laws and regulations, as well as HHS's oversight of these facilities, including influx facilities.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

The Committee expects to investigate the availability, quality, and adequacy of health care prevention and treatment services provided by the Indian Health Service. The Committee will continue to review current implementation of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and how this law and the care provided by the Indian Health Service is working for American Indians and Alaska Natives in order to inform the Committee on ways to improve care for those who rely on these services. The Committee will also review the disproportionate impact of COVID–19 on tribal commu-

nities, as well as the quality and adequacy of the Indian Health Service's response to the pandemic.

HEALTH CARE INEQUALITY

Despite overall improvements in population health over time, many health and health care disparities have persisted and, in some cases, worsened. Addressing these disparities is important not only from an equity standpoint, but also for improving overall quality of health care and population health. COVID–19 did not cause this country's health and health care disparities, rather, the pandemic laid bare these vast inequalities among our most vulnerable populations. The Committee will examine issues of inequities in our health care system on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin. The Committee will also investigate the disproportionate impact of COVID–19 on communities of color, racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality, and the appropriate collection of demographic data related to health and health care.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the operations, management, and activities of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), including the effect of its decisions on protecting consumers, promoting privacy and data security, encouraging universal broadband access and adoption, technologies and services, supply chain security, increasing diversity of ownership and competition, and ensuring adequate emergency communications capability. Additionally, the Committee will evaluate the effect of FCC actions on spectrum policy, network resiliency, and public safety, as well as data, video, voice, and audio services.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNCIATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINSTRATION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the operations, management, and activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) within the Department of Commerce, including its efforts to promote cybersecurity, supply chain security, consumer privacy, efficient federal spectrum use, spectrum sharing, spectrum management, emergency communications, and network resiliency. The Committee will continue to oversee the NTIA's efforts to promote broadband deployment and adoption, including the establishment of two new offices, the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth and the Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives, and the tribal and rural grant programs. Additionally, the Committee will evaluate the work of the NTIA in representing the interests of the United States in international meetings and negotiations relating to telecommunications and internet governance.

BROADBAND INTERNET DEPLOYMENT, AFFORDABILITY ADOPTION, AND OPENNESS

The Committee will conduct oversight of funding mechanisms for broadband deployment and adoption, including the Universal Service Fund, and whether such programs adequately and efficiently promote broadband deployment and adoption for consumers. The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction to oversee the process—and the effects on consumers, small businesses, and free speech—associated with the repeal of net neutrality. The Committee will exercise its jurisdiction over broadband to ensure continued growth and investment in the internet. The Committee will also continue to exercise its jurisdiction over wireless and wired communications to ensure our nation's policies governing voice, video, audio, and data services are promoting investment, innovation, access, affordability, and job creation. The Committee will oversee the programs established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 to increase internet access and affordability, including the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program at the FCC, and the tribal and broadband deployment grant programs and the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program at the NTIA.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee will continue to examine the progress being made to ensure that first responders have interoperable communications capabilities with local, state, and federal public safety officials, including through the efforts of the Emergency Communications Division within the Department of Homeland Security. The Committee will also examine the progress being made by the First Responder Network Authority in carrying out the mandates of the Middle-Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. In addition, the Committee will conduct oversight regarding 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.

SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

The Committee will continue to oversee FCC and NTIA management, allocation, and coordination of the nation's spectrum for government and commercial use to ensure the highest and best use of public airwaves for consumers and federal users. The Committee will further examine whether current plans for reallocating spectrum encourage competition, benefit consumers, and are in the public interest while continuing to protect national security. The Committee will oversee FCC and NTIA implementation of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, the RAY BAUM's Act, the Spectrum IT Modernization Act, and the Beat China for 5G Act of 2020.

MEDIA AND JOURNALISM

The Committee will continue to oversee the FCC's efforts to diversify the broadcast and cable media landscape, including the

quadrennial review of media ownership regulations and equal employment opportunity obligations. The Committee will also examine the role and decline of local journalism and the impact on the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

SECTION 230

The Committee will continue to review the effects of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act. The Committee will review to what extent that liability shield promotes or discourages appropriate content moderation online that facilitates a healthy internet ecosystem. The Committee will review how online platforms are addressing the proliferation and amplification of disinformation and extremism online and what they can do to remedy such proliferation and amplification.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE ISSUES

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

The Committee will examine issues relating to the privacy and security of consumers' personal information collected by businesses and the potential methods for improving privacy protections to benefit consumers. The Committee will also continue to investigate whether all companies that collect consumer data are fully implementing data security and privacy safeguards that ensure consumers' personal information is not stolen or misused.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Committee will continue to review the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) overall operations, including the effectiveness of its rulemaking, compliance, and enforcement activities, engagement in voluntary standard-setting activities, and the modernization of its staff and information technology infrastructure. The Committee will also continue to monitor the CPSC's port surveillance program to evaluate its effectiveness in identifying and preventing unsafe consumer products entering the United States, especially products in e-commerce shipments entering under the de minimis value exemption. The Committee will also exercise its jurisdiction to improve the safety of consumer products to prevent injuries and deaths.

NHTSA MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS, FUEL ECONOMY, AND MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

The Committee will continue oversight of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), including the effectiveness of the agency's regulations, investigations, structure, research activities, data collection, and enforcement actions pertaining to motor vehicle safety. The Committee will examine NHTSA's ability to effectively oversee and regulate advanced safety technologies including advanced driver assistance systems, partially automated vehicles, and highly automated vehicles. The Committee will also examine whether NHTSA effectively monitors and investigates safety issues, and whether it effectively manages recalls. The Com-

mittee will work to oversee manufacturers, automobile dealers, and other entities selling or deploying vehicles to improve motor vehicle safety to protect drivers, passengers, and all others who share the roadways. The Committee will continue oversight of fuel economy standards for motor vehicles developed by NHTSA.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Committee will review the management, authorities, operations, investigative, rulemaking, and enforcement actions of the Federal Trade Commission. The Committee will review consumer protection activities related to privacy, data security, accountability of technology companies for unfair and deceptive practices, fraud, scams, and deceptive advertising.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Committee will review the management, operations, rulemaking, and enforcement actions of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and whether the Bureau is achieving its consumer protection mission.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AND MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Commerce Department and its efforts to promote manufacturing and exports. The Committee will monitor and examine interstate commerce as well as bilateral agreements and multilateral trade agreements as those agreements relate to services, commodities, and industries within the Committee's jurisdiction, including energy, telecommunications, consumer products, e-commerce, food, and drugs. The Committee will examine whether these agreements adequately protect the interests of domestic and foreign workers, the environment, and consumers. The Committee will also explore the state of manufacturing in the United States to identify factors that are hampering or furthering the nation's competitiveness and factors that benefit or hurt American workers.

TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABILITY

The Committee will monitor and examine how the technology industry, including social media and e-commerce platforms, is affecting diversity, product safety, interstate commerce, fraud, and the proliferation of misinformation, disinformation, hate, and extremism.

MISCELLANEOUS

CYBERSECURITY

The Committee will continue to examine the protection of information and technology vital to our national and economic security by examining vulnerabilities and paths to defend against future attacks. The Committee will conduct oversight of actions and pro-

grams of the National Institute of Standards and Technology as well as efforts of relevant agencies to implement the Homeland Security Act of 2002. Additionally, the Committee will review the efforts of agencies within its jurisdiction to secure their networks. The Committee will also examine initiatives to improve cybersecurity both in the private and public sectors, and review efforts at agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction to regulate cybersecurity.

BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The Committee will continue to monitor the roles of HHS agencies in assisting the nation's capability, detection, and response to possible biological attacks. The Committee will also evaluate the potential impact and preparedness of the nation's public health system. The Committee will continue to review the extent of the coordination between HHS and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), especially as it relates to Project Bioshield, and implementation of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 by HHS.

FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF HIGH-CONTAINMENT BIO LABORATORIES

The Committee will conduct oversight of issues related to high-containment bio laboratories, which handle some of the most dangerous and exotic diseases, including anthrax, smallpox, Ebola virus, and foot and mouth disease. Among the issues under review will be the adequacy of the security and practices of high-containment bio laboratories and federal efforts to oversee the laboratories, and whether some of these efforts are overlapping and duplicative.

SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR CHEMICAL FACILITIES

The Committee will conduct oversight of mandates across agencies to ensure the safety and security of chemical facilities, including implementation of DHS's Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards Program and EPA's Risk Management Planning Program. The Committee will also examine threats to these facilities from climate change and extreme weather. Additionally, the Committee will review the organization and activities of the Chemical Safety Board.

SCIENTIFIC AND RISK ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

The Committee will review programs to assess the objectives, transparency, and integrity of scientific assessments that inform regulatory and public health policies. 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.

WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

The Committee will conduct oversight of departments and agencies under its jurisdiction to ensure adequate and prompt implementation of recommendations from the Government Accountability Office, Offices of Inspectors General, and other sources to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Committee will examine DHS'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 activities of DOE, FERC, TSA, and other Federal agencies related the physical security and cybersecurity of the nation's energy infrastructure, including DOE's authorities and responsibilities as the sector-specific agency for energy security. The Committee will also conduct oversight of HHS and EPA's responsibilities and authorities as sector-specific agencies for activities related to the nation's critical infrastructure for communications, chemicals, emergency services, and others within the Committee's jurisdiction. Additionally, the Committee will examine the roles and responsibilities of other relevant agencies, such as the FCC, as well as the private sector.

NUCLEAR SMUGGLING

The Committee will continue to monitor private sector and Federal government efforts at seaports, border crossings, and mail facilities. The Committee's review will examine and assess DOE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection efforts, including international efforts, aimed at detecting and preventing the smuggling of dangerous commerce, particularly radiological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

ONLINE PLATFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Committee will examine the effect of online platform practices on the public good, free speech, and democratic principles, including through algorithmic bias. The Committee will also review the extent to which competition exists among online platforms, and how consolidation affects consumers.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN FEDERALLY-FUNDED ENTITIES AND ACTIVITIES

The Committee will provide oversight over all agencies under its jurisdiction to promote policies of diversity and inclusion in order to ensure that these federally-funded agencies are representative of the nation as a whole and are working to support the interests of all communities and all segments of the overall population.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the House of Representatives, the following constitutes the oversight plan of the Committee on Financial Services for the 117th Congress. It includes areas in which the Committee and its subcommittees expect to conduct oversight during the 117th Congress; it does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters or programs as they arise. The Committee will consult, as appropriate, with other Committees of the House that may share jurisdiction on any of the subjects listed below.

COVID–19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Ensure Equitable Administration and Distribution of Housing Relief Funds. The Committee will conduct oversight of federal agencies', grantees', and industry's administration of, and compliance with, COVID–19 housing protections and relief programs to ensure proper implementation, including compliance with fair housing and fair lending laws, and equitable treatment of, and allocations of funds to, hardest hit communities. The Committee will also review the effectiveness of eviction and foreclosure moratoria and mortgage forbearance in keeping people safely housed during the pandemic.

Support for Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). The Committee will examine opportunities to support community financial institutions such as MDIs and CDFIs to ensure that they can continue to assist minority entrepreneurs that are overlooked by traditional financial institutions, particularly during the COVID–19 pandemic. The Committee will also review legislation that will direct critical sources of capital and investment to CDFIs and MDIs to ensure that these institutions have the tools they need to serve their communities.

Protecting Consumers During the Pandemic. The Committee will examine how consumers have been affected by the pandemic, including to the degree financial institutions utilize the flexibility provided by Congress and regulators to provide forbearance and loan modifications for affected consumers. The Committee will also examine consumer impacts and protections relating to credit reporting and debt collection, and the degree to which unfair, deceptive, and abusive acts or practices committed during the pandemic are combatted through robust enforcement.

Global Response to the Pandemic. The Committee will continue to oversee the role international financial institutions, including

the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, are playing in the international response to the COVID–19 pandemic, including efforts to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery.

Defense Production Act. The Committee will monitor the effectiveness of the Defense Production Act and its individual authorities in promoting national security and recovery from natural disasters. In particular, the Committee will monitor the use of the Act to boost production of medical supplies and equipment to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Committee will examine the budget requests submitted by HUD and USDA for programs under the Committee's jurisdiction, including consideration of any legislative recommendations included in those requests. The Committee will also review HUD's and the Rural Housing Service's (RHS) general codes of conduct and other policies.

Homelessness. The Committee will examine the current state of homelessness in the United States of America and the federal response to ending homelessness, including oversight of the Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the HUD Veteran Affairs Supported Housing program (HUD VASH), as well as efforts by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to coordinate various federal agencies towards the national goals to end homelessness. The Committee will review the causes and possible solutions to address homelessness, including in parts of the country where homelessness has reached crisis levels. The Committee will also consider ways to better serve those who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Rental Housing Crisis. The Committee will examine the current rental housing crisis that is burdening families across the country with unaffordable rents. The Committee will examine the role of existing federal housing programs in addressing the rental housing crisis, including public housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs), Section 8 project-based rental assistance (PBRA), the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program, the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program, the HOME Investment Partnerships program (HOME), the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, and the Housing Trust Fund (HTF). As part of its review, the Committee will examine the conduct of landlords participating in these programs as well as investigate HUD's oversight of landlord participants to ensure regulations are complied with. The Committee will also review the limitations of existing programs at current funding levels. The Committee will consider solutions to address the rental housing crisis, including proposals to enhance preservation of affordable rental housing, increase affordable rental housing opportunities through development of additional rental stock and robust rental assistance, and ensure that affordable rental housing is accessible and integrated for persons who are seniors and/or have a disability.

Public Housing. The Committee will examine the rising maintenance and capital needs of the aging public housing stock and the

limitations of current federal funding levels to address these needs. As part of its examination, the Committee will investigate the presence of lead, mold, and other health hazards in the nation's public housing system and seek ways to ensure capital repairs are made in order to improve the health and well-being of residents. The Committee will review the role of public housing as part of a federal strategy to address affordable housing needs and will monitor HUD's use of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) and the demolition and disposition processes as they affect public housing and its residents. The Committee will monitor HUD's implementation and oversight of the Moving to Work (MTW) demonstration program and the effects of such programs on tenants.

Rural Housing. The Committee will examine the affordable housing needs in rural communities and the limitations in meeting those needs through existing programs due to current funding levels. In particular, the Committee will examine the aging stock of properties with Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Loans and 516 Farm Labor Housing Loans, and USDA's strategy for preserving these properties and preventing tenant displacement. The Committee will consider legislation to help preserve these properties and prevent the displacement of tenants. The Committee will also monitor USDA's management of the Section 521 Rental Assistance (RA) program, the Rural Development Voucher program, the Section 502 Direct and Guaranteed Loan programs the Multifamily Housing Preservation and Revitalization Demonstration Loans and Grants, and the Section 523 Mutual Self-Help grant program.

Community Development. The Committee will consider opportunities to better leverage and coordinate housing development with neighborhood resources such as transportation and community centers through programs like the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Climate Change and Green Housing. The Committee will examine proposals to address historic and emerging effects of climate change and environmental hazards in housing and on communities living in areas at disproportionate risk. The Committee will also consider opportunities to incentivize greener and more energy efficient measures across the housing market and industry, including through comprehensive risk and environmental assessments.

Disaster Recovery, Resilience, and Sustainable Development. The Committee will conduct oversight of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG–DR) program and ongoing efforts to provide relief and bolster resilience in disaster-stricken areas. The Committee will review proposals to permanently authorize the CDBG–DR program and enhance our nation's ability to mitigate and withstand future disasters in the face of climate change, which is contributing to the frequency and magnitude of natural disasters.

Fair Housing. The Committee will conduct oversight of fair housing enforcement under HUD, including the activities conducted by the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO). The Committee will also monitor HUD's ongoing rulemaking processes on the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) mandate and the disparate impact standard under the Fair Housing Act. The Committee will also monitor other federal agencies' equitable im-

plementation and administration of federal housing funds and programs, as mandated under the Fair Housing Act, such as the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Agriculture, and the Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation (NeighborWorks).

Native American and Native Hawaiian Housing. The Committee will conduct oversight of programs under the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) and consider proposals to reauthorize those programs and ensure inclusion of the descendants of Freedmen. The Committee will also monitor HUD's administration of the recent appropriation of an additional $100 million for the Native American Housing Block Grants program, which will be allocated through a competitive grant process.

Housing Finance and Access to Homeownership. The Committee will examine the health of our housing finance system and the extent to which it is serving all creditworthy borrowers, especially low and moderate income (LMI) borrowers, borrowers of color, rural borrowers, and other underserved borrowers. The Committee will consider proposals to reform the housing finance system, including in real estate appraisals.

Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBs). The Committee will monitor the operations, activities and initiatives of the FHFA, and review its general code of conduct and other agency policies. The Committee will monitor Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's activities under conservatorship, including their response to ongoing pandemic-related housing needs. The Committee will also review the FHFA's initiatives related to capital held by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, especially as such initiatives affect access to credit. The Committee will monitor the capital requirements and financial stability of the FHLB system, as well as the FHLB system's ability to fulfill its housing and community economic development mission and provide liquidity to member banks in a safe and sound manner.

Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae). The Committee will examine Ginnie Mae to ensure that the agency has the necessary resources, procedures, and oversight to manage its portfolio, including Ginnie Mae's response to its growing exposure to nonbank risks.

Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The Committee will examine FHA to ensure that it has the necessary resources, procedures, and oversight to manage its portfolio, including ongoing challenges due to an aging technological infrastructure. The Committee will also review the FHA's premium rates.

Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI). The Committee will examine the role that private mortgage insurance plays in the housing finance system in providing access to homeownership and consider the effects of capital requirements placed on PMI companies by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Mortgage Servicing. The Committee will examine the adequacy of existing regulatory requirements and oversight of the servicing industry, including the adequacy of the federal response to the growing share of nonbank servicers. The Committee will consider whether FHFA needs additional authority to establish prudential

management and operations standards for its servicers. The Committee will also consider legislative solutions to enhance FHA's oversight and enforcement of its loss mitigation requirements and to address policies that may cause unnecessary foreclosures, including foreclosures on seniors with reverse mortgages and on those who have been affected by natural disasters and national emergencies.

INSURANCE

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Committee will examine the role of the NFIP in providing affordable insurance to homeowners, renters, and businesses, investing in mitigation, and providing maps to aid communities in their flood plain management efforts. The Committee will examine proposals to reauthorize and reform the NFIP to enhance affordability, mapping, and mitigation, and to improve the efficiency and transparency associated with the processing of claims submitted by policyholders. The NFIP is set to expire on September 30, 2021.

Federal Insurance Office (FIO). The Committee will conduct oversight of FIO's work on domestic and international insurance policy, including the extent to which traditionally underserved communities and consumers have access to affordable insurance products.

Climate Risk. The Committee will examine the extent to which insurance companies' exposure to the physical and transition risks of climate change is being adequately measured.

Terrorism Risk Insurance Program. The Committee will conduct oversight over the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, which was reauthorized in the last Congress.

Business Interruption Insurance. The Committee will monitor and examine the extent to which businesses were affected by a lack of business interruption coverage during the COVID–19 crisis, and consider proposals aimed at supporting businesses disrupted by pandemics and other public health crises.

Insurance Sector Supervision. The Committee will monitor the insurance sector generally, which may include examining the role of capital requirements in the insurance sector, including state, federal, and international efforts to revise capital requirements for insurance companies, the application of federal capital requirements for insurance companies that own depository institutions, the role of state guaranty funds, issues related to consumer protection and discrimination in the insurance sector, and issues or gaps in the regulation of insurers that could contribute to a systemic crisis in the insurance industry or the U.S. financial system. The Committee will also review implementation of the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, which was passed in response to abuses in the marketing and sale of securities and life insurance products to servicemembers.

International Insurance Developments. The Committee will monitor developments related to international regulatory standards for insurance companies, including actions taken by the Financial Stability Board, the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Committee will also monitor any developments related to covered agreements made pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall

Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (Dodd-Frank Act).

Cyber Insurance. The Committee may examine developments related to the market for cyber insurance and the insurance industry's susceptibility to cybersecurity risks.

Auto Insurance. The Committee may review the state of the automobile insurance market in America with a particular focus on issues of access and affordability for lower- and middle-income Americans, minorities, and traditionally underserved communities.

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Protecting Consumers and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The Committee will monitor the current state of consumer financial protection by assessing the adequacy of protections for all consumers. The Committee will examine any unique challenges experienced in, and faced by, traditionally underserved communities and populations in obtaining mainstream consumer financial products and services, including the root causes for credit deserts in rural and urban communities that have resulted in millions of unbanked and underbanked consumers. The Committee will consider methods to improve the financial well-being of other vulnerable consumers such as older Americans, active- duty servicemembers, veterans, students, young adults, racial and ethnic minorities, and immigrants. The Committee will also closely examine the exercise of the regulatory, supervisory, and enforcement power of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Consumer Bureau). The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that the Consumer Bureau is fully complying with both the spirit and letter of its purpose, objectives, and mission articulated under title X of the Dodd-Frank Act to combat unfair, deceptive, abusive acts and practices in the offering and provision of consumer financial products.

Student Debt Crisis. The Committee will examine the financial and economic implications of the growing student debt crisis, including how a borrower's inability to repay student debt can serve as a barrier to homeownership, entrepreneurship, and other economic activities. The Committee will also examine the disproportionate impact the student debt crisis has on borrowers of color and low-income borrowers. The Committee will monitor the effectiveness of student borrower protections, including as it relates to private education loan servicing standards.

Consumer Protections for Military Servicemembers. The Committee will examine the adequacy, supervision, and enforcement of all consumer financial protections, including those provided through the Military Lending Act (MLA) and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), afforded to active-duty servicemembers and their families.

High Cost Short-Term Credit and Debt Collection. The Committee will review the effectiveness and extent to which consumer protections are implemented and enforced with respect to payday lending, other forms of short-term credit, and debt collection. The Committee will also review the use of overdraft services, and its impact on consumers.

Mandatory Arbitration. The Committee will monitor the use and effect of mandatory pre-dispute arbitration agreements, and similar provisions, that limit consumers' ability to participate in a class action case against financial institutions when they have been harmed.

Fair Access to Affordable Consumer Financial Products and Services. The Committee will consider ways to expand access to mainstream financial services among traditionally underserved segments of the U.S. population. The Committee will evaluate proposals to update certain Federal consumer financial laws to ensure that they are meeting the evolving financial needs of consumers.

Discrimination in Lending. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of regulators' fair lending oversight and enforcement efforts to ensure that the Federal government does not tolerate discrimination. The Committee will also examine the quantity and quality of data, including that provided under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA), to ensure discriminatory policies practices can be identified and addressed.

Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). The Committee will monitor any legislative and regulatory proposals to reform the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977.

Department of the Treasury, Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) and Office of Financial Research (OFR). The Committee will review the operations and resources of the Department of the Treasury, as well as its code of conduct and other policies. The Committee will monitor financial stability and systemic risk issues, including all matters relating to the operations, activities, and initiatives of the FSOC and OFR to identify and mitigate threats to financial stability in the United States. This will also include a review of risks posed by nonbank financial institutions, including hedge funds, and shifts in the mortgage market, including the subprime market, from bank financing to non-bank financing.

Supervision and Enforcement of Financial Institutions. The Committee will review the operations, activities, initiatives, codes of conduct and other agency policies of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). This work will include examining financial regulators' supervision of the banking, thrift and credit union industries for safety and soundness and compliance with laws and regulations. The Committee will also monitor their enforcement activities, including ensuring the compliance of regulated institutions with existing consent orders, settlement agreements, deferred prosecution agreements, or similar arrangements. The Committee will also evaluate the supervision of nonbank financial companies by the Consumer Bureau.

Enhanced Prudential Standards for Large Banks. The Committee will monitor how enhanced prudential standards are being applied to the largest banks operating in the United States, including foreign-based institutions. This will include oversight of the adequacy of capital, liquidity, leverage and stress testing requirements. The Committee will oversee efforts to promote the orderly resolution of any large financial institution operating in the United States that fails, including through Dodd-Frank Act's living wills

requirements and the Orderly Liquidity Authority. The Committee will examine the financial regulators' implementation of Section 619 of the Dodd-Frank Act, known as the "Volcker Rule." The Committee will also monitor the structure, ownership, activities and risk-taking by large depository institutions and their holding companies.

Bank Mergers and Market Concentration. The Committee will monitor market concentration and merger activity involving banks and other financial companies. The Committee will examine the standards for regulatory review of such mergers, and consider the impacts of ongoing merger activity, especially as it relates to larger financial institutions, including the impact that mergers have on competition, consumers, workers, communities, and financial stability.

Residential and Commercial Real Estate Mortgage Loans. The Committee will monitor the residential and commercial real estate mortgage markets, including examining access to affordable and fair home mortgage lending, and the effectiveness of disclosures provided to borrowers about the terms and conditions of these loans. The Committee will also review proposals related to home improvement loans for improving the energy efficiency of a house.

Community Financial Institutions, including CDFIs and MDIs. The Committee will review issues related to the health, growth, safety, and soundness of community banks and credit unions, as well as their role in lending to small businesses and promoting economic growth. This will include examining the status of MDIs and CDFIs, and the important role they play in providing access to credit for consumers as well as small and minority-owned businesses.

Access to Credit and Borrower Protections for Small Businesses. The Committee will consider proposals that facilitate access to affordable credit for small businesses, and will examine the ability for the public, regulators, and Congress to monitor trends in small business lending. The Committee will also review the effectiveness of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), and consider proposals to reauthorize the SSBCI in response to the pandemic. Moreover, the Committee will examine and consider proposals to strengthen borrower protections for small businesses.

Cybersecurity and Privacy. The Committee will monitor the effectiveness of cybersecurity in the U.S. financial system. The Committee will evaluate the current level of safeguards relating to protecting the security and confidentiality of personally identifiable information from loss, unauthorized access, or misuse. The Committee will also examine the effectiveness of data breach notifications and issues related to consumer privacy and consumer control of their own data, including sensitive financial and credit information.

Credit Scores and Credit Reports. The Committee will examine the state of the credit reporting system, including the accuracy of credit scores to assess creditworthiness, the impact medical debt can have on credit scores, and the difficulties consumers face in correcting inaccurate information in their credit file. The Committee will also examine additional data and methods that have

the potential to improve assessing the creditworthiness of borrowers with appropriate safeguards and protections.

Payments System. The Committee will review government and private sector efforts to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of the payments system in the United States, and its potential effect on consumers and small businesses.

Credit and other Payment Cards. The Committee will monitor payment card industry practices, including consumer protections with respect to the use of credit cards, debit cards, and prepaid cards. The Committee will also examine the effectiveness of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act of 2009.

Money Services Businesses, Remittances, and De-risking. The Committee will examine the operations of money services businesses and the role they play in the financial system. The Committee will also oversee the ability of consumers to utilize financial services to affordably remit cross-border payments, as well as consider proposals to mitigate financial institutions engaged in derisking that results in unnecessary account closures.

Financial Education. The Committee will review efforts to promote greater financial literacy among consumers, particularly matters affecting traditionally underserved communities and populations.

Cannabis Banking. The Committee will examine the difficulties, including public safety concerns, that cannabis-related businesses experience as a result of being unable to access basic banking services. The Committee will also review legislative proposals that alleviate legal and compliance risks for financial institutions related to providing such services to cannabis-related businesses in states where cannabis use, sale, or distribution is authorized.

Climate Risk. The Committee will monitor and evaluate efforts by the Treasury Department, Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC), Federal Reserve and other prudential regulators to integrate risks associated with climate change into their supervisory framework.

MONETARY POLICY

The Federal Reserve System. The Committee will conduct oversight of 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. The Committee will convene hearings to receive the testimony of the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and related semi-annual reports on the conduct of monetary policy. As part of this effort, the Committee will review issues associated with monetary policy and the state of the economy, including implementation of the updated monetary policy framework adopted by the Federal Open Market Committee in 2020, and whether the current path of monetary policy is consistent with the Federal Reserve's dual mandate of price stability and maximum employment. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Federal Reserve's extraordinary actions to stimulate economic recovery in response to the COVID–19 pan-

demic, including through quarterly hearings on the CARES Act from the Treasury Secretary and Federal Reserve Chair, and oversight over any emergency lending facilities set up to respond to economic conditions. The Committee will examine the implications of the Fed's emergency lending and large-scale asset purchases have for economic recovery, financial stability, and the mechanics of monetary policy.

The Economy and its Impact on Living Standards. The Committee will examine the extent to which changes in the economy, and in particular, changes in labor and capital markets, public policy, and trade have altered the way in which policymakers should think about the relationship between economic growth, productivity growth, and growth in employment and incomes. The Committee will examine these relationships to determine policy responses that will increase our ability to improve the standard of living for American families.

Coins and Currency. The Committee will conduct oversight of the printing and minting of U.S. currency and coins, including the activities of the Bureau of the Mint and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and of 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 review efforts to detect and combat the counterfeiting of U.S. coins and currency in the United States and abroad. The Committee will also examine methods to reduce the cost of minting coins using alternative metals and will examine efforts to make currency more accessible to the visually impaired. The Committee will also consider how to ensure that depictions and representations on coins and currency fully represent the diversity of the United States. The Committee will also monitor and evaluate the Federal Reserve's research and potential development of a central bank digital currency.

INVESTOR PROTECTION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Committee will examine the budget, operations and organizational structure of the SEC, and review any new rulemakings.

Investor Confidence. The Committee will examine the factors affecting investor confidence in U.S. capital markets, including investor perspectives on the quality, quantity, and utility of investment-related disclosures; the effectiveness of public companies' internal controls over financial reporting; corporate accountability to shareholders; and, the costs of trading securities. The Committee will also review the effect on investor confidence of fraud and other misconduct and the SEC's efforts to hold bad actors accountable.

Standard of Care Owed by Financial Advisers and Broker Dealers. The Committee will examine the SEC's rulemaking package and interpretations surrounding Regulation Best Interest and Form CRS Relationship Summary. The Committee will review the SEC's efforts to revise those regulations and interpretations consistent with Section 913(g) of the Dodd-Frank Act, to protect investors and reduce confusion by requiring investment advisers and broker dealers to comply with the same fiduciary standard of care.

The Committee will also consider legislation related to the standard of care owed to investors by financial advisers.

Mandatory Arbitration. The Committee will examine the effect of mandatory arbitration requirements on securities investors, as well as the balance, fairness, and efficiency of the current arbitration system.

Entrepreneurship. The Committee will monitor market conditions affecting entrepreneurs' access to capital, with emphasis on the capital formation efforts of small businesses, including any unique challenges faced by minority-, women-, and veteran-owned small businesses. Additionally, the Committee will examine the conduct of intermediaries in the capital formation process, such as anti-competitive behavior among underwriters of initial public offerings (IPOs). The Committee will also consider legislative proposals to promote entrepreneurship and enhance the attractiveness of U.S. public equity markets to investors and businesses.

Corporate Governance. The Committee will review developments and issues concerning corporate governance of public companies, including proposals to increase accountability to shareholders through improved shareholder access to management's proxy, shareholder nomination of directors, and majority voting. The Committee will also examine ways to improve the integrity of the shareholder voting process and corporate sustainability disclosures, including those related to the effects of climate change.

Executive Compensation. The Committee will review the SEC's implementation of regulations requiring greater transparency in disclosures of executive compensation arrangements, including the SEC's and the other federal financial agencies' progress in completing related rulemakings mandated under the Dodd-Frank Act.

Capital Formation in Private and Public Markets. The Committee will examine the private and public capital markets and the factors U.S. companies evaluate when deciding to go public, such as underwriting fees. The Committee will monitor the use of new and expanded private offering exemptions from the JOBS Act, including Regulation D, Regulation A+, and Regulation Crowdfunding, and examine ways to improve investor protections in private offerings. The Committee will examine the current definition of "accredited investors" and ways to improve that definition to ensure that those investors have the financial sophistication and wherewithal to invest in private offerings.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs). The Committee will monitor the operations, initiatives, and activities of SROs, including the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA). The Committee also will consider limitations or regulatory gaps in the current SRO system and ways to streamline and strengthen the regulatory, compliance, examination, and enforcement structure.

Hedge Funds and Private Pools of Capital. The Committee will examine the current state of the hedge fund, private equity and alternative investment industry. The Committee will review the role hedge funds and private pools of capital serve in the capital markets, and their interaction with investors, financial intermediaries,

and public companies. The Committee will also examine hedge funds and private equity funds as investment vehicles for pension funds.

Investment Companies. The Committee will review the current state of regulation of investment companies and their advisers with respect to mutual fund operations, governance, disclosure, and sales in the States and Territories. The Committee also will review the effectiveness and efficiency of the approval process for new products, such as exchange-traded funds, and the SEC's efforts to standardize that process. The Committee will also review the role investment companies played in Puerto Rico's fiscal crisis. The Committee will review Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) as investment vehicles and how the industry uses REITs to finance various projects, including the financing of private prisons and immigration detention centers.

Credit Rating Agencies. The Committee will examine the role that Nationally Recognized Statistical Ratings Organizations (NRSROs), also known as credit rating agencies, play in the U.S. capital markets, and review the effectiveness of the SEC's regulation and oversight of NRSROs. The Committee will also examine ways to limit conflicts associated with NRSROs compensation, approaches to increase their accountability, and the possibility of regulatory fee assessments.

Financial Accounting and Auditing. The Committee will review the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's (PCAOB's) oversight of auditors of public companies and broker-dealers, including standard-setting and the results of the PCAOB's inspection programs. The Committee will also monitor the impact of exemptions to the scope of the auditing and internal controls requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and the adequacy of investor protections applicable to exempt entities. The Committee will also monitor the work of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Cybersecurity. The Committee will examine the risks that cybersecurity threats pose to the U.S. capital markets, including investment and operational risks associated with public companies. The Committee will also monitor the efforts of the SEC, SROs, and SEC-registered firms to guard against cybersecurity risks and protect sensitive, market-moving data and personally identifiable information (PII) of investors. The Committee will investigate the cybersecurity implications of the creation, movement, and management of cryptocurrencies and the usage of blockchain technology.

Fixed income markets. The Committee will review recent developments in the U.S. corporate and municipal bond markets and the SEC's response to those developments.

Derivatives Markets. The Committee will review recent developments in the U.S. derivatives markets and efforts to harmonize rules governing those markets domestically and internationally. The Committee will also examine the SEC's progress in implementing the remaining regulations of the security-based swaps markets as mandated by the Dodd-Frank Act.

Equity and options markets. The Committee will review recent developments in the U.S. equity and options markets and the SEC's response to those developments. The Committee will also ex-

amine brokers' conflicts of interest arising from rebates and fees paid for client orders and the SEC's efforts to address those conflicts through, for example, an access fee pilot. The Committee will monitor the development, implementation, and maintenance of the Consolidated Audit Trail (CAT), a market surveillance tool that tracks order events, including quotes, orders, executions, allocations, and associated customer data, and identifies the broker-dealer handling them.

Trade Policy Impact. The Committee will examine the impact of U.S. trade policy proclamations, announcements, decisions, and actions by the executive branch on U.S. securities markets, including market volatility, capital formation, corporate reinvestment, and investor confidence.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI). The Committee will examine the operations and organizational structure of TFI and its component parts including OFAC and FinCEN. The Committee will monitor U.S. government strategies and programs to combat terrorist financing, money laundering, and other financial crimes, both domestic and international.

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The Committee will monitor the operations of FinCEN and its ongoing efforts to implement its regulatory mandates, pursuant to the Bank Secrecy Act, to safeguard the integrity of the financial system and combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other illicit finance. This includes oversight of the execution of the mandates created by the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 and the Corporate Transparency Act.

Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and Sanctions. The Committee will examine the efficacy of economic and trade sanctions designations and enforcement, as well as the capabilities and resources within OFAC to perform its work. This will include the monitoring of sanctions programs to ensure that they are fully implemented consistent with Congressional intent and in alignment with U.S. foreign policy and national security goals. Particular attention will be paid to maximizing the effect of existing programs through multilateral cooperation, the possible risks associated with the use of sanctions over the short and long term, and the capacity of financial technology and innovation to both enable and undermine traditional tools of U.S. economic coercion. The Committee will examine methods of sanctions evasion and efficacy of sanctions compliance programs.

Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. The Committee will examine the implementation, effectiveness, and enforcement of anti-money laundering/counter-financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) laws and regulations. The Committee will examine patterns and trends of money laundering and terrorist finance, both domestic and international, and consider proposals to prevent and detect abuses of the financial system.

Counterterrorism Financing Policy. The Committee will examine the enforcement, effectiveness, and implementation of AML/CFT law and regulations as well as the role of the Treasury in promoting the adoption and implementation of such standards around

the globe. The Committee will explore opportunities to enhance compliance and will work with international organizations and partners, such as Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), to accomplish this goal.

Transparency and Anti-Corruption. The Committee will consider proposals to strengthen AML/CFT laws to combat corruption and kleptocracy at home and abroad. This will include oversight over the execution of the mandates in the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 and the Corporate Transparency Act.

Trafficking. The Committee will examine efforts to dismantle the underlying enablers of trafficking and will review potential solutions related to the often-overlapping categories of trafficking, including human trafficking, narcotics trafficking, and natural resource trafficking. The Committee will examine the converging attributes of transnational trafficking networks and the outflow of illicit proceeds.

De-Risking at Financial Institutions. The Committee will review the practices by which broad categories of customers, such as nonprofit organizations or countries, are denied access to the financial system, often due to risk or perceived risk.

Fraud and Cyber Intrusion. The Committee will examine efforts to counter fraud, including cyber-enabled fraud and increased fraudulent activity associated with the COVID–19 pandemic.

Information Sharing. The Committee will examine methods to improve information sharing among financial institutions, federal agencies, and other entities, while balancing the safeguards required to ensure that civil liberties and consumer privacy are preserved.

Emerging Technologies. The Committee will examine innovative technologies, such as virtual assets, distributed ledgers, non-traditional financial platforms, machine learning and artificial intelligence in regulatory technology (RegTech), and decentralized finance. The Committee will monitor how these technologies affect and interact with the U.S. financial system and how the technologies could be used to combat or assist those who aim to harm the financial system.

Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). The Committee will continue to monitor implementation of the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (FIRRMA) and actions taken by CFIUS to identify and address foreign investments that pose threats to national security, while preserving the U.S. commitment to an open investment environment.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Global Economic Cooperation. The Committee will monitor the role of United States leadership in the governance of the global economic system and the degree to which sustained international cooperation helps advance U.S. national security, economic interests, and values.

Oversight of the Multilateral Development Banks. The Committee will conduct oversight of U.S. participation in the multilateral development banks and their role in helping developing and emerging market countries address the health and economic effects of the

global pandemic. The Committee will continue to monitor implementation of policy reforms to which the World Bank Group committed last Congress in areas relating to public subsidies, resource mobilization, labor markets, private education, and human rights. The Committee will consider any Administration request for congressional authorization for additional U.S. contributions to these institutions, including replenishment of the Asian Development Fund.

International Financial Architecture. The Committee will review the annual report to Congress and testimony by the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the international financial system and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Committee will examine the degree to which the IMF is focused on fighting corruption in its surveillance and program work, as well as its efforts, through technical assistance, to strengthen the capacity of Fund members to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.

The International Development Association and the International Finance Corporation. The Committee will continue to examine financial transfers between the International Development Association (IDA) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) with respect to transparency, competitive bidding, and development impact. The Committee will monitor the ability of IDA to maintain its current level of concessional lending to low-income countries in light of its new financing model that allows IDA to raise a significant portion of its replenishment resources by issuing bonds on the capital markets to supplement donor contributions.

Food Security and Climate Finance. The Committee will examine U.S. support for international agricultural development programs and multilateral cooperation on the global climate finance agenda, including how the international financial institutions are supporting efforts to address climate change in developing countries.

Developing Countries at Risk of Debt Distress. The Committee will monitor the rising levels of unsustainable debt in developing countries and examine proposals and mechanisms to create legal frameworks to help provide for orderly sovereign debt restructuring processes. The Committee will monitor efforts by the U.S. to engage with other members of the IMF to pressure China to adopt global standards and practices on sustainable debt financing for developing countries, including a commitment to lending transparency.

Trade in Financial Services. The Committee will conduct oversight of trade negotiations and discussions as they pertain to investment and trade in financial services and will monitor U.S. trade objectives and multilateral policies on the regulation of global capital flows and their effects on global financial stability.

Exchange Rates. The Committee will review the semi-annual report to Congress from the Secretary of the Treasury on international economic and exchange rate policies pursuant to the Omnibus Trade Act of 1988.

Export-Import Bank of the United States. The Committee will oversee the operations of the Export-Import Bank and its mission to support U.S. jobs through increased exports, including the Bank's policy on domestic content, its financing of fossil fuel projects, and its systems of accountability.

Extractive Industries. The Committee will examine the establishment of a global standard for the public disclosure of payments that extractive companies make to governments, as well as the effectiveness of these revenue transparency laws in the United States and abroad.

Supply Chain Due Diligence. The Committee will examine supply chain due diligence laws in the U.S and abroad, their enforcement, and the effects of such laws on the ability of companies to responsibly manage risk associated with the financing of conflict, human trafficking, and child labor.

FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Updating Regulatory Approach to Fintech. The Committee will continue to review the existing regulatory framework for licensing and overseeing fintech products and services, and will examine what legislation may be needed to properly oversee fintech companies operating within the rapidly evolving intersection of technology and finance.

Cryptocurrencies. The Committee will review the rise of "initial coin offerings'" (ICO) as a means of raising capital for blockchain-based enterprises. The Committee will examine concerns of increased risks of fraud and manipulation in the ICO markets. The Committee will also review the SEC's oversight of the ICO markets and will consider legislative proposals to improve regulatory clarity for ICO issuers and investors. Additionally, the Committee will look at the need for clear guidelines and regulations for crypto assets, stable coins, digital currencies, and related products.

Faster Payments. The Committee will examine the progress of the Federal Reserve's real-time payments proposal called FedNow, as well as the consumer protection, data privacy, and cyber-security implications of faster payment approaches led by the private sector. Additionally, the Committee will consider how federal regulation over bank and nonbanks operating in the payments space may need to be updated, and whether faster payments will increase financial inclusion for unbanked and underbanked consumers.

Algorithmic Bias and Artificial Intelligence. The Committee will evaluate the challenge of how to assess, identify, and regulate bias in algorithms used by financial institutions for consumer loans and other products. The Committee will examine the decision-making processes utilized in these technologies, and how the "Black Box" problem, resulting in a lack of transparency can be addressed. The Committee will consider how the use of artificial intelligence may complicate the efforts of human programmers and data scientists to predict how certain programs utilizing machine learning or deep learning will operate in real life.

Cybersecurity, Digital Data, and Privacy. The Committee will study the implications of AI-enabled automation in monitoring and reporting activities, and how they affect our cybersecurity and data privacy. The Committee will investigate the role of regulators in ensuring that information gathered on individuals and used by AI to make decisions appropriately respects individuals' privacy. Additionally, the Committee will consider how much autonomy AI programs should have in decision-making over individuals' financial transactions, especially when it can lead to adverse actions against

consumers, such as closing an account because of a determination that a customer poses too much of a money laundering risk.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Racial and Economic Justice. The Committee will review historic and systemic racism in the housing and financial system, and consider legislation to provide targeted investments to remedy such injustices that have resulted in the marginalization of people of color and an unconscionable racial wealth gap. The Committee will press every sector under its jurisdiction to strengthen diversity and inclusion. The Committee will also consider legislation to provide opportunities to formerly incarcerated individuals that face barriers to full participation in the financial services industry and in obtaining affordable housing.

Financial and Economic Inclusion. The Committee will monitor the availability and affordability of financial products and services to communities such as underserved rural, urban, Tribal, indigenous and other minority communities, and certain populations such as immigrants, active-duty servicemembers and veterans and their families, older (including retired) Americans, young adults and college students, state- and federally-recognized Tribes, indigenous peoples, and low- and moderate-income consumers. The Committee will evaluate methods to expand access to the traditional financial services system to people in different social, income, and economic segments in this country, including methods to broaden homeownership, increase wages, promote employment within high-growth industries, encourage savings (including retirement savings), and investments.

Wealth and Income Inequality, and Income Mobility. The Committee will examine the existing differences in wealth and income among American households across the country. The Committee will evaluate proposals to reduce disparities in opportunity that continue to persist across different segments of our society and that were exacerbated in the run-up to, and the fallout from, the 2008 financial crisis, and exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic. The Committee will consider how the economic disparities in this country compare with other countries and whether successful approaches by other countries to reduce such disparities could serve as models for the U.S. The Committee will also monitor, among other things, whether economic opportunity zones have been successful in promoting intra and intergenerational income mobility. This review will include an assessment of the effect on employment and income mobility of factory and manual workers from trade agreements and the increasing use of automation by companies.

Diversity Data. The Committee will review regulated entities' diversity data, including whether and how such companies are: tracking internal and external workforce and supplier diversity activities to identify and mitigate vulnerable moments along the talent lifecycles; tying executives' performances to their ability to meet tangible diversity and inclusion goals; and, using such data to inform the composition of their boards of directors.

Offices of Minority and Women Inclusion (OMWIs). The Committee will examine all matters relating to the diversity and inclusion activities within the agencies under the Committee's jurisdic-

tion, including the implementation of Section 342 of the Dodd-Frank Act and Section 1116 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) by the OMWIs, which are responsible for handling all matters relating to diversity in management, employment, and business activities within most federal financial agencies. This review will include, among other things, monitoring whether the agencies have allocated appropriate resources for their OMWIs, maintained frequent interaction with and direct reporting lines between the heads of the agencies and their OMWI Directors, and established tangible and measurable outcomes within their long-term strategic plans and daily operations to achieve a diverse and inclusive culture throughout all levels of their agencies.

Workforce, Supplier, and Business Diversity Efforts Within Agencies and their Regulated Entities. The Committee will consider measures to further leverage diverse and inclusive perspectives, skills, and talents within the workforces of agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction, particularly at the middle- and senior-management level, executive, and C-suite positions, to help improve the agencies' services, foster greater innovation, and develop novel solutions. The Committee will also monitor agencies' policies and practices, as well those of their regulated entities, to ensure that workplace environments operate in a fair, transparent, and non- discriminatory manner for all their employees by ensuring that racial, ethnic, and gender minorities, without regard to their sex—including sexual orientation, gender identity, sex stereotypes, and pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition—have equal opportunities.

Recruitment, Retention and Promotion. The Committee will review the policies and practices of all the agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction, and of their regulated entities, to promote the recruitment, retention, and promotion of a diverse pool of employees, throughout all levels, of each organization but particularly at the middle- and senior-management level, executive, C-suite, and board of director positions. The Committee will review the commitment and behavior of leaders, as well as consider measures, to ensure that diversity and inclusion goals are effectively transmitted throughout their organizations, including holding managers accountable for achieving diverse and inclusive environments.

The Rooney Rule. The Committee will consider policies that mandate the consideration of diverse employment candidates (such as "the Rooney Rule"), and whether and how such policies have affected diversity and inclusion efforts, including efforts by the Federal Reserve to identify and select a diverse pool of candidates for senior- management positions throughout the entire Federal Reserve System.

Vendor, Contractor, and Business Diversity. The Committee will monitor the agencies' efforts to increase diversity within their vendor and contractor pools, and may consider methods to address any challenges, or other barriers, to the agencies' capacity to enhance their supplier and business diversity. The Committee will also consider changes to increase the transparency of the diversity practices of the FHFA's regulated entities, including requiring public reporting of the total dollar amounts these entities spend on third party vendors and service providers and the amounts paid to firms

that are minority-owned, women-owned, disability-owned, and other diverse-owned businesses on a regular basis.

Public Companies. The Committee will consider proposals to enhance diversity and inclusion practices and policies at public companies, including by more transparently reporting information regarding the equitable inclusion of women and people of color in the workforce including compensation equity, and the selection process of those who serve in middle- and senior- management level, executive, C-suite positions, and boards of directors.

Diverse Entrepreneurs and Access to Capital. The Committee will monitor challenges faced by, and consider solutions to, encouraging the creation and growth of diverse entrepreneurs' businesses, particularly any unique challenges faced by minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, Native-owned businesses, disability-owned businesses, and small businesses in obtaining access to capital and opportunities to obtain a fair allocation of federal funds and participation in federal programs. The Committee will also review how corporations collaborate with minority-owned, women-owned and other diverse- owned firms in their capital markets activities, including but not limited to, the investment of pension, union, and retirement funds; externally managed investment and non-indexed funds; and alternative investments. The Committee will also monitor the implementation of data collection measures that could more effectively and efficiently inform the public, investors, regulators, and Congress about patterns and trends of business lending and other types of financing.

OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

MINORITY VIEWS

Republicans' top priority remains safely reopening our economy and getting Americans back to work. This can be accomplished by ensuring more vaccines and testing are available to our communities. With the extraordinary effort to provide support to those impacted by COVID–19, comes the need for diligent oversight of the CARES Act and related relief programs. Additionally, Committee Republicans remain committed to carrying out commonsense oversight priorities, to not only ensure the safety and soundness of our financial system, but its full recovery as well. Committee Republicans expect to conduct oversight of the following areas during the 117th Congress, as well as oversight and investigations of additional matters or programs as they arise.

ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC RISK

- **Cybersecurity.** The coronavirus pandemic and related relief programs have created an environment ripe for cybercriminal activity. Committee Republicans will continue to conduct oversight of cybersecurity in the public and private sectors to protect the financial system from cybercrime. Republicans will facilitate information sharing and identify best practices among financial regulators and industry participants, especially for threats related to COVID–19 and related federal relief programs.
- **Digitization.** Regulators must continue to digitize their operations and interactions with regulated entities. These changes should be made permanent even after the pandemic subsides. It is necessary to ensure that new and modernized digital infrastructure is in place to allow for efficient and secure digital operations. The minority will continue to conduct oversight of financial regulators as they transition to increased digital interactions with regulated entities on a more permanent basis.
- **Democratization of Finance.** Increased retail participation in the stock market has allowed more Americans to generate wealth and provided new sources of capital for companies to hire workers and invest in research and development, among other things. Republicans will conduct oversight of the retail marketplace to ensure the regulatory environment, including the accredited investor rule, is favorable for investors. Within that context, Republicans will make findings and recommendations related to trading in GameStop and other stocks in late January 2021.
- **Politicization of Access to Capital.** Republicans support fair access to financing for legally operating businesses, which supports jobs and promotes long-term economic growth. Financial regulators have committed to addressing social causes unrelated to

their regulatory authorities and financial firms continue to limit access to capital to certain politically unpopular industries. Republicans will conduct oversight of the federal financial regulators to determine whether their activities are outside their mandates, and of regulated firms within the committee's jurisdiction to determine whether they limit access to capital for legally operating businesses based on non-pecuniary factors to accomplish unrelated social or political goals.

• **Role of Proxy Advisory Firms.** SEC guidance states that advisers who vote proxies must do so in a manner consistent with their fiduciary obligations and, to the extent they rely on voting advice from proxy advisory firms they must take reasonable steps to ensure the use of that advice is consistent with their fiduciary duties. Republicans will conduct oversight of the regulatory environment that covers the relationship between proxy advisory firms, their clients, and corporate boards of directors, to ensure boards are positioned to meet their fiduciary obligations and determine the most situationally appropriate course for companies to take.

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

• **Federal Housing Assistance.** Despite significant federal investment over the past several years, homelessness persists as an issue. Data from the Department of Education shows two million children experience homelessness at some point during the school year. Republicans will conduct oversight of homelessness programs and uses of funding intended for that purpose to ensure resources are directed toward those in greatest need.

• **Implementation of Recommendations from the Community of Inspectors General.** The audits and investigative work of the IG community provides a roadmap for congressional oversight of agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction. The minority will review the inventory of open and unimplemented recommendations from the inspectors general within the committee's jurisdiction to identify opportunities for cost savings and areas of common concern. The minority will also seek to hold quarterly hearings with IGs to highlight some of the most urgent areas for oversight.

• **Rulemaking Process.** The regulatory rulemaking process has gone relatively unchanged for decades. Technology tools including AI could improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the notice and comment process. Republicans will continue to conduct oversight of agencies as they develop new strategies and further integrate technology into the rulemaking process.

• **Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.** Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have been operating under federal conservatorship since being bailed out for nearly $200 billion at the height of the financial crisis. The minority will conduct oversight of the government-sponsored enterprises and assess the role of the federal government in mortgage finance to ensure the administration remains on track to end government conservatorship of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

PREVENTING WASTE AND FRAUD

• **Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Impact Payment Program Fraud.** The minority will continue to monitor

and investigate fraud associated with COVID–19 relief programs, specifically whether internal program controls effectively balance the need to distribute relief quickly against fraud prevention. The minority will seek data from relevant agencies, inspectors general, GAO, and private sector participants, to identify potential systemic risk concerns, among other things.

• **CARES Act.** The CARES Act provided trillions of dollars to the Treasury and Federal Reserve to stabilize the economy amidst the COVID–19 pandemic. The minority will continue to conduct oversight to ensure loan recipients and other program participants comply with the terms of the programs in conformity with congressional intent and to protect against waste, fraud, and abuse.

• **Abuse of the Paycheck Protection Program by Political Organizations.** The Paycheck Protection Program was designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. The Small Business Administration released data that shows political organizations may have taken advantage of the program's expedited nature to obtain funds for which they were ineligible. The minority will partner with relevant agencies, inspectors general, and the Justice Department to ensure ineligible political organizations are held accountable.

• **CFPB Oversight.** The Dodd-Frank Act created a CFPB that was unaccountable to Congress. Republicans supported a successful legal challenge to the Bureau's unconstitutional structure that made the CFPB Director removable at will by the President. Still, the Bureau is funded outside of the congressional appropriations process, which positions the Federal Reserve Board of Governors to act as a rubber stamp for the Director's funding request. The fact that the Board has no statutory mechanism to scrutinize the Bureau's funding request has raised concerns that the CFPB's budget process is exposed to waste, fraud, and abuse. In light of CFPB's continued operation outside the congressional appropriations process, Republicans will conduct oversight to ensure the Director does not abuse the Bureau's vast enforcement authority to punish industries disfavored by the Administration.

• **Elder Fraud.** As the United States' elder population continues to grow, financial fraud targeting that community will have massive implications for financial institutions. Evidence suggests that one in every five elder Americans has been a victim of some form of financial fraud. These numbers have increased due to the amount of COVID-related fraud cases. Republicans will investigate how regulators and the financial services industry are addressing elder fraud.

NATIONAL SECURITY

• **Terrorism Finance.** Republicans will continue to conduct oversight of the growing network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), primarily in Western countries, including the United States, which, in recent years, has engaged in an organized and well-coordinated boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. Documents show connections between that network and groups that operate in the Middle east with known connections to terrorist activities. Republicans will ensure the administration uses the full range of tools to prevent money from moving between

domestic BDS groups and terrorist groups abroad. Republicans will also examine whether entities that do business with government agencies provide goods and services to state sponsors of terrorism.

• **Money Laundering.** Financial institutions and law enforcement agencies face constantly evolving tactics from sophisticated criminals and terrorists attempting to leverage the global financial system. Republicans will continue to assess the Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering (BSA/AML) regulatory regime to investigate the effectiveness of the current rules, highlight the need to modernize the reporting system in the digital era, and prevent criminal activity.

• **North Korean Sanctions.** North Korea uses corporations with opaque ownership structures to move money through American banks. The current enforcement of international sanctions intended to block Pyongyang's access to the global financial system appear insufficient to prevent these transactions. The minority will investigate how agencies and financial institutions are combating money laundering schemes like this and assess whether new legislation in necessary.

• **China.** Analysts have observed China offering funding for international projects to secure Chinese access to resources or local markets, causing countries to become ensnared in a debt trap that leaves them vulnerable to China's influence. The minority will examine China's debt trap and Chinese resistance to transparent disclosure in its lending and discuss the implications of China's financing decisions in terms of the IMF, World Bank, and global systemic risk.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Oversight Plan

117th Congress

1. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the requirements of clause 2(d) of House Rule X, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs ("the Committee") has prepared this oversight plan for the 117th Congress, which will be submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on House Administration. This plan summarizes the Committee's 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.

Agency and program oversight are key responsibilities of the legislative branch. 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 be coordinated between the Committee and the Subcommittees in order to facilitate comprehensive and strategic review of the programs and agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction.

These Committee activities may include hearings, briefings, reports, and investigations, Member or staff-level meetings, correspondence, fact-finding and oversight travel, reports, and public statements. They may also include effective use and review of reports by the Government Accountability Office and by statutory Inspectors General, as well as Congressional Notifications submitted by executive branch agencies. The Committee 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 in the Committee's jurisdiction;
- effective management and administration, and institutional modernization;
- appropriate resourcing of U.S. foreign policy and programs.
- How the Committee's work will address issues of inequities on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin.

2. PRIORITY OVERSIGHT MATTERS

a. *Russia:* The Committee will address the impact of Russia's foreign and domestic policy on U.S. security, political, and economic interests, as a result of its continued aggression and related hostile actions regarding NATO, the EU, Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, the United States, and other countries. It will also examine Kremlin-driven efforts to undermine western democratic governments and institutions through cyber intrusions and attacks, disinformation campaigns, malign influence activities, propaganda, and other hybrid warfare tools. The Committee will examine the range of options available to the United States. to respond to these actions. The Committee will also review the deteriorating domestic situation in Russia regarding democracy, civil society, the rule of law, the free exercise of fundamental freedoms, and human rights, including its attacks on opposition leader Alexei Navalny and other prominent critics of President Putin and the Kremlin. In addition, the Committee will closely assess strategic stability and related arms control agreements with Russia to reduce the risk of nuclear conflict. The Committee will consult widely with experts and allies to inform the measures the U.S. Government should pursue on these matters.

b. Ukraine/Georgia: The Committee will closely monitor Russian-supported separatist activity and other aggressive actions aimed at undermining Ukraine's sovereignty, including the forcible and attempted annexation of Crimea. The Committee will continue to examine the U.S. response to this aggression in light of the long-standing U.S. foreign policy doctrine of non-recognition of territorial changes effected by force alone. The Committee will assess Russia's ongoing agression in Georgia and consider measures the U.S. Government can take to continue to promote effective, democratic governance in these while turning back Russian intrusion. In addition, the Committee will actively oversee efforts of the U.S. Government, working alongside allies and partners, to assist these countries in strengthening their defense capabilities, promoting economic growth, combating corruption, and promoting an effective and democratic government.

c. Europe/Eurasia: The Committee will review U.S. relations with the European Union, individual European countries and relevant regional groupings and multilateral bodies such as the OSCE, and NATO. Key issues include continued reassurance and support the security of our NATO allies, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe; rule of law and border security; U.S.-European cooperative efforts to combat terrorism, white nationalism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of extremism; and diversification of energy sources to reduce reliance on Russian energy. The Committee will focus on strengthening our important strategic and economic relationships with allies and partners in order to bolster American security and promote greater economic growth across the transatlantic community. The Committee will also scrutinize the nexus of populism, alignment of far left and far right political forces and increasingly autocratic governments. Similarly, the Committee will continue to work with the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, and other allies and partners to hold the illegitimate Lukashenko regime accountable for its theft of the Au-

gust 2020 presidential election in Belarus and its continued crackdown on peaceful protestors. The Committee will also continue oversight of U.S. political, security and economic policy in Central Asia and Western Balkans, with a particular focus on strengthening partnerships to advance mutual security interests and European integration where appropriate, including countering violent extremism, as well as efforts to promote economic development with the DFC, human rights, and good governance.

d. Turkey: The Committee will examine Turkey's evolving foreign policy orientation and its domestic political trends—including but not limited to its crackdown on domestic freedoms and the rights of minorities, the LGBTQ community, and others; its persecution of U.S. Embassy and Consulate staff in Turkey; its efforts to combat ISIS and the spread of extremism; its role as it pertains to conflict and refugees in Syria; its aggression against the Kurds and in Nagorno-Karabakh; its purchase of the Russian S–400 air defense system; its relationship with the European Union; its continued occupation of the Republic of Cyprus and aggressive actions in the Eastern Mediterranean; and the health of the long term U.S.-Turkey strategic relationship.

e. Afghanistan: The Committee will comprehensively review U.S. policy toward Afghanistan. Particular focus will be paid to the Administration's efforts to bring the war in Afghanistan to an end through an intra-Afghan dialogue. The Committee will also pay close attention to the Afghan government's various reform efforts related to addressing corruption, improving governance, electoral reforms, and strengthening security. This review will assess the effectiveness of international aid and U.S. assistance programs, the broader political-military and associated counterterrorism strategies, and the full range of policies related to the post-2020 US Taliban peace framework agreement.

f. Pakistan: The Committee will review all elements of U.S. policy toward Pakistan, including efforts to eliminate safe havens for violent extremists and establish a stable, democratic country. This review will encompass both U.S. civilian and security assistance to Pakistan, in order to assess the extent to which such programs effectively advance U.S. national interests. The Committee will also conduct ongoing oversight of matters relating to Pakistan's nuclear program, including issues relating to nonproliferation, such as the legacy of the A.Q. Khan network and Pakistan's advancing of tactical nuclear weapons

g. North Korea: The Committee will review and work to address the threat posed by North Korea. Particular focus will be paid to North Korea's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs, its ballistic missile program, and the possible proliferation of these weapons and delivery systems. The Committee will also examine North Korea's conventional weapon sales, other illicit activities, cyber-attacks, human rights violations, as well as U.S. efforts to assist North Korean refugees. The Committee will review U.S. diplomatic efforts, U.S. information dissemination efforts, the implementation of U.S. and international sanctions, the impact of current negotiations on U.S. alliances in Asia, whether the executive branch is keeping the legislative branch fully informed of regional develop-

ments and U.S. policy toward North Korea, and consider next steps in U.S. policy to address the North Korean threat.

h. Indo-Pacific: The Committee will review the U.S.'s significant political, economic, and security interests in the Indo-Pacific, including East and Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands. The Committee will conduct oversight of U.S. relations with countries in the Indo-Pacific, including foreign policy, foreign assistance, human rights and democracy, the strength of U.S. relationships with and among alliances and partners, security cooperation, territorial disputes, influence operations and trade. The Committee will evaluate the State Department's participation in multilateral organizations such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the East Asia Summit, and closely monitor any discussion of future trade agreements in Asia. The Committee will monitor the totality of the U.S. relationship with Taiwan as provided for in the Taiwan Relations Act.

i. India: The Committee will review U.S. policy towards India and the continued expansion of bilateral cooperation. Particular attention will be paid to the U.S.-India security relationship, including cooperation on counterterrorism efforts and developments since the 2015 defense framework agreement and India's designation as a "Major Defense Partner." The Committee will also focus on efforts to enhance U.S.-India economic and trade relations, and collaboration on efforts to address global climate change and support for human rights and the international rules-based order, stalled efforts to initiate civil nuclear cooperation and the implications of India's rapidly growing energy demands will also be reviewed.

j. China: The Committee will examine China's role in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Particular focus will be placed on China's influence operations globally, its assertiveness in territorial disputes, military modernization, and human rights abuses, including treatment of Tibetans, Uyghurs and other religious and ethnic minorities. The Committee will review U.S. export controls related to China. The Committee will also continue to examine policy options with respect to Hong Kong given China's violation of its international obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration and commitments enshrined in the Basic Law. In addition, the Committee will examine China's use of economic coercion and role in the global economy, including trade, technology, energy, infrastructure, and its approach to development and foreign assistance, including through China's Belt and Road Initiative. The Committee will review China's cooperation on international nonproliferation efforts against North Korea. The Committee will investigate China's increasing use of cyber and economic espionage to affect foreign trade, and other policy outcomes.

k. Sub-Saharan Africa: The Committee will review political, economic and security developments on the African continent, including the rise of geopolitical competition with Russia, China, and among the Gulf Arab States on the continent, and risk of democratic backsliding. Key issues will include efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, advance human rights, promote peace and security, and stimulate investment and equitable economic growth—including through the implementation of the African

Growth and Opportunity Act and the Electrify Africa Act. The Committee will also focus on strengthening ties to the African Union and its regional economic communities, which are key partners in facilitating regional economic integration, protecting human rights, and advancing peace and security on the continent. Particular attention is to be paid to developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Sudan, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon, Mali, and Niger.

l. Western Hemisphere: The Committee will assess the effectiveness of U.S. policy towards the countries of the Western Hemisphere and the strategic importance of a positive U.S. agenda in the Americas, including for those who have been typically excluded including Afro-descendant and indigenous populations. Special emphasis will be placed on developments in political, security and economic cooperation with our partners in Canada and Mexico. Efforts for further collaboration with Argentina and Brazil will also be explored. The Committee will address the security challenges posed by transnational criminal organizations and other illegal armed actors. Challenges to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, anticorruption efforts and press freedom in the Americas also will be examined. The Committee will closely monitor the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and its impact on the Venezuelan people and countries throughout the region, as well as U.S. efforts to hold government actors in the country accountable. In the Northern Triangle countries of Central America, the Committee will assess the conditions that drive child and family migration and the appropriate response from the State Department, USAID and other international affairs agencies. In Nicaragua, the Committee will assess appropriate actions to continue to hold the country's government and security forces accountable for human rights abuses. In Colombia, the Committee will evaluate the implementation of the country's peace accords and ongoing counternarcotics efforts. The Committee will continue to closely monitor U.S.-Cuba relations and the health incidents impacting U.S. government personnel serving in Cuba. In Haiti, the Committee will continue its oversight of State Department and USAID assistance for reconstruction efforts, as well as investigate concerns of human rights abuses and help support efforts towards free, fair, and inclusive elections with buy-in from both the Haitian government and opposition. In the Caribbean, the Committee will continue efforts to enhance U.S. energy, security and diplomatic cooperation with the countries of the region.

m. Syria: The Committee will scrutinize U.S. efforts to address Syria's ongoing civil war, the war crimes committed by the Assad regime and other parties, and the role of Iran, Russia, Turkey and our Kurdish partners in the conflict. Particular attention will be paid to the Administration's new strategy for Syria including regional diplomacy, security coordination, and humanitarian assistance. The Committee will also examine the lasting consequences of the Trump Administration's decision to suspend stabilization assistance in Syria and evaluate U.S. efforts to prevent international reconstruction funds from assisting the Assad regime until a sustainable political solution is achieved and the regime allows for the

safe, dignified and voluntary return of the outstanding six million displaced Syrians. The Committee will examine the impact of Syria's refugee crisis on regional states including Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon and the continued pattern of human rights violations by the Assad regime, ISIS and its affiliates, and Turkish-supported militias.

n. Countering Violent Extremism: The Committee will examine the current status of al-Qaeda and its affiliates, with a specific focus on recruitment efforts, evolving save havens, and efforts to obtain WMDs. The Committee will also scrutinize the Administration's efforts to defeat ISIS in the Middle East and around the world, including authorizations for such efforts, leveraging other countries' commitments, evaluating U.S. leadership in the Coalition to Defeat ISIS, and determining the success of U.S. policies that seek to address the socio-economic challenges that led to the initial establishment and growth of ISIS. 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.

o. U.S. Policies and Actions in the Arabian Peninsula: The Committee will evaluate the U.S. role in the Gulf, particularly the role that the United States plays in Yemen, as well as ways that the United States can help bring the conflict to an end and address the serious security and economic concerns that have plagued Yemen for decades. The Committee will also review the U.S. relationship with members of the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen as well as U.S. policy options to build leverage with the Houthis in order to encourage compromise and a lasting resolution to the conflict. The Committee will also critically evaluate ongoing U.S. arms transfers and security cooperation with Gulf governments and the extent to which changes in U.S. policy in these areas can support an end to the Yemen conflict. The Committee will examine the status of rights of women, journalists, political dissidents and bloggers in the Gulf, and the extent to which current U.S. policy prioritizes human rights, the core of U.S. values.

p. Iran: The Committee will continue to closely review U.S. policy toward Iran, with a special focus on evaluating how the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA impacts the interests of the United States and our allies and how re-engagement in the JCPOA would tangibly benefit U.S. national security and that of our allies. The Committee will also review and work to address the threat posed by Iran's ballistic missile development, state sponsorship of terrorism and growing influence in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon, as well as the regime's ongoing human rights abuses, including the continued prolonged detention of Americans.

q. Israel and Palestinian Issues/Middle East Peace: The Committee will evaluate the lasting consequences of the Trump administration's efforts to advance peace between Israelis and Palestinians and will examine the current Administration's strategy and recent policy changes in light of a needed return to work towards a two-state solution. The Committee will examine the enduring consequences of changes to U.S. assistance to Palestinians and the implications of these decisions for our allies and interests as well

as the basic human rights of the Palestinian people. The Committee will look at the various ways that the Administration can continue building cooperation with Israel in an effort to expand this mutually beneficial relationship.

r. Middle East and North Africa: The Committee will carefully review overall U.S. policy toward the Middle East and North Africa, to include: the extent to which U.S. foreign assistance is being utilized in Iraq to help address the inequities that brought about the initial rise of ISIS; the democratic transition in Tunisia; the status of political negotiations in Libya; the impact of Chinese economic and diplomatic investment in the Middle East; the consequences of low oil prices for various oil-producing states; human rights and challenges to the rule of law throughout the region; and United States policies, programs, authorities and funding to address these challenges.

s. State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development Oversight, Authorization, and Modernization: The Committee will seek to pass a State Department Authorization bill as one has not been enacted since 2002. Emphasis will also be placed on modernizing personnel systems and practices, increasing workforce flexibility and improving recruitment, retention, and promotion processes, with a focus on ensuring that Department of State personnel better represent the diversity of the United States. The Committee will continue to monitor and examine the operations, budget, programs, planning, workforce training, building, and security policies with an eye toward authorization for Fiscal Year 2021. In addition to hearings with the Secretary of State and other Administration officials regarding their budget proposals for the upcoming year, such efforts may include: revisions to the Foreign Service Act; the Foreign Assistance Act; efforts to improve diversity and inclusion, with an emphasis on addressing barriers to retention and promotion at the mid and senior levels, consideration of reforms to Executive Branch reporting requirements; and a reduction or consolidation of offices with duplicative mandates and overlapping responsibilities. In the wake of increasing threats to U.S. personnel serving overseas, the Committee will continue to evaluate the security of our embassies and consulates, along with proposed reforms to the State Department's diplomatic security service to promote the personnel safety in the context of appropriate evaluation of risk.

t. Employee Retaliation: The Committee will pursue legislative changes to address the results of its investigation during the 116th Congress into politically-motivated retaliation against State Department and USAID employees during the Trump Administration, including individuals who have alleged they were subjected to prohibited personnel practices on account of their national origin, sexual identity, perceived political views, or in response to whistleblowing.

u. Foreign Assistance: The Committee will review the underlying authorities for U.S. foreign assistance with an eye towards reducing duplication, increasing transparency and effectiveness, and modernizing the foreign assistance workforce. It will also review issues related to the implementation of U.S. foreign assistance programs and projects, including the role of U.S. missions and embas-

sies in overseeing grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. In addition, the Committee will review issues related to coordination between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other U.S. Government agencies and departments involved in carrying out U.S. foreign assistance. Among a broad range of issues, the Committee will review U.S. foreign assistance initiatives aimed at providing life-saving humanitarian assistance, catalyzing economic growth, supporting sustainable development approaches, reducing state fragility, and addressing food security and global health challenges, and increasing resilience of developing communities to weather shocks and stresses, including climate change. The Committee will also exercise oversight over the initial investments and growth of the newly created International Development Finance Corporation. Assistance provided through the Millennium Challenge Corporation will also receive close scrutiny.

v. Global Health: The Committee will examine key global health issues, in particular the ongoing effects of COVID–19, both directly and on broader global health efforts. The Committee will also conduct oversight on global health security efforts, including infectious disease surveillance and control and strengthening of health care systems. Additionally, the Committee will examine the impacts of the previous Administration's reimposition of the Global Gag Rule and elimination of funding to UNFPA on women's health services and access to reproductive health. Additionally, the Committee's oversight will include reviewing PEPFAR's efforts to date, as well as, progress on global malnutrition elimination, support for maternal and child health, and the U.S. engagement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

w. Climate Change, Energy, and the Environment: The Committee will examine the effectiveness of U.S. policy on climate change, including the impact of the past Administration's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord on our diplomatic relations, our development assistance, and multilateral engagement. We will explore the impacts of climate change on national security, its contributions to displacement and social unrest across the globe, and how we can advance a path toward climate stabilization. We will consider the evolution of the global energy landscape, emphasize good governance of existing resources, and work to assure energy security for the US and our allies. The Committee will also oversee engagement on environmental issues including wildlife trafficking, international conservation efforts, and the role and safety of environmental activists across the globe.

x. Economic Policy and Trade: The Committee will oversee international economic policy, including U.S. leadership in trade, finance, energy, technology, and development policy to promote economic prosperity and national security.

y. The Committee will continue to oversee the administration of defense export controls under the Arms Export Control Act.

z. 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, especially the International Atomic Energy Agency, increase cooperation with

other countries, and enhance international nonproliferation agreements and mechanisms including the international regulation of civil nuclear power and the potential spread of technology, equipment and material useful in the development of nuclear weapons capabilities. The Committee will closely examine proposed and existing bilateral nuclear cooperation agreements with other countries, including their potential to promote U.S. nonproliferation objectives and commercial interests.

aa. Export Controls, Arms Transfers and Security Assistance: The Committee will assess the effectiveness of export controls under the Export Control Reform Act, regulation of defense transfers under the Arms Export Control Act and 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.

bb. U.S. International Broadcasting: The Committee will continue to actively 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 closely oversee efforts by USAGM to rebuild from the brief, destructive tenure of former CEO Michael Pack, and return USAGM to its proper position of being independent and non-partisan.

cc. Human Rights and Democracy: The Committee will examine and monitor human rights abuses around the world and the deterioration of democracy and democratic norms globally. The Committee will also review the Administration's recentering of human rights and democracy as a key parts of U.S. foreign policy, with an added emphasis on addressing issues of inequities on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin. The Committee will also assess U.S. involvement with multilateral human rights organizations, to ensure that U.S. diplomacy serves to promote human rights and freedoms.

dd. United Nations and International Organizations: The Committee will closely review all aspects of U.S. participation in international organizations and seek to ensure the US is accountable for its funding commitments, as well as advocating for equitable obligations from all UN member states. The Committee will closely monitor the work of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support, and particularly efforts to improve performance and enhance accountability. The Committee will seek to ensure America's engagement with UN institutions will support international diplomatic and development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee will also assess and address foreign adversaries' attempts to expand influence in UN institutions to coopt these organizations in service of private political agendas. Close attention will be paid to the extent to which the Administration's strategies in international organizations has led to greater engagement and improved out-

comes on human rights issues, as well as its support for and accountability of the World Health Organization, now that the United States has reentered.

ee. Cyberpolicy: The Committee will conduct oversight over U.S. efforts to examine and devise appropriate responses to cyber threats from foreign governments, non-state actors, and criminal networks that target the United States. The Committee will also examine efforts by U.S. adversaries to undermine the government, democratic and other institutions of the United States and other nations through cyber intrusions.

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

In addition to the oversight priorities outlined regarding Turkey, the Committee should also pay close attention to Turkey's continued persecution of religious minorities, in clear violation of its own Constitution, and to its antagonistic actions against Greece, a NATO ally, in the Aegean Sea.

DINA TITUS (NV–1).

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

OVERSIGHT PLAN OF

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

The following is the Oversight Plan of the Committee on Homeland Security for the 117th Congress. The Oversight Plan consists of topics designated for review by Chairman Bennie G. Thompson, in consultation with Ranking Member John Katko. Below are descriptions of some of the significant issues the Committee intends to conduct oversight on this Congress. The Committee continues to be committed to addressing in the course of its work inequities in homeland security related to race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin, and to ensuring witness and stakeholder input from a diverse array of Americans.

OVERSIGHT, MANAGEMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

During the 117th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) activities relating to human capital recruitment and retention, acquisition practices, systems modernization and other functions essential to the Department effectively and efficiently fulfilling its critical missions. The Committee will also examine the Department's ongoing efforts to consolidate its headquarters at the St. Elizabeths campus. Additionally, the Committee plans to oversee the Department's development of its capstone strategy document, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review (QHSR). Finally, the Committee will investigate homeland security programs and practices, as warranted.

HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Committee will monitor the Department's efforts to plan and implement strategic human capital management programs that address current and emerging human capital challenges, including persistently low morale among the Department's workforce; lack of diversity in the Department's leadership cadre; and ongoing difficulties with recruiting, hiring, and retaining employees at components and offices across the Department. Additionally, the Committee will examine the authorities and activities of the Chief Human Capital Officer (CHCO) and the coordination of policy between and among the Department's CHCOs.

ACQUISITION, PROCUREMENT, AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

The Committee will review the Department's major acquisition programs and procurement and contracting practices to promote the delivery of critical capabilities and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. The Committee will also examine the Department's oversight of acquisitions and procurement, including components' compliance with associated policy and guidance. Further, the Committee will review the activities and authorities of the Under Secretary for Management and the Chief Procurement Officer to ensure the effective management of these key functions.

SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION AND INTEGRATION

The Committee will examine the Department's efforts to modernize and integrate its systems, including information technology and financial management systems. The Committee will monitor the development, implementation, and integration of new systems across components as well as management of the Department-wide portfolio of systems.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

The Committee will monitor the efforts of the Department's Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans to ensure coordination and integration of policy between headquarters and the components. The Committee will examine the Department's efforts to take a longer-term, strategic view of threats and hazards to the homeland, including through the publication of the QHSR. Additionally, the Committee will oversee the activities of the Office of Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention, including the implementation of the Department's Strategic Framework to Counter Terrorism and Targeted Violence.

DEPARTMENTAL WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT

Pursuant to rule X, clause 2 (n)(1) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee will work to identify waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in the Department's programs that may undermine its vital missions.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts under Section 222 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–296), which created a Privacy Officer for the Department of Homeland Security, and Section 705 of the Act which established an Officer for Civil Rights and Liberties.

BORDER SECURITY, FACILITATION, AND OPERATIONS

In the 117th Congress, the Committee will examine how the Department can continue to enhance the security of America's borders by preventing the entry of terrorists and their weapons, stemming the flow of illegal drugs, and addressing unauthorized entries while also facilitating legitimate trade and travel to this country. Additionally, the Committee will review the Department's treatment of

individuals—particularly families and children, the elderly, those with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations—at the border, conditions in immigration detention facilities, and regional approaches to managing migration flows in the Western Hemisphere.

BORDER SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY, AND PERSONNEL

The Committee will examine efforts to enhance situational awareness and security of the borders of the United States. The Committee seeks to understand the metrics used by the Department to assess effectiveness of border security infrastructure, technology, and operations, to include costs to the taxpayers and impacts on nearby communities, which may be marginalized or underserved in some cases. Furthermore, the Committee will review the infrastructure, technology, and personnel needs at land, sea, and airports of entry, which currently limit the Department's ability to detect illegal narcotics and contraband entering the country and may slow the processing of individuals and goods.

BORDER SCREENING PROGRAMS

The Committee intends to review efforts to assist border and consular officials in identifying, intercepting, and disrupting terrorists 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 persons seeking to enter this country, operations at the Department's National Vetting Center, and progress toward implementing a biometric entry and exit system at ports of entry. Particular focus will be on ensuring the prevention of discrimination and protection of civil rights and liberties for individuals subject to those programs.

TRANSPORTATION AND MARITIME SECURITY

During the 117th Congress, the Committee plans to examine the Department's efforts to develop and implement strategies to address terrorist threats in varied transportation environments, including both air and surface transportation. The Committee will review the effectiveness of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) passenger, baggage, and cargo screening programs and operations. The Committee will also examine the challenges facing the TSA workforce, including limited protections for TSA agents, persistent low morale, and the need to increase diversity among its leadership ranks. Additionally, the Committee will examine the use of transportation security grants to better secure America's transportation system.

AVIATION SECURITY

The Committee intends to review TSA's progress in developing and deploying passenger and baggage screening technologies, including the accuracy and cost-effectiveness of such technologies. The Committee will examine TSA's use of explosives detection canines to ensure that canine teams are utilized effectively. The Committee will also look at management of the agency's Screening

Partnership Program. Additionally, the Committee also will review TSA's passenger search policies and practices, passenger prescreening programs including the use of no-fly and selectee lists, and protocols for ensuring that passengers designated high-risk are receiving enhanced screening at the checkpoint. The Committee will assess whether there are additional ways for TSA to enhance security and improve risk-based strategies throughout the aviation system.

As part of this oversight, the Committee plans to examine TSA's staffing needs and related matters affecting the TSA workforce, such as continued low morale and high attrition among transportation security officers. The Committee will also examine privacy and civil rights protections for the traveling public. Additionally, the Committee will examine the threats to aviation and other targets posed by unmanned aircraft or "drones."

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

The Committee will review TSA's efforts to secure surface transit systems, including the highest- risk mass transit and rail systems. The Committee's oversight will include a review of the Transit Security Grant Program to determine if it is supporting surface transportation security adequately. The Committee will also review the extent to which TSA effectively coordinates with its Federal, State, local, and private sector partners to secure our Nation's transportation systems. Additionally, the Committee will assess the effectiveness of TSA's efforts to secure the Nation's pipeline systems through TSA's oversight and inspection activities.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Committee will help ensure that TSA works appropriately with transportation sector stakeholders and labor through the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, the Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee, collective bargaining, or other means. The Committee will also encourage TSA to find new ways to leverage private sector expertise, innovation, and technologies, including from small businesses, in its mission to secure the Nation's critical transportation systems in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

MARITIME SECURITY

The Committee will examine various aspects of maritime security, including the security of port facilities and the screening of vessels, passengers, cargo, and crew, for potential terrorists, terrorist weapons, and contraband. The Committee plans to review the Coast Guard's statutorily defined homeland security missions, to include ports, waterways, and coastal security; drug interdiction; migrant interdiction; law enforcement; and defense readiness. The Committee will also review resource and asset needs within the Coast Guard to determine whether the service is operationally ready to address the varied threats to America's ports and waterways while pursuing a long-term sustainable path of fleet recapitalization. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight on

the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program.

INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERTERRORISM

During the 117th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight to inform Congress and the public on current and evolving intelligence and counterterrorism threats; identify policy to best empower communities, support stakeholders, and protect the homeland; and enhance trust between the Department and all of its partners, including the American public, to ensure intelligence and counterterrorism efforts are effective.

The Committee's oversight will specifically examine the capabilities and efforts of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, the Department of Homeland Security Intelligence Enterprise, the United States Secret Service, civil rights oversight offices, along with Federal, state, and local partners, to identify, prevent, deter, and respond to intelligence and terrorism threats to the homeland. This work will examine domestic and international terrorism threats to the homeland. As 2021 marks the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Committee will review the authorities granted to and efforts undertaken by the Department since its creation and assess a path forward, including a strategic vision for the Department to create a secure homeland through its intelligence and counterterrorism programs and activities. The Committee will also explore the growing effort to further integrate cyber-threat intelligence reporting with intelligence about the physical world to create a more holistic intelligence picture. Additionally, the Committee will review civil unrest that has recently occurred across the country.

DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Committee will review the persistent, growing threat to the U.S. from domestic terrorism movements. As part of that effort, the Committee will investigate the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, including the involvement of domestic terrorist groups, the use of online platforms by the perpetrators in carrying out the attack, and any intelligence and information sharing lapses that may have occurred.

INTELLIGENCE ENTERPRISE & INFORMATION SHARING

The Committee will conduct oversight of the Department's Intelligence Enterprise, including intelligence activities throughout the Department and component agencies. The Committee will review efforts to build the intelligence, analytical, and assessment capabilities of the Department and to ensure its full participation in the Intelligence Community as part of its homeland security mission. This will include a specific look at the Office of Intelligence and Analysis' current and future capabilities, including its mission and specific means to adjust to a fluid threat landscape and build expertise and fill gaps within the intelligence community.

The Committee will also examine the Department's role in managing, distributing, and using intelligence and threat information in furtherance of its homeland security mission. This will include

current and future information sharing efforts within the Department, between the Department and other Federal agencies, and between the Department and the Committee. Furthermore, the Committee will monitor the extent to which the Department 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 the Office of Intelligence and Analysis effectively supports State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial law enforcement partners and other stakeholders. The Committee will also review how the Department collects and shares information, including through vital security vetting programs and Federal terrorist or criminal watchlists.

The Committee will continue to assess the development of the Department's counterintelligence and insider threat programs, including Departmental organizational changes, resources, monitoring programs, and training initiatives. Specifically, the Committee will examine the Department's counterintelligence efforts to prevent adversaries from penetrating the Department to exploit sensitive information, operations, programs, personnel, and resources.

PRIVACY, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Committee will monitor the Department's efforts to ensure appropriate privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties protections in its intelligence, counterterrorism, and information sharing programs and activities. Specifically, the Committee will examine and evaluate such programs and activities with regard to protected categories, such as race and religion, as well as constitutional rights, such as freedom of speech. Moreover, the Committee will seek to ensure that intelligence and counterterrorism oversight, including any legislative fixes, are appropriately scoped to build trust, bolster resilience, and empower minority and other historically marginalized communities who are often targeted by acts of extremism.

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

The Committee will examine the operations of the United States Secret Service, including its efforts to protect the President of the United States and other Executive branch officials and to investigate financial and cybercrime. The Committee will also review the agency's staffing model to determine whether it has adequate resources to meet its current and projected needs. The Committee will examine the Secret Service's lead role in planning and executing security operations for National Special Security Events. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight into whether the agency is taking steps to address persistent concerns about hiring practices, promotion policies, and morale, including increasing diversity in leadership positions.

ONLINE EXTREMISM

The Committee will examine the exploitation of online platforms by extremists to incite violence, plan violent acts, and cause harm in the offline world. The Committee will conduct oversight on De-

partmental programs and activities with online platforms to counter extremism online; efforts by technology platforms and service providers in moderating extremist content on their platforms; and the maturation of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism; and policy to combat online extremist content while respecting free expression, civil rights, and civil liberties.

CYBERSECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION, AND INNOVATION

During the 117th Congress, the Committee will conduct oversight of the cybersecurity, infrastructure protection, and science and technology activities of the Department.

CYBERSECURITY

The Committee will continue its oversight of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) implementation of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act of 2018, which operationalized CISA. Additionally, the Committee will examine implementation of cybersecurity related provisions of H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2021 and the Federal government's response to recent malicious cyber campaigns targeting Federal networks. Toward that end, the Committee will continue to its oversight of the deployment and maturation of CISA's EINSTEIN and Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) programs for securing Federal networks. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight of strategic initiatives carried out by the new National Risk Management Center to identify interdependencies and mitigate vulnerabilities across critical infrastructure sectors. The Committee will also examine ways to further build the Department's cybersecurity capability and capacity to implement its cyber statutory authorities.

Additionally, the Committee will continue its work examining the implementation of cybersecurity legislation, including the National Cybersecurity Protection Act of 2014, (Pub. L. 113–282) (authorizing the National Cybersecurity Communications and Integration Center, or NCCIC); the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014, (Pub. L. 113–283 (authorizing DHS to carry out Federal information security activities); the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014, (Pub. L. 113–274) (providing for improvements to cybersecurity through public-private partnerships, education, awareness, and development of standards and best practices); and the Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act, (Pub. L. 113–246) (calling for a comprehensive cyber workforce strategy with workforce assessments every three years). The Committee will also examine CISA's election security activities.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

The Committee will examine CISA's programs to protect critical infrastructure, with key focus on internal coordination mechanisms to ensure that expertise can be leveraged efficiently and effectively and encourage CISA to proactively respond to new and emerging threats, such as the threat of unmanned aerial vehicles detected in sensitive airspace and soft targets. The Committee will also review

how DHS, through CISA, works with the various critical infrastructure sectors pursuant to Presidential Policy Directive 21, Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience (PPD–21).

The Committee will oversee CISA's ongoing administration of Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standard (CFATS) program, which requires high risk chemical facility owners and operators to report chemical holdings, perform vulnerability assessments, and adopt risk-based security measures to protect against the threat of a terrorist attack. Further, the Committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to establish a program to secure the sale and transfer of ammonium nitrate, as required by the Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2008, and potentially develop new access controls to prevent the illicit flow of other precursor chemicals commonly used in Improved Explosive Devices (IEDs).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORATE

The Committee will conduct oversight of the coordination of homeland security-related research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDT&E) within the Department and the adequacy of mission support provided by the Directorate to operational elements of the Department, state and local authorities, and the private sector. The Committee will also review the Department's efforts to attract the Nation's most talented scientists and build partnerships with the academic community through its Homeland Security Centers of Excellence and University Programs.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

In the 117th Congress, the Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the Department's efforts to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other major emergencies, including the COVID–19 pandemic.

PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

The Committee will examine the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) response and recovery efforts for declared disasters to ensure capabilities incorporate lessons learned and Federal resources are used appropriately. Focus will include lesson learned from recent disasters and recovery efforts, addressing the needs of underserved and vulnerable populations, and the impact of global warming on disasters. The Committee will also review the Department's training and exercise programs. Further, the Committee will monitor the extent to which FEMA is incorporating information from national exercises into future training, planning, and response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Additionally, the Committee will conduct oversight of the Department's Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office efforts to counter threats from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons.

COVID–19

The Committee will continue its oversight of the Federal response to the COVID–19 pandemic, including the role of FEMA in

responding to the disaster. Particular focus will be on monitoring FEMA's work with the Centers for Disease Control and other Federal agencies to coordinate with State, local, and tribal, and territorial entities and the private sector to assist with COVID–19 vaccine distribution, as well as addressing inequitable access to vaccine and disparate outcomes for minority and underserved communities.

Assistance to State and Local Governments and First Responders

The Committee will examine FEMA's allocation and administration of grants to state and local governments and emergency response providers to prevent, prepare for, respond to, mitigate, and recover from a terrorist attack or other disaster. The Committee will review the coordination of grant programs within the Department in developing guidance and administering grants; the ability of state and local governments to access, obligate, and expend funds; the strength of regional partnerships developed through grants; and the risk-based distribution and expenditure of such grants at the state and local levels.

Emergency Communications

The Committee will examine the coordination of various communications programs and offices within the Department, 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 (Pub. Law 114–29). 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.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Oversight Plan for the 117th Congress

Committee on House Administration

The Committee on House Administration (Committee) has developed the following oversight plan pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Committee's oversight activities are key to the operations of the Legislative Branch, including the House and House Officers, Legislative Branch agencies, and other related entities. The Committee's responsibilities also include oversight of federal elections. The jurisdiction of the Committee, pursuant to clause House Rule X, clause 1(k), is as follows:

(1) Appropriations from accounts for committee salaries and expenses (except for the Committee on Appropriations); House Information Resources; and allowance and expenses of Members, Delegates, the Resident Commissioner, officers, and administrative offices of the House.

(2) Auditing and settling of all accounts described in subparagraph (1).

(3) Employment of persons by the House, including staff for Members, Delegates, the Resident Commissioner, and committees; and reporters of debates, subject to rule VI.

(4) Except as provided in paragraph (r)(11), the Library of Congress, including management thereof; the House Library; statuary and pictures; acceptance or purchase of works of art for the Capitol; the Botanic Garden; and purchase of books and manuscripts,

(5) The Smithsonian Institution and the incorporation of similar institutions (except as provided in paragraph (r)(11)).

(6) Expenditure of accounts described in subparagraph (1).

(7) Franking Commission; [19]

(8) Printing and correction of the Congressional Record.

(9) Accounts of the House generally.

(10) Assignment of office space for Members, Delegates, the Resident Commissioner, and committees.

(11) Disposition of useless executive papers.

(12) Election of the President, Vice President, Members, Senators, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner; corrupt practices; contested elections; credentials and qualifications; and Federal elections generally.

[19] The name of the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards, also known as the Franking Commission, was recently changed to the House Communications Standards Commission. COMMS Act., P.L. 116–260.

(13) Services to the House, including the House Restaurant, parking facilities, and administration of the House Office Buildings and of the House wing of the Capitol.

(14) Travel of Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner.

(15) Raising, reporting, and use of campaign contributions for candidates for office of Representative, of Delegate, and of Resident Commissioner; and

(16) Compensation, retirement, and other benefits of the Members, Delegates, the Resident Commissioner, officers, and employees of Congress.

The Committee will continue its oversight of operations of the House, Legislative Branch agencies, and federal elections in the 117th Congress. This oversight work will include various forms of Committee activity, including, but not limited to, regular oversight meetings with Committee staff, Member-level meetings, briefings, hearings, correspondence, studies, reports, and cooperation with relevant inspectors general. The Committee intends to continue and expand its practice of holding both monthly general oversight meetings for House Officers and agencies and project-specific recurring oversight meetings for Legislative Branch programs and activities that require extra Committee attention.

The Committee's oversight activities will emphasize:

- House Officers and operations;
- Legislative Branch agencies and related entities;
- Security of the Capitol and throughout the legislative branch, including the January 6, 2021, domestic terrorist attack on the U.S. Capitol;
- Operations of the Legislative Branch during the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic;
- Member services;
- Committee funding and activities;
- The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995;
- Official communications;
- House technology use and modernization; and
- Federal election law and procedures.

HOUSE OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

The Committee intends to work with the House Officers to develop and implement long term plans to ensure that they are well positioned to serve the House community effectively. These plans will focus on increasing efficiency, improving management practices, diversifying the workforce, promoting physical and cyber security, and facilitating interoffice cooperation.

House Officers and Operations, Generally

- Oversee collaboration among House Officers and other Legislative Branch entities with respect to the institutional response to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic.
- Provide general policy guidance to the House Officers.
- Provide policy guidance and conduct oversight of security and safety issues and congressional entities charged with such roles, ensuring coordination among the various entities, with an emphasis on the January 6, 2021, domestic terrorist attack at the Capitol.

• Review proposals and oversee efforts to recruit and retain a more diverse and inclusive workforce.
• Analyze management improvement proposals and other initiatives submitted by the House Officers and relevant Inspectors General.
• Assure coordination among House Officers and other Legislative Branch entities on the continued development and implementation of a comprehensive district office support program.
• Coordinate with House Officers and officials to develop and implement long term plans and goals for the financial and administrative functions of the House.
• Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations on matters impacting operations of the House and other Legislative Branch entities.
• Ensure coordination among House Officers and other Legislative Branch entities on administrative and technology matters, including reviewing and improving existing IT security policies.
• Oversee compliance with the House Employees Position Classification Act (2 U.S.C. §§ 291 *et seq.*).
• Review relevant rules, regulations, and statutes and, in consultation with the House Officers, revise where necessary.
• Work with House Officers to create more cost effective and efficient operations within the House, including, but not limited to, elimination of any duplicative programs or activities.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

• Provide policy direction for the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Continue the review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the CAO.
• Review ongoing process and technology upgrades to the House financial management system, ensuring appropriate internal controls are in place.
• Oversee the CAO's role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings, and other House facilities consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
• Oversee the House Child Care Center, including response to the COVID–19 pandemic and efforts to reduce the waitlist and expand admissions.
• Oversee the House Recording Studio, with a focus on the execution of remote proceedings.
• Oversee the use of electronic consent forms for casework.
• Review of the House's new equipment program.
• Oversee efforts to improve customer service and communications across all CAO functions and business units.
• Oversee development and implementation of strategies to increase House staff retention.
• Oversee House restaurant operations.
• Oversee the Office of Employee Assistance and House Wellness Center, including efforts to increase capacity and address the trauma among Members and staff associated with the January 6, 2021, domestic terrorist attack on the Capitol.
• Oversee operations and management of the office supply store and gift shop.

- Oversee the CAO's customer advocate program.
- Oversee the Student Loan Repayment program and recent reforms thereto.
- Oversee House Creative Services.
- Review alternatives to the current mail delivery process to strengthen the services and tools available to Members and staff.
- Review and provide direction on the CAO's actions in response to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic.
- Review and help to facilitate efforts to diversify the CAO workforce.
- Review existing asset management processes.
- Review House furniture policy, inventory, and selection.
- Review House procurement policies and monitor the effectiveness of the CAO's procurement and contract management functions.
- Review issues related to district office leases.
- Review new technology initiatives to better serve Members, committees, and the public.
- Review procedures for processing contracts with the House that exceed the threshold of $350,000.
- Review proposals and oversee corresponding efforts to convert certain services provided by contractors to in-house services.
- Review semi-annual financial and operational status reports; oversee implementation of changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review staff benefits offered by the House and proposals to modify benefits.
- Review the officially sanctioned "Congressional App Challenge."
- Review the Wounded Warrior Program and develop recommendations, in consultation with veteran's organizations, about improvements to the program.
- Review the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program and develop recommendations, in consultation with veteran's organizations, about improvements to the program.
- Review training offerings available to Members and staff through the Congressional Staff Academy, identifying additional programming opportunities.
- Review and oversee information technology services provided, maintained or hosted by House Information Resources:
    - Review of the January 6, 2021, domestic terrorist attack at the Capitol, including cybersecurity implications and response.
    - Oversee failsafe procedures to guarantee continuity of operations.
    - Oversee House cybersecurity practices, including network security and threat prevention.
    - Review of the House Disaster Recovery Program.
    - Review of House IT configuration and redundancy posture.
    - Oversee web services activities, including new Member website development.
    - Oversee pilot and rollout of Quill letter signing platform.

- Oversee development of improvements to CMS experience for Member offices.
- Oversee the Technology Partner Program, including the marketing thereof.
- Oversee efforts to continue movement toward cloud computing.

Clerk of the House

- Review functions and administrative operations assigned to the Clerk.
- Oversee official reporter participation in field hearings.
- Coordinate on matters under the jurisdiction of the House Fine Arts Board and the Capitol Preservation Board.
- Oversee efforts to implement digital signatures in the House.
- Oversee legislative process adjustments necessitated by the COVID–19 pandemic, including limited proxy voting and the electronic hopper.
- Oversee participation in the Bulk Data Task Force.
- Oversee preparation of congressionally authorized publications.
- Oversee the House document repository.
- Oversee the lobbying disclosure process, including ways to make data more easily accessible for the general public.
- Review and approve contracts and requests for proposals by the Clerk that exceed the $350,000 spending threshold.
- Review of semi-annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review other issues related to the COVID–19 pandemic, including staff vaccination.
- Review standards for the electronic exchange of legislative information among the chambers of Congress and Legislative Branch agencies.
- Review the application programming interface incorporated in the Clerk's website.
- Review the Clerk's current IT configuration and redundancy posture.
- Review the printing needs of the Clerk to evaluate the potential for eliminating duplication.

House Inspector General

- Review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the Inspector General.
- Direct Inspector General to conduct management advisories to improve implementation and operation of key House functions.
- Ensure that audit prioritization is based upon the assessment of risk to the operations of the House.
- Monitor progress of House audits.
- Review and approve proposed audit plan and audit reports, including the annual financial statements audit.
- Review comprehensive financial and operational audits of the House, investigate any irregularities uncovered, and monitor necessary improvements.

House Office of Diversity and Inclusion

- Oversee and support efforts to direct and guide House employing offices to recruit, hire, train, develop, advance, promote, and retain a diverse workforce.
- Oversee and ensure compliance with the diversity survey requirement set forth in House Rule II, clause (9)(b)(2).
- Oversee and ensure compliance with the diversity report requirement set forth in House Rule II, clause (9)(b)(3).

House Office of Whistleblower Ombuds

- Oversee efforts to promulgate best practices for whistleblower intake for offices of the House set forth in House Rule II, clause 10(b)(1).
- Oversee the provision of whistleblower intake trainings for offices of the House set forth in House Rule II, clause 10(b)(2).

House Sergeant at Arms (HSAA)

- Review and oversee security operations in the House, including the House Chamber, the galleries, the Capitol, House Office Buildings, Capitol Grounds, and district offices.
- Review of the events of January 6, 2021, including consideration and facilitation of security recommendations made by Lt. General Russel Honoré (Ret.) and his task force studying the January 6, 2021, domestic terrorist attack on the Capitol.
- Consult with the HSAA on policies adopted by the Capitol Police Board and other relevant oversight entities.
- Review of functions and administrative operations assigned to the HSAA.
- Examine Sergeant at Arms' role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, the House Office Buildings, and other House facilities consistent with the ADA.
- Review and monitor the HSAA amendments to protocols to ensure the safety of Members' Washington, D.C., and district offices and homes.
- Review and monitor the HSAA emergency preparedness and training of all Members, staff, and employees.
- Review and monitor the HSAA implementation of new Member, staff, employee, and visitor tracking protocols and electronic systems.
- Review and monitor the repair/improvement of Capitol security entry and exit pedestrian points.
- Review and oversee initiatives designed to increase security and security awareness for Members and staff in district offices.
- Review annual financial and operational status reports; recommend changes in operations to improve services and increase efficiencies.
- Review any and all HSAA improvements to the identification and badging of Members, staff, employees, contractors, and visitors.
- Review emergency continuity of operations and continuity of government plans of action, including plans to communicate to Members and staff.
- Review impact of electronic access to controlled spaces.
- Review short and long-term crisis mental health support for HSAA employees.

• Review the effectiveness of district office security program, including the law enforcement coordinator program, enterprise-wide security system contract, and processes for mail sent to the district offices.
• Review the policies and procedures for visitor access to the Capitol.
• Review the security operation of House parking facilities, regulations, and allocation of parking spaces.
• Review the use of technology generally in the protection of the House of Representatives.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND OTHER ENTITIES

Architect of the Capitol (AOC)

• Oversee the Cannon House Office Building renovation, with an emphasis on Phase III progress.
• Review lessons learned from Phase II of the Cannon House Office Building renovation and monitor application to Phase III.
• Oversee the closeout of punch list items in the Cannon House Office Building renovation, including earlier phases.
• Oversee life safety measures, accessibility measures, and improved evacuation mechanisms in House buildings.
• Oversee restoration and repairs necessitated by the January 6, 2021, domestic terrorist attack at the Capitol, including, but not limited to review of any proposed infrastructure security recommendations made by Lt. General Russel Honoré (Ret.).
• Oversee efforts to improve diversity within the office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), with an emphasis on senior levels of the agency.
• Oversee hiring practices, with an emphasis on increasing diversity and inclusion at the senior levels of the agency.
• Oversee the continued institutional response to the COVID–19 pandemic.
• Oversee the AOC's role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol and the House Office Buildings.
• Oversee the pest management practices of the AOC.
• Oversee AOC's maintenance of House Buildings and the House side of the Capitol.
• Oversee caucus and meeting room renovations.
• Oversee efforts to create and maintain a professional workplace culture.
• Oversee National Statuary Hall.
• Oversee operations of the Capitol Visitor Center, including public tours, the re-design of Exhibition Hall, contracting practices and revolving fund status, in conjunction with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.
• Oversee other capital projects, including the Rayburn Garage refurbishment.
• Review AOC efforts to improve discipline program and accountability systems, including those applicable to exempt personnel.
• Review plans and proposals for future projects in the House Office Buildings and on the House side of the Capitol.

• Review reports by the AOC Inspector General and implementation of audit recommendations. Examine options to improve operation and structure of the AOC Inspector General's office.
• Review the AOC Office of Sustainability's efforts to reduce energy and waste consumption in the Capitol Complex by, for example, use of waterless and low-flow plumbing fixtures in restroom facilities.
• Review relevant rules, regulations, and statutes and, in consultation with the agency, revise where necessary.
• Review the electronic and procured services provided by the Architect.
• Review the operations and organizational structure of the Office of the Architect, considering proposals for reorganization provided to the Committee by the Architect.
• Review workplace safety and health efforts.

Government Publishing Office (GPO)

• Continue efforts to reform title 44, United States Code, particularly provisions related to the Federal Depository Library Program.
• Examine current Government Publishing Office (GPO) printing and binding regulations to determine advisability of change.
• Monitor implementation of remedial actions taken by management to address audit issues identified by the GPO Inspector General and outside financial auditors.
• Monitor progress of the GPO committee print project.
• Oversee GPO response to the COVID–19 pandemic.
• Oversee operations of the GPO, including the Superintendent of Documents.
• Oversee Secure and Intelligent Document (SID) production, including production of passports.
• Oversee Superintendent of Documents' sales and depository library programs.
• Review agency efforts to recruit a diverse and inclusive workforce.
• Review and adopt legislative proposals to reform government printing by eliminating redundancies and unnecessary printing, increasing efficiency, and enhancing public access to government publications.
• Review GPO labor practices and labor agreements.
• Review the printing needs of the House of Representatives to identify the potential for eliminating duplication.
• Review use of GPO facilities and other assets to identify possible alternatives that enhance value to the Congress and the public.
• Under the authority set forth in 44 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq*, review rules and regulations promulgated by the Joint Committee on Printing, updating where prudent.

Library of Congress

• Conduct detailed oversight of Congressional Research Service 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;
- Resource allocation; and
- Administrative support for subject matter experts.

- Conduct detailed oversight the Copyright Office:
  - Review the use of technology generally in Copyright Office operations, and specifically the office's 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.
  - Review the Copyright Office's efforts to communicate its modernization efforts to stakeholders.
  - Review security measures and processes for e-deposits submitted to both the Copyright Office and Library of Congress.
  - Review the Copyright Office's spending authority and its ability to budget for multi-year capital projects.
- Conduct a review of the progress that the Library has made in providing public access to government information, especially in electronic form.
- Consider legislation proposed by the Library.
- Oversee collection development programs and digital collection plans.
- Oversee Law Library operations.
- Oversee Library capital projects.
- Oversee 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 the Contracts and Grants Directorate, including acquisition workforce training and acquisition planning.
- Oversee the implementation of the Library of Congress Fiscal Operations Improvement Act of 2000 (P.L. 106–481, 114 Stat. 2187), the Veterans' Oral History Project Act (P.L. 106–380, 114 Stat. 1447), the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106–474, 114 Stat. 2085), and the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act (P.L. 106–99, 113 Stat. 1330).
- Oversee the Library's technology hosting environment transition.
- Oversee 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, review the format and content for those users, and oversee plans to move to a new physical headquarters.
- Oversee Library of Congress operations, including inventory cataloguing systems, preservation efforts, and plans to grow collections.
- Oversee the Library's Visitor Experience Initiative, including the Thomas Jefferson Building renovations.
- Ensure the continued compilation of educational websites and materials tailored for students going to school remotely due to the COVID–19 pandemic.

• Oversee gift shop financial management and accounting.
• Oversee improvements to the Legislation Information Service.
• Oversee Library storage facilities, including the shelving replacement project in the Law Library.
• Oversee supervisor and employee conduct, workplace environment and culture, discipline, and other human resources matters.
• Oversee the Library's Overseas Offices program.
• Oversee the operation 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.
• Review customer order processing procedures.
• Review relevant rules, regulations, and statutes and, in consultation with the agency, revise where necessary.
• 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.
• Review the use of technology generally in Library of Congress operations, and specifically the ongoing work to centralize technology operations.

Office of Congressional Accessibility Services (OCAS)

• Oversee management and operations of Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, such as the implementation of the ADA, in conjunction with Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

Smithsonian Institution

• Oversee efforts to increase collections storage capacity, including review of proposed legislation to expand collections storage capacity.
• Oversee efforts to publish educational materials tailored toward students participating in virtual learning due to the COVID–19 pandemic.
• Oversee efforts to reduce the Smithsonian Institution's deferred maintenance backlog.
• Oversee general museum and research facility operations of the Smithsonian Institution.
• Oversee response to the COVID–19 pandemic, including museum operations and workplace safety.
• Oversee Smithsonian science and research facilities, including the work being conducted in Panama, Hawaii and around the world.
• Oversee the partnership with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.
• Oversee the planning for newly authorized Smithsonian facilities, including the National Women's History Museum and the National Museum of the American Latino.
• Review and evaluate the Smithsonian Institution's use of federally appropriated funds.
• Review relevant rules, regulations and statutes and, in consultation with the agency, revise where necessary.
• Review any proposals to charge fees for admission to any Smithsonian exhibits.

• Review COVID–19 impacts to Trust finances and labor outlook.
• Review efforts to improve diversity and inclusion within the Smithsonian, including, diversity in exhibits/collections and diversity in the workforce, with an emphasis on senior levels of the Smithsonian.
• Review operations and conduct oversight of Smithsonian Enterprises.
• Review operations of the National Zoo.
• Review proposed appointments of citizen regents to the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents.
• Review Smithsonian policies regarding initiation of planning, design, and construction of projects.
• Review the Smithsonian Inspector General reports on the status of the Smithsonian, with a focus on cybersecurity and deferred maintenance issues.

United States Capitol Police

• Review the events of and related to the January 6, 2021, domestic terrorist attack on the Capitol including consideration and facilitation of security recommendations made by Lt. General Russel Honoré (Ret.) and his task force studying attack.
• Review and oversee implementation of Inspector General recommendations
• Authorize and oversee of the installation and maintenance of new security systems and devices proposed by the Capitol Police Board and other relevant security entities.
• Oversee national search for a new permanent Department leadership, including a new Department Chief.
• Oversee any potential structural reforms to the Department.
• Review and monitor the Department's implementation of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Action (IDEA) with recruitment, training, and development of all Department employees and leadership, with a focus on diversifying the ranks of the department.
• Review and monitor the Department's plan of action to implement mandatory basic, immediate, and advanced leadership training of all supervisory personnel.
• Review short and long-term crisis mental health support for Department officers and Civilian Personnel.
• Conduct oversight of the effectiveness of Department prescreeners.
• Conduct oversight of House garages security implementation.
• Continually review physical security requirements for Members of Congress.
• Examine the Department's role in assuring accessibility to the House wing of the Capitol, House Office Buildings and other facilities consistent with the ADA.
• Monitor administrative operations of the agency, including budgetary management, over-time use, civilian components, attrition rates, recruitment efforts and incentive programs for officers and civilian employees.
• Oversee efforts to improve Department transparency.

• Review all reports authored by the Department Inspector General, along with operations and structure of the Inspector General's Office.
• Review analysis of uniformed officer post/duty assignments to determine and authorize force levels to meet the agency's security requirements within the Capitol complex to include the Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress, and U.S. Botanic Garden.
• Review and consider proposals to improve USCP training program, especially to counter bias, for new recruits and in-service training, including the Department's use of programs at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers.
• Review and monitor the Department IG's immediate recommendations to address insider threats within the Department.
• Review relevant rules, regulations, and statutes and, in consultation with the agency, revise where necessary.
• Review and monitor the revision of the Department's Use of Force policy.
• Review and oversee revisions of all Department Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) with certain federal, state, local, and Department of Defense entities.
• Review Department COVID–19 enhanced testing and vaccination programs.
• Review Department security clearance policy.
• Review proposals for additional USCP authorities, facilities, and equipment.

Member Services

• 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 processing of vouchers and direct payments, including those for payroll. Continue to monitor the implementation of the electronic vouchering system.
• Provide guidance and outreach to congressional offices to ensure compliance with Committee regulations.
• Review and, if appropriate, revise the *Guide to Outfitting and Maintaining an Office*, a set of regulations governing the acquisition, transfer, and disposal of furnishings, equipment, software, and related services.
• Review and, if appropriate, revise the *Members' Congressional Handbook*, a set of regulations governing the appropriate use of the Members' Representational Allowance.
• Work with the Officers of the House, the AOC, and other Legislative Branch agencies to provide meaningful outreach to Member offices and provide that the views of member offices are incorporated into their ongoing work.

New Member Orientation

• Plan, implement, and oversee the New Member Orientation program for newly elected Members of Congress.
• Oversee the planning and implementation of the Congressional Research Service's New Member Issues Seminar.

• Oversee continued implementation of the Transition Aide program.
• Oversee implementation of new technologies to help facilitate New Member Orientation.
• Work with the Congressional Research Service and other support agencies to make available additional on-going professional development services for new Members and staff.

Intern Program

• Continue and expand the Gregg and Livingston Harper Congressional Internship Program for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.
• Oversee 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.
• Review and consider revising the intern handbook and other publications and communication materials used in support of the intern program.

COMMITTEE FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT

• Review monthly reports on committee activities and expenditures.
• Review and, as necessary, revise the *Committees' Congressional Handbook*.
• Review primary and any secondary expense resolutions and approve authorization of committee funding levels.
• Review committees' franking expenditures.
• Review committees' requests for the use of consultant contracts.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

• Conduct general oversight of the office of Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR).
• Conduct specific oversight of the OCWR IT system.
• Ensure compliance with requirements concerning the posting of workplace rights and procedures for filing claims.
• Evaluate resources available to OCWR and House employing offices to facilitate implementation of the Congressional Accountability Act (P.L. 104–1, 109 Stat. 3) (CAA).
• Monitor any relevant judicial proceedings to determine the impact on the CAA.
• Monitor implementation of the CAA and the reforms provided for in the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act (P.L. 115–397, 132 Stat. 5297).
• Monitor the development and deployment of the biannual climate survey.
• Oversee updates to the anti-harassment and anti-discrimination training curriculum, including for district offices.
• Oversee the Office of Employee Advocacy.
• Review and introduce, as appropriate, OCWR proposed regulations for paid family leave for the Legislative Branch.
• Review data on workplace rights information.

• Review model harassment and discrimination policies.
• Review regulations adopted by OCWR.
• Review suggestions from OCWR regarding potential updates to employment laws, as set forth in OCWR's Section 102(b) Reports.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

• Coordinate with the Clerk of the House and CAO to identify and implement new applications, resources, and procedures for the House to be more transparent, accountable, accessible, and to meet Member and Committee offices' obligations related to official communications.
• Coordinate with the Member Services team to continue to update, refine, and modernize policies related to the official use of communications resources.
• Implement approved procedures to increase transparency and improve the accounting of franked mail costs.
• Oversee compliance with current prohibition on mass mailings 60 days before a primary or general election.
• Oversee implementation of the regulations governing unsolicited mass communications as set forth in the COMMS Act (P.L. 116 260) and the House of Representatives Communications Standards Manual.
• Oversee the Members' use of the congressional frank and other unsolicited mass communications by providing guidance, advice, and counsel through consultation or advisory opinions.

HOUSE TECHNOLOGY USE AND MODERNIZATION

• Continue to consult with the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress and implement recommendations as appropriate.
• Oversight of House Information Resources and other technology functions of the House to improve technology governance, services, and the electronic dissemination of information.
• Review and consideration of recommendations made by the National Academy of Public Administration regarding enhancing technology assessment capabilities within the Legislative Branch.
• In cooperation with Member Services team, review available technology necessary to support New Member Orientation.
• Oversee and continue to implement an enterprise House disaster recovery program for House offices, standing and select Committees, and Member offices.
• Oversee continuation and streamlining of House technology assessment in both new media and cloud services.
• Oversee plan for deployment of 5G (the fifth-generation technology standard for broadband cellular networks).
• Review cybersecurity measures and develop strategic plans to improve policies.
• Review procedures and standards for technology services provided by outside vendors, individuals, and other entities.
• Review technology standards for hearing rooms as they relate to the committee broadcast program.
• Work with Legislative Branch agencies to communicate available technology services to all Member, Committee, and Leadership Offices.

• Build the congressional record in support of a reauthorized national Voting Rights Act.

• Examine all aspects of election security practices and consider proposals to improve and strengthen election integrity.

• 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 operations of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and evaluate possible changes to improve efficiency and improve implementation of HAVA.

• Examine the role and impact of political organizations and non-profit organizations on federal elections.

• Recommend disposition of House election contests pending before the committee; monitor any disputed election counts.

• 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 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.

• Review state and federal activities under the National Voter Registration Act to identify potential for improvement to voter registration and education programs and reducing costs of compliance for state and local government.

• Use authority under Article 1, Section 4 of the United States Constitution to provide equivalent opportunities for voters to participate in federal elections.

MINORITY OVERSIGHT PRIORITIES 2021

The Minority appreciates the oversight plan developed by the Majority and looks forward to working on many of the issues outlined. It was important to also note specific topics and areas of interest that the Minority will continue to focus on.

House Officers and Operations, Generally

- The Committee must coordinate with House Officers and Legislative Branch entities to develop a detailed plan to physically reopen the campus post COVID–19 pandemic. This plan should be tiered and establish clear benchmarks for progress.
- The Committee should work to encourage the Architect of the Capitol, United States Capitol Police, Capitol Police Board and other Legislative Branch entities to quickly move forward, in a coordinated manner, with plans to enhance the security of the Capitol campus.

Chief Administrative Office [CAO]

- The Committee is encouraged by the CAO's plan to move forward with exploring an enterprise-wide CMS procurement, development, and launch.
- Based on feedback from Members offices and recommendations from the Select Committee on Modernization, the Committee believes the roll-out of an office dedicated to providing Human Resource support for offices is needed.
- The Congressional Staff Academy has the opportunity to be the gold-standard of in-house training and development staff needs. The Committee encourages the CAO to continue to expand its offerings, and hire instructors that have Member office experience.
- The Committee believes that there is a more cost-effective way to offer the required workplace rights training.

Sergeant at Arms [SAA]

- The Committee believes we must further professionalize and independently empower the security experts to make security related decisions. Politics currently play too much of a role in security related decision making.
- The Committee supports expanding the tracking and badging system for visitors on campus.

Clerk

- The Committee is supportive of the Clerk's Comparative Print Tool initiative and encourages expanding the initiative to all Member offices.

Legislative Counsel

• There continues to be a need to increase the bandwidth of the services to support the drafting of legislation for Member, Committee and Leadership Offices.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND OTHER ENTITIES

Architect of the Capitol [AOC]

• The Cannon House Office Building renovation continues to be a top priority of oversight. The project is improving our oldest House Office Building which needed life cycle replacement of all building systems. However, cost over-runs continue to be an area of concern for the Committee and encourages the AOC to incorporate lessons learned from completed phases with the goal of limiting total project cost.

• The Committee continues to be frustrated with the lack of progress of the Cannon Caucus Room renovation. The space is more than two years behind schedule. The AOC and CAO must do everything they can do get the space functioning.

• Overall project and contract management within the AOC continues to be something the Committee needs to work with the Appropriations Committee to monitor.

• CVC Emancipation Hall is an initiative that will impact millions of annual visitors, and the Committee encourages the AOC to continue to work with stakeholders in order to ensure the content of the displays are accurate and have bipartisan support.

US Capitol Police [USCP]

• The Committee recognizes that in the wake of the January 6th attack on the Capitol there will need to be a renewed focus on adjusting the mission and resources of the department. That is a top priority for the Committee.

• The Committee supports the proposed regional approach to cross-country security. This proposal approved by the Capitol Police Board will allow the department to more efficiently respond to security threats in the various congressional districts across the country.

• The Committee believes that despite the pandemic and the events of January 6th, the collective bargaining agreement negotiations must continue. The current agreement is out of date and in need of updating.

Library of Congress

• The Committee believes there needs to be a focus on services offered by the Congressional Research Service. In the 116th Congress, the Committee held a hearing to understand some of the management challenges faced by CRS. More needs to be done in this space and hopefully can be supported in a bipartisan way in the current Congress.

• The future of the NLS Headquarters continues to be a priority for the Committee.

• The Committee strongly supports the efforts to continue to modernize the information technology systems that are the backbone of the United States Copyright Office.

Government Publishing Office [GPO]

• Title 44 reform, specifically the Federal Deposit Library Program is a top priority for the Committee. The program is in need to statutory changes to make it more beneficial for local libraries to participate, which in turn serves GPO's goal of providing greater access of government information by citizens.

• The Committee believes that the current process of posting legislation online needs to be reviewed to identify ways to speed up the process. Delays result in offices waiting several weeks in many instances to read the actual text of introduced legislation.

Office of Attending Physician [OAP]

• The Committee believes the OAP needs to develop a comprehensive vaccine distribution plan that would make available a vaccine for all front-line workers within Congress.

• The Committee looks forward to OAP developing a reopening plan with agreed upon criteria for the House's physical reopening.

FEDERAL ELECTION LAWS AND PROCEDURES

• Examine all aspects of election security practices and consider proposals to improve and strengthen election integrity.

• Examine the impact of amendments made by 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.

• Examine the role and impact of political organizations and non-profit organizations on federal elections.

• Recommend disposition of House election contests pending before the committee; monitor any disputed election counts.

• 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.

ADDITIONAL MINORITY VIEWS ON OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL ELECTION LAW AND PROCEDURES

The Majority election oversight plan covers the jurisdiction of the Committee and we share in most of these objectives. However, we differ in the priority of these objectives and wish to include addi-

tional items. As the 117th Congress progresses, we hope to work with the Majority also to address:

- The protection and conservation of the primary, constitutional role of States with respect to 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, without undue federal regulation or interference.
- The protection and conservation of the States' constitutional role to appoint members of the Electoral College as their Legislatures best determine, as provided for in Article II, Section 1.
- Committee Minority Members continue to believe a prohibition against predatory election tactics such as ballot harvesting is warranted. The Committee should investigate these tactics.
- The examination of burdensome, unfunded, federal elections mandates during a time when local government budgets are under strain from the fiscal effects of the COVID–19 pandemic.
- Methods to improve the enforcement of existing federal law that requires States to maintain their voter registration lists in order to improve the accuracy and integrity of the elections process.
- Investigate and monitor HAVA waste, fraud, and abuse (including, but without limitation, allegations of official funds going towards partisan "get-out-the-vote" efforts, lack of transparency in the contract bidding process, and ex parte communications between vendors and state contracting officials).
- Consideration of a national standard for transparent HAVA bidding processes and review should be established to prevent corruption.
- Study the appropriate role of partisan firms engaged in "get-out-the-vote" efforts in contracts funded using HAVA grants.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

Submitted Pursuant to Clause 2(d) of House Rule X, March 1, 2021

The Rules of the House of Representatives assign to the Committee on the Judiciary jurisdiction over: (1) the judiciary and judicial proceedings, civil and criminal; (2) administrative practice and procedure; (3) apportionment of Representatives; (4) bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting; (5) civil liberties; (6) Constitutional amendments; (7) criminal law enforcement and criminalization; (8) Federal courts and judges, and local courts in the Territories and possessions; (9) immigration policy and non-border enforcement; (10) interstate compacts generally; (11) claims against the United States; (12) meetings of Congress; attendance of Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner; and their acceptance of incompatible offices; (13) national penitentiaries; (14) patents, the Patent and Trademark Office, copyrights, and trademarks; (15) Presidential succession; (16) protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; (17) revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States; (18) State and territorial boundary lines; and (19) subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States.

The Committee's work on oversight and investigations will be coordinated across the Full Committee and each of the Subcommittees. Oversight activities may include hearings, briefings, correspondence, reports, public statements, and site visits. In the 117th Congress, this work may address any of the following issues, agencies, or legislative matters under the Committee's jurisdiction.

FULL COMMITTEE

U.S. Department of Justice: In conjunction with the Subcommittees, the Committee will conduct oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice, including all Department components and agencies. This effort will include the investigation of threats to the integrity and independence of the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal law enforcement agencies.

National Security: The Committee will conduct oversight of the national security missions of the Law Enforcement and Intelligence Communities and assess the impact of government surveillance on privacy and civil liberties. This work will include reform and reauthorization of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Executive Authority and Separation of Powers: The Committee will conduct oversight of executive orders, memoranda, and court filings issued by the White House, the Office of Legal Counsel, and

other components of the Department of Justice, particularly as they may relate to an assertion of executive authority.

The U.S. Copyright Office: The Committee will conduct oversight of the Copyright Office. Oversight will include review of its recordation system, public access to its registration records, implementation of the Music Modernization Act and the CASE Act, and the Office's other modernization efforts.

Copyright Law and Policy: The Committee will examine the provisions of the Copyright Act to ensure it addresses the challenges faced by copyright owners, users, and consumers in the digital environment. This work may include oversight of the Office of the U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator.

Intellectual Property Enforcement Agencies: The Committee will review the intellectual property enforcement efforts of the Department of Justice and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. To the extent it involves non-copyright-related intellectual property issues, this work will be closely coordinated with Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Department of Justice: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the law enforcement agencies of the U.S. Department of Justice, including:

- the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- the Drug Enforcement Administration;
- the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives;
- the U.S. Marshals Service;
- the Office of the Federal Detention Trustee;
- the Federal Bureau of Prisons; and
- Federal Prison Industries, Inc.

In addition, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Office of Justice Programs, the Office on Violence Against Women, the Community Oriented Policing Services Office, and the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention, as well as the substantive statutes associated with these offices.

Implementation of the FIRST STEP Act: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of various reforms to federal sentencing laws and the operation of federal prisons enacted by the FIRST STEP Act of 2018, as well as various additional reforms with regard to criminal justice.

Federal Grants: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on law enforcement assistance grants, Violence Against Women Act grants, community policing grants, and other grants administered by the Department of Justice.

Office of the Pardon Attorney: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Office of the Pardon Attorney.

U.S. 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;
- the U.S. Coast Guard; and

- the Federal Air Marshals Service.

U.S. Sentencing Commission: The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Policing Strategies: The Subcommittee will continue working with state and local governments and groups to foster positive police-community relations, and ensure law enforcement has the tools it needs to do its job.

Gun Violence: The Subcommittee will continue to examine ways to reduce firearms-related violence.

Encryption and Handheld Electronic Devices: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on both the benefits of strong encryption and efforts by law enforcement agencies to access encrypted information.

Electronic Communications Privacy Act: The Subcommittee will continue its work to update this 1986 statute in light of the digital revolution that has taken place since the statute's enactment.

Cybersecurity: The Subcommittee will review the laws and law enforcement tools designed to combat and prevent cyber-attacks, particularly attacks on the independence and integrity of U.S. elections.

Domestic Violent Extremism: The Subcommittee will continue to examine domestic violent extremism and the perpetration of acts of domestic terrorism in our country.

Marijuana: The Subcommittee will review the laws related to the possession of marijuana and the impact of those laws on our communities.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Protection of U.S. Citizens' Constitutional and Civil Rights: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and will examine the adequacy of current protections for U.S. citizens' constitutional and civil rights.

Voting Rights: The Subcommittee will examine ways to enhance the ability of citizens to participate in federal elections by removing unnecessary barriers to access to the polls, addressing voter suppression efforts, and other means to fully guarantee the right to vote for all eligible individuals.

Foreign Influence: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the influence of foreign governments, foreign corporations, and other foreign entities on the federal government. The Subcommittee will also examine the adequacy of current law to prevent non-United States persons from making financial contributions to federal campaigns.

The Scope of Executive Authority: The Subcommittee will examine the proper scope and application of executive authority. This work may include a review of current ethics rules, the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the U.S. Constitution, and pardons granted by the President.

Religious Freedom: The Subcommittee will consider the protection of Americans' rights under the Free Exercise and Establishment Clauses of the First Amendment.

LGBTQ Equality: The Subcommittee will examine laws and enforcement actions with respect to the equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.

Reproductive Rights: The Subcommittee will examine laws and enforcement actions with respect to women's equality and reproductive choice.

Free Speech and Free Press: The Subcommittee will examine the state of free speech and the freedom of the press in the United States.

Detention of Suspected Terrorists: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on matters related to the long-term detention of suspected terrorists.

United States Commission on Civil Rights: The Subcommittee will review the work of the Commission, its management, and its implementation.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Executive Orders: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of Executive Orders regarding immigration and border security signed by President Biden.

Family Separation: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Biden Administration's efforts to reunify families who were separated at the southern border.

Immigration Detention and Custodial Arrangements: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of conditions in immigration detention facilities, including State and local jails, private prisons, and short-term Customs and Border Protection facilities, as well as the use of alternatives to detention. The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the care of unaccompanied minors in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Access to Asylum: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Biden Administration's attempts to restore access to asylum along the southern border including the winding down of the Migrant Protection Protocols, metering at ports of entry, and the Centers for Disease Control's use of Title 42 of the U.S. Code to expel migrants.

Enforcement Priorities: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) adherence to the Biden Administration's enforcement priorities.

Department of Homeland Security: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the components within DHS that are responsible for administering and enforcing United States immigration laws, including ICE and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Nonimmigrant Worker Visa Programs: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the H–1B, H–2A, H–2B and various other nonimmigrant worker visa programs.

Student Visa Programs: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the F, J, and M visa programs.

Immigrant Investor Visa Program: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the immigrant investor visa program.

Refugee Program: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the refugee program and the Office of Refugee Resettlement within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Visa Security: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the screening of visa applicants.

Executive Office for Immigration Review: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Department of Justice's adjudication of immigration cases.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). This work may include the status of pending patent and trademark applications, patent and trademark quality, implementation of the America Invents Act and Trademark Modernization Act, and the USPTO's fee-setting authority.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Global Intellectual Property Rights Attach Program: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the Global Intellectual Property Rights Attach program's efforts to promote high international standards for protection and enforcement.

International Intellectual Property Laws: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the impact of international intellectual property laws, regulations, and policies upon American interests. This work may include oversight of international trade agreements.

Federal Judiciary: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the federal judiciary, including judicial ethics and disclosure, the PACER system, and the operation of the federal court system. In addition, the Subcommittee will examine the resources available to Article III courts, including judicial salaries and security for federal judges, and whether the number of existing judgeships is adequate for increases in caseloads.

Technology Issues: The Subcommittee will examine developments in technology and the Internet affecting public policy, including issues surrounding Internet governance.

Legal Services Corporation: The Subcommittee will review the mission and operations of the Legal Services Corporation.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Administrative Process and Procedure: The Subcommittee will examine specific regulations and proposed regulations, as well as issues related to the implementation of the Administrative Procedure Act and other federal statutes. The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within the Office of Management and Budget.

Bankruptcy: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Bankruptcy Code, bankruptcy judgeships, and the federal bankruptcy system.

Department of Justice: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Civil Division, the Environment and Natural Resources Division, the Antitrust Division, the Tax Division, the Executive Office for United States Trustees and the U.S. Trustee Program, and the Office of the Solicitor General.

Federal Trade Commission: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Federal Trade Commission Act and the relevant components of the FTC.

Administrative Conference of the United States: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Administrative Conference of the United States.

Antitrust and Competition Policy: The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on a range of antitrust issues, including specific mergers, enforcement of federal antitrust laws, and enforcement of antitrust laws overseas, and matters involving competition policy.

Arbitration: The Subcommittee will review the operation of the Federal Arbitration Act.

REPUBLICAN VIEWS

Committee on the Judiciary

U.S. House of Representatives

117th Congress Oversight Plan

The Republican Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary intend to conduct objective, fact-based oversight of the Biden Administration and its dangerous left-wing agenda designed to reshape American society, the American economy, and our way of life. The Democrat majority seems intent on using the Committee to push significant and radical changes to federal law with limited, if any, Committee consideration and to continue Chairman Jerrold Nadler's oddly personal obsession with attacking former President Donald Trump. The Republican Members, however, will conduct legitimate oversight to make the federal agencies and programs within the Committee's jurisdiction more effective and more accountable to the American people.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Republican Members will continue to oversee Special Counsel John Durham's investigation into the origins of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's lawless investigation of alleged links between President Trump and Russia. Republicans will work to ensure that the Department of Justice appropriately continues its ongoing investigations concerning President Biden's son, Hunter Biden, including potential conflicts of interest and any nexus of the Biden family in foreign business dealings. Republican Members will also oversee the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal agencies in their investigation and prosecution of left-wing violent anarchic extremists, including federal property damage and federal officer injuries in Portland, Oregon, and elsewhere. Finally, Republican Members will conduct oversight of Department of Justice grant programs to identify programs that should be streamlined or eliminated.

SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

The Republican Members will conduct oversight of attempts to restrict Americans' fundamental Second Amendment rights. *In District of Columbia* v. *Heller*, the Supreme Court declared that the Second Amendment "guarantee[s] the individual right to possess and carry weapons in case of confrontation" and that "central" to

this right is "the inherent right of self-defense."[20] Republican Members will oppose any Biden Administration attempt to enact regulations or rules that would abridge the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans. Republican Members will work to protect, preserve, and promote Americans' Second Amendment rights.

VIOLENT LEFT WING EXTREMISM

Committee Democrats have dismissed and minimized the threat of violent left-wing extremism. Chairman Nadler called the radical leftist group Antifa an "imaginary thing" and Antifa violence a "myth that's only spread in Washington, D.C."[21] When former Attorney General William Barr urged the Committee to condemn left-wing mob violence and destruction of federal property in his testimony in July 2020, not a single Democrat spoke up.[22] Republican Members will continue to conduct oversight of the threat posed by violent left-wing extremists.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME

Republican Members will conduct oversight to ensure that law-enforcement officers at all levels have the appropriate resources and support necessary to do their jobs, while also ensuring that law-enforcement agencies are accountable to the citizens they serve. An effective and accountable law-enforcement community ensures that communities across the nation are safe and secure. Republican Members will continue to examine ways to address the problem of over-criminalization and over-federalization of our criminal laws. Republican Members also will conduct oversight to address the illicit narcotics activity of Mexican and Asian Transnational Criminal Organizations, including the trafficking of drugs through U.S. border states and the U.S. mail system.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

CANCEL CULTURE AND FREE SPEECH

Republican Members will examine the dangers of cancel culture and continue to support free speech and protections for political speech. Republican Members will also investigate institutions of higher learning and other entities to ensure that they respect the civil rights and civil liberties of their students and employees, with a focus on their right to speak and associate freely. In recent years, colleges and universities have implemented increasingly anti-democratic policies to limit the free speech rights of their students.[23]

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[20] 554 U.S. 570, 592, 628 (2008)

[21] 166 Cong. Rec. H2423, H2457 (June 25, 2020) (statement of Rep. Jerrold Nadler); Yaron Steinbuch, Rep. Jerry Nadler calls violence from Antifa in Portland a 'myth,' N.Y. POST (July 27, 2020).

[22] *Oversight of the Department of Justice: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on the Judiciary.* 116th Cong. (2020) (question and answer with Rep. Debbie Lesko).

[23] *See, e.g.*, FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION, COLLEGE FREE SPEECH RANKINGS: WHAT'S THE CLIMATE FOR FREE SPEECH ON AMERICA'S COLLEGE CAMPUSES? (2020)

VOTING RIGHTS

In a number of states in 2020, state executive and judicial officials implemented last-minute changes to voting laws that fundamentally altered state voting laws.[24] This activity not only leads to confusion among voters but also denies the people's representatives in the state legislatures of their constitutional authority to determine the manner of their elections. Republican Members will monitor changes to state voting laws and encourage state legislatures to improve state voting laws to ensure free and fair elections in which all Americans may have confidence.

SUPPORTING LIFE

Republican Members will oversee any Biden Administration attempt to enact policies concerning abortion to ensure that the sincerely held religious, moral, and ethical beliefs of medical professionals and healthcare entities are respected. Republican Members will always defend life.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

United States immigration law and policy should benefit American citizens and lawful permanent residents. Our borders must be secure, criminal aliens must be deported, and foreign nationals who want to come to the U.S. must be vetted. Immigration programs must not be subject to fraud and abuse. The immigration court system should operate fairly and efficiently. Most importantly, our laws and policies must not incentivize illegal immigration.

IMMIGRATION AGENCIES

Republican Members will conduct robust oversight of all immigration-related agencies and components, including the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection; the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs and Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration; the Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review; and the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement to ensure that the Biden Administration properly implements U.S. immigration law and policy.

Republican Members will conduct oversight to ensure that rulemakings and other executive actions by the Biden Administration adhere to the rule of law and do not result in radical policies that incentive illegal immigration.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

Republican Members will examine whether ICE policies under the Biden Administration will result in dangerous criminal aliens and other deportable aliens failing to be removed from the United States. Republican Members will also conduct oversight of the use of detainers by ICE to ensure that criminal aliens are removed and

[24] *See* STAFF REPORT, H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, HOW DEMOCRATS ARE ATTEMPTING TO SOW UNCERTAINTY, INACCURACY, AND DELAY IN THE 2020 ELECTION (Sept. 23, 2020).

whether mechanisms for alternatives to detention are effective in ensuring that aliens show up for immigration court proceedings and, where applicable, removal.

Republican Members will conduct oversight to determine how the Biden Administration's policies incentivize sanctuary jurisdictions and make Americans less safe. Republican Members will examine whether policy changes made by USCIS fail to prevent fraud in the asylum and other immigration benefits processes. Republican Members will also assess USCIS's issuance of employment authorization documents to determine whether aliens are taking jobs from Americans. Republican Members will assess whether changes made to vetting procedures at the Bureau of Consular Affairs and USCIS fail to prevent abuse of immigration programs and prevent bad actors from accessing the country. Republican Members will conduct oversight of the immigration court process and Department of Justice policies affecting immigration policy to ensure the law is being applied as written.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET

CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Republican Members will continue to examine the conduct of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) relating to the intellectual property (IP) rights of American businesses and citizens. In the 116th Congress, after a lengthy investigation, the House Republican Conference's China Task Force released a report summarizing its findings, which uncovered a range of Chinese misconduct attacking the IP rights of Americans as well as the American IP system. Republican Members will scrutinize China's theft of American IP and technology, facilitation of massive counterfeiting of American goods, attempted sabotage of the U.S. trademark registry, and other misconduct.

Republican Members will evaluate potential solutions and countermeasures to hold the CCP accountable for its misconduct relating to IP. These solutions may include enforcement of the IP provisions of the Phase 1 trade agreement negotiated by the Trump Administration, expanding support to the law enforcement entities responsible for protecting American IP and counteracting Chinese misconduct, providing greater resources to American businesses to protect their IP from Chinese theft and industrial espionage, and robust oversight of relevant federal agencies.

Republican Members will examine the extent to which the CCP utilizes cyberattacks to steal American IP and attack our IP system, harming American businesses and their ability to compete against Chinese companies. Republican Members will evaluate potential measures to better protect the country from cyberattacks from China and other wrongdoers.

FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Republican Members will conduct oversight of the federal judiciary, including evidence issues and civil and appellate procedures. Republican Members will also examine the resources available to Article III courts, including security for federal judges, the suffi-

ciency of current transparency measures, and the use of funding streams from PACER and filing fees.

Republican Members will oppose any effort by Democrats to pack the Supreme Court and lower federal courts with radical left-wing activist judges.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

BIG TECH'S BIAS AGAINST CONSERVATIVES

The Big Tech giants are out to get conservatives and stifle the free speech rights of conservative Americans. Republican Members will continue to conduct robust, objective oversight of Big Tech's censorship of free speech. Republican Members will consider all options to stop Big Tech's attacks on conservatives.

REINING IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE AND STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

Republicans Members will conduct oversight of any of the Biden Administration's efforts to drastically expand the administrative state. Members will continue to examine how the practice of allowing judicial deference to federal agency interpretations of law unjustly empowers agencies at the expense of private parties and undermines fundamental separation of powers. Republican Members will evaluate how the Biden Administration's effort to reverse the Trump Administration's deregulatory successes harm American job creators and small businesses. Republican Members will examine whether Congress should improve the Administrative Procedure Act and the Congressional Review Act to further enhance the rule of law, rein in the unwieldy administrative state, and restore authorities that the Founders entrusted to officials elected by the American people.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

OVERSIGHT PLAN 117TH CONGRESS

Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva

INTRODUCTION

Under clause 2 of rule X of the House of Representatives, each standing committee of the House has general oversight responsibilities to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction are being implemented in accordance with the intent of Congress and to determine whether they should be continued, curtailed or eliminated. The Committee intends to review the following laws, programs, and issues within the Committee's jurisdiction during the 117th Congress:

Justice and Equity

Federal policy can and should seek to achieve justice, health equity, and climate and environmental justice for all communities, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin. Equitable treatment of all communities and a focus on environmental justice will underpin the Committee's oversight and legislative work.

The previous administration eroded many fundamental protections for frontline and under-resourced communities. This agenda took many forms: undermining tribal sovereignty by destroying sacred sites and pushing forward with mineral extraction in ancestral hunting grounds, relaxing federal air and water pollution rules, ignoring the recovery needs of insular areas after hurricanes and tsunamis, and eroding implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a critical law for environmental justice that ensures that the public has a voice in federal decisions. The Committee will work with the new administration to reestablish NEPA as a safeguard for environmental justice and will continue to elevate the importance of meaningful federal consultation with tribes.

The Committee will also work with the new administration to restore and defend the basic rights of those communities. We will conduct legislative and oversight activities to ensure tribes and insular areas receive the resources needed to address the COVID–19 pandemic and other emergencies; reduce pollution; address the climate crisis; and identify and address obstacles for under-resourced communities that reasonably desire clean water, climate resilient infrastructure and ecosystems, renewable energy, and public access to nature. Recognizing the benefits of including diverse voices in policymaking, the Committee is committed to inviting diverse witnesses to testify in Committee hearings, continuing to work to in-

crease diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in the agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction, and continuing its engagement with environmental justice communities and other under-represented groups.

Insular Affairs

Budget Oversight: The Committee will oversee the portion of the president's budget request that relates to the insular areas of the United States, including five principal U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and three Freely Associated States (Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau).

Climate Change: The Committee intends to advance legislation, sponsored by the Chair, to reduce climate crisis impacts on U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States.

Puerto Rico Self-Determination: In the 116th Congress, the Committee received several bills designed to advance Puerto Rico's political status. The Committee will examine legislation to resolve Puerto Rico's political status and hold hearings on competing bills to fulfill this objective.

Infrastructure and Alternative Energy Development: The Committee plans to explore initiatives to increase and expedite infrastructure development in all U.S. Territories. In addition, the Committee anticipates reviewing alternative energy proposals to reduce reliance on imported fuel and maximize the use of alternative and indigenous sources of energy.

Compacts of Free Association: The Committee will exercise its oversight authority related to negotiations to extend the funding and program assistance to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), in accordance with the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (P.L.108–188) and with Public Law 99–658, which established the free association relationship between the United States and the Republic of Palau. The Committee intends to monitor pending formal negotiations to extend the Compacts beyond 2023 for the FSM and the RMI, and 2024 for the Republic of Palau.

Territorial Debt and the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA): The Committee will continue to exercise its oversight authority over the implementation of PROMESA, and review the current level and long-term trends of public debt in each of the five U.S. Territories.

Puerto Rico Post-Disaster Reconstruction: Continued oversight of Puerto Rico's efforts to rebuild after the devastation of Hurricane Maria and the island's need for federal assistance remains a priority for the Committee. The Committee intends to hold an oversight hearing early in the 117th Congress to this effect.

Indigenous Peoples of the United States

Budget Oversight: The Committee will review the budget requests for programs and activities related to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), Indian Health Service (IHS), and Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (formerly

the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST)) to ensure that Tribal communities have adequate resources.

Indian Health Care: Under the terms of the federal trust responsibility, the federal government is legally obligated to provide health care services to American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and Native Hawaiians. Unfortunately, the federal government has not lived up to this responsibility during the coronavirus pandemic. Due to decades of chronic underfunding and historical trauma, Indigenous Peoples have contracted COVID–19 at higher rates than all other population groups, which has also resulted in higher rates of coronavirus-related deaths. The Indian Health Service (IHS) has faced significant backlogs in health care facility construction, and the maintenance of existing facilities remains a limiting factor in the agency's pandemic response. As the pandemic continues to unfold, the Committee will examine IHS's status in planning, mitigating, and treating the virus, including the agency's distribution of the vaccine. The Committee will review IHS' ability to maintain the health and well-being of tribal communities, and Native Hawaiian Health Centers during the pandemic and beyond.

Climate Change: The Committee believes that climate change's threat to the livelihoods and economies of tribal communities must not be underestimated. Indigenous Peoples remain on the front lines of climate change due to the disproportionate impacts that it has had on tribal lands, Native Hawaiian homelands, water, traditional foods, plants, and endangered species. The Committee will review the ongoing effects of climate change on tribal communities, incorporate environmental justice strategies, discuss the adaption strategies employed in those communities, and address any unmet needs.

Renewable Energy Development: Many of the best locations to develop renewable energy, such as wind and solar, exist on tribal lands. However, many barriers still limit tribal governments' ability to develop these resources. The Committee intends to review how the federal government can assist tribal governments, and Native Hawaiian organizations in these efforts and incentivize renewable and sustainable energy resources best. The Committee will facilitate the inclusion of sustainable resources for tribal communities in the energy initiatives proposed in the 117th Congress.

Sanitation and Clean Water: More than half million individuals in tribal communities across the United States—comprising nearly 48 percent of all homes—do not have access to reliable water sources, clean drinking water, or basic sanitation facilities. Insufficient water and sanitation systems facilitate the spread of public health crises, impede economic development, and hinder infrastructure capacities on reservations. The Committee will examine the detrimental effects of inadequate water and sanitation systems and provide solutions to ensure that tribal communities can access these essential services.

Tribal Justice and Public Safety: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported that murder remains the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women. Known as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) crisis, this trend has continued throughout the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Tribal justice systems are often at odds with

state jurisdictions and depending on their status as a Public Law 280 state, some tribal governments have had their legal authority transferred from the federal government to the state. When an Indigenous woman is murdered or deemed missing on tribal lands, these layered jurisdictions result in inefficient and uncollaborative investigations with low prosecution rates. The Committee will continue to gather information from tribal communities to develop comprehensive legislation that reviews and resolves hindrances in tribal justice systems.

Economic Development: The Committee will examine what circumstances are required to spur economic development on tribal lands. Such circumstances include: establishing tribal infrastructure conducive to business development; creating tribal plans, laws, and regulations that support business operations; identifying incentives that encourage existing businesses to relocate to tribal lands; and increasing tribal access to financial capital seed money. The Committee's goal is to ensure the creation of strong, stable tribal government structures that are prepared to engage in business development and foster relationships with outside enterprises to improve the lives of all involved.

Indian Education: The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) manages a school system of 169 elementary and secondary schools and 14 dormitories to provide educational services to 48,000 tribal students. Unfortunately, BIE faces a backlog of school maintenance and construction projects and has not adequately transitioned to a distance learning model during the ongoing pandemic. The Committee will look into BIE's overall ability to function to ensure that American Indian and Alaska Native children receive equitable educations in safe and healthy environments.

Tribal Consultation: Under the terms of the federal trust responsibility, the federal government is legally obligated to ensure that meaningful tribal consultation remains an integral part of the federal decision-making process, yet Congress has never codified the standards for this intergovernmental relationship. Consultation with tribal governments demands more than merely notifying a tribal government about a planned undertaking that may affect them. Tribal consultation must be the collaborative process of seeking, discussing, and, wherever feasible, seeking agreement for proposed federal activities and other matters. As it stands now, the mandate for federal agencies to engage in tribal consultation is upheld only by an executive order that can be rescinded or ignored, depending on the administration. The tribal consultation process has varied among each agency and has produced widely differing consultation protocols. While the variance in federal consultation procedures has always concerned tribal governments, the difficulties presented during the coronavirus pandemic have heightened the need for set-in-stone procedures. The Committee will introduce legislation to address the current federal consultation framework's shortfalls and establish agency-wide standards to guarantee that meaningful and effective tribal consultation occurs in perpetuity.

Trust Lands: Acquisition of trust lands for the benefit of tribal governments is essential to tribal self-determination, economic development, and the protection of tribal lands for future generations. Tribal governments can acquire trust lands through acts of Con-

gress or by participating in the "Part 151" process at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). Until 2009, DOI had consistently construed the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to place land into trust for any tribal government, so long as the tribe was federally recognized at the time of the trust application. However, the Supreme Court held in Carcieri v. Salazar that the Secretary's authority to place land into trust under the IRA applies only to the tribal governments that were "under federal jurisdiction" at the time of its passage—1934. This decision overturned 75 years of precedent and created dangerous legal ambiguities related to both current land-into-trust requests and previously established trust lands. The uncertainty the Carcieri decision created continues to threaten tribal sovereignty, economic self-sufficiency, and self- determination. The Committee will examine the original intent of the IRA to identify a solution to the land-into-trust circumstances created by the Carcieri decision.

Sacred Sites: The ongoing protection and restoration of tribal sacred sites is a major priority for the Committee. The desecration and destruction of sacred sites and ancestral lands, without prior tribal consultation, remains a deep concern. The Committee will continue to work with tribal leaders and Native Hawaiian organizations to ensure that sacred sites are protected and, where necessary, the damage arising from the previous administration's actions is remediated.

Water

Budget Oversight: The Committee will oversee the portions of the president's budget that relate to the programs and activities of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and the Water Resources Mission Area of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Indian Water Rights Settlements: Many Native communities across the United States still do not have access to reliable water sources, safe drinking water, or basic sanitation even though the federal government has a trust responsibility to help secure the water supplies needed for a viable homeland. These water supply challenges have historically been alleviated through the negotiation and implementation of Indian water rights settlements, which supply Native communities with water to which they are legally entitled. The Committee will closely follow Indian water rights settlement negotiations between the administration and tribes and will seek to expedite and advance water settlement negotiations and congressional approval of negotiated settlements.

Addressing Climate Change and Drought Impacts: Climate change-induced drought imperils our nation's ecosystems and threatens to dramatically reduce our nation's water supplies, especially through reduced precipitation and shrinking snowpack. These water supply impacts disproportionately impact tribal and rural communities. The Committee will continue to support and advance policies that address climate change-related water shortages, including investment and support for new water infrastructure, well-designed water storage, desalination, water reuse and recycling, water-use efficiency, conservation, technological development and investment in watershed health.

Colorado River Management: The Colorado River, which supplies water to 40 million people, is in its twenty-first year of prolonged drought. The Committee will focus on the long-term resiliency of the Colorado River and implementation of the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan, a set of agreements designed to avoid severe shortages through voluntary water conservation and reservoir management strategies. As states and water managers begin to plan for the management of the Colorado River after the expiration of the Drought Contingency Plan in 2026, the Committee will work to ensure that discussions include a meaningful role for tribes and full consideration of climate change impacts.

California Water: Persistent drought conditions will continue to exacerbate existing water management challenges in California. The Committee will monitor efforts by the Biden administration to restore Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections associated with California water projects. The Committee will also monitor implementation of Public Law 114–322, with a particular focus on implementation of the statute's operational provisions and spending on desalination, reuse, and water storage projects.

Water Research and Data: The Committee will work to advance the use and development of modern water management tools, data, research, and technologies. Significant investment is needed to maintain and improve USGS water data and modeling capacity. The Committee will explore opportunities for the development of innovative water technologies, including new opportunities related to water reuse and recycling and desalination methods that reduce costs, energy consumption and environmental effects.

Investing in Resilient Water Supplies: Modern approaches to water management and infrastructure can help address western water supply challenges. The Committee will work to advance legislation to support the development of desalination, water reuse and recycling, well-designed storage, water-use efficiency, and natural water infrastructure. The Committee will support the development of more resilient water infrastructure, expanded reliance on modern water management technologies, and investments in watershed health to benefit fish, wildlife, and downstream communities.

Columbia River Treaty Negotiations: The Columbia River Treaty is currently being renegotiated by the United States and Canada. The Treaty governs how water projects on the Columbia River are operated in both countries. Water project operations have an impact on numerous stakeholders and the environment, and significantly affect tribal fisheries in the Pacific Northwest. The Committee will closely track ongoing negotiations and seek to ensure that tribal interests are protected during the negotiation process.

Hydropower Licensing: Congress has provided agencies like FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with broad authority to develop requirements for hydropower licensees that help protect public resources and the environment. Given the long duration of hydropower licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), many projects up for relicensing are operating on permits granted prior to the passage of modern environmental laws. The Committee will conduct oversight on the impact of aging hydropower facilities that are seeking new long-term li-

censes, with a particular focus on the impacts on tribes, fish and wildlife, water quality, and other natural resources and cultural values. The Committee will also examine whether federal natural resource agencies like FWS and NMFS are fully meeting their responsibilities under the Federal Power Act.

Power Marketing Administrations: The Committee will conduct oversight of the four Power Marketing Administrations that sell hydroelectricity used by millions of retail electricity customers. The Committee will pay particular attention to environmental mitigation programs and ongoing efforts to update and modify hydropower operations to ensure that environmental harm is appropriately mitigated.

Oceans and Wildlife

Budget Oversight: The Committee will review the president's budget requests for the programs and activities of NOAA and FWS.

Climate Crisis: Addressing the climate crisis involves strategies to reduce pollution and improve the resilience of ecosystems and communities to the impacts of climate change. The Committee expects to consider and promote legislation that reduces carbon pollution and implements natural resource adaptation strategies to help mitigate the impacts of climate change on our coasts and oceans, and the communities affected by the climate crisis. Legislation could include comprehensive ocean-based climate solutions, establishing wildlife corridors, expanding funding for state and tribal wildlife conservation plan implementation, and several coastal resilience bills.

Endangered Species: In 2019, scientists warned of an ongoing biodiversity crisis due to climate change, human activities, and other causes. Unfortunately, the previous administration spent four years undermining the ESA, the best tool available for the protection of our nation's most imperiled species. Political appointees used their positions and influence to meddle in scientific decisions under the ESA and alter policy outcomes, potentially harming species and undermining the integrity of the law and the morale and reputation of the agencies charged with its implementation. The Committee will work closely with the new administration to restore transparency, consistency, and accountability in the implementation of the ESA, ensuring that sound science is the basis for decision-making under the law.

Strengthening the U.S. Commitment to International Wildlife Conservation: The Committee invested substantial time during the 116th Congress conducting oversight into human rights abuses by park rangers in international conservation reserves funded in part by U.S. government grants, including through the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. A GAO report found inconsistent oversight and safeguards in Department of the Interior grantmaking. The Committee intends to advance legislation to improve oversight and accountability of international conservation projects funded by the U.S. government. The Committee may also consider legislation to support conservation efforts of other species outside of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds that would help the U.S. carry out its objectives under the ESA and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and

Flora, and will continue to monitor the expansion of FWS's attaché program to serve in additional countries at high risk of wildlife trafficking.

Preventing Future Pandemics: Research shows that COVID–19 is likely a wildlife-borne disease that jumped the species barrier to humans. Wildlife-borne diseases are a growing threat to human health, the global economy, and international security. Other examples include Avian and Swine flu, Lyme disease, and Ebola. Chronic wasting disease—a disease with the same infection mechanism as mad cow disease—has not yet jumped the species barrier but is rapidly spreading across the deer and elk population in the United States and Canada. Robust disease surveillance, early detection, rapid response, and science-based management are critical to managing wildlife-borne diseases before they result in another pandemic. The Committee will work with the administration to build upon existing expertise and capacity in the federal government to better prevent, detect, and manage future wildlife-borne disease outbreaks.

International Fisheries Management and Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing: Internationally, IUU fishing is a significant marine resource conservation problem with serious impacts on U.S. fishermen and economies around the globe. IUU fishing practices have strong links to human trafficking. NMFS publishes a biennial report on the status of IUU fishing (including the occurrence of unacceptable levels of bycatch) to establish certification procedures and evaluate subsequent progress to reduce the impacts of such fishing practices on protected living marine resources. In 2021, the U.S. State Department and NOAA released a report detailing 29 countries most at risk for human trafficking in the seafood supply chain. The Committee intends to advance legislation to strengthen enforcement and traceability mechanisms to discourage IUU fishing and address human trafficking in the seafood supply chain.

Coastal Management: Several bills were introduced during the 116th Congress that offered potential amendments to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), specifically regarding coastal climate change adaptation, retention of working waterfronts, preserving coastal open space and wildlife habitat, giving tribes access to CZMA funding, and strengthening our system of National Estuarine Research Reserves. Legislation was also considered to facilitate and promote regional ocean partnerships and to provide funding for wetland restoration, living shorelines, blue carbon projects, and updates to the National Coastal Resilience Fund. The Committee plans to refine these ideas and further collaborate with NOAA, coastal states, and other stakeholders to shape CZMA and other coastal legislation to provide the necessary tools to manage our dynamic ocean and coastal resources and ensure equitable treatment for tribes, insular areas, and communities with high social vulnerability to climate impacts in the coastal zone.

Injurious and Invasive Species: Invasive, nonnative species can harm the economy, the environment, other animal species' health and human health. The Committee's ongoing evaluation of these negative impacts, and the inadequacies of the current injurious wildlife provisions of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, has clear-

ly identified the need for a proactive approach. The Committee expects to advance legislation authorizing the FWS to establish a risk assessment process and improve surveillance to control the importation and transportation of injurious wildlife species, including species that pose a risk to human health.

Advancing Bird Conservation: The Committee remains concerned that many bird populations around the world, including some populations of popular waterfowl species that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), are depleted or in rapid decline due to factors related to climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, disease, and incidental mortality. The previous administration undermined the MBTA by determining that it would not hold companies liable for incidental take of birds protected by the MBTA, and in January 2021 finalized regulations enforcing that new policy. The Committee will work with the new administration to review the regulatory changes under the MBTA and anticipates advancing legislation authorizing a general permit program for incidental take, which would provide certainty for industry and strengthen protections for migratory birds.

Enhancing Our Use of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs): The science justifying the use of marine protected areas as a resource management tool—including the use of no-take marine reserves—has matured in recent years, and the use of MPAs has become more widespread. The best available science demonstrates that establishing protected areas is critical to preserving biodiversity, promoting healthy fisheries, and enhancing climate resilience. In the 116th Congress, the Committee advanced legislation that would implement more MPAs and include a stakeholder-driven process for determining protections. The Committee is committed to working with the administration to implement President Biden's January 2021 Executive Order to protect 30 percent of the ocean by 2030.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): 182 countries are party to this international agreement, which provides worldwide protection for endangered plants and animals by ensuring that trade does not threaten their survival. The Committee intends to monitor the implementation of CITES by the United States and other countries and will examine the strategies that the United States plans to pursue to achieve and promote species conservation.

Implementation of the Magnuson Act: Among other changes to our federal fishery management system, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (MSRA) of 2006 mandated the implementation of annual catch limits and accountability measures to end overfishing. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight regarding policies, rules, and fishery management plan amendments designed to fulfill these and other mandates under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to ensure that the law is being implemented as Congress intended. The Committee will also examine the appropriate levels of funding needed to implement the law effectively and whether updates to the law would improve fishery management and science.

Marine Mammals: During the 116th Congress several bills were introduced to address marine mammal issues, including the dwin-

dling North Atlantic right whale population, the sensitivity of marine mammals to climate change, marine mammal stranding and rescue, ocean noise, and the threats of vessel collisions with whales and marine life. The previous administration allowed destructive activities, such as seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean, to proceed despite the scientific evidence of grave risk to endangered marine mammals. The Committee intends to conduct oversight hearings and advance legislation to improve marine mammal conservation.

Marine Aquaculture in Federal Waters: No comprehensive federal permitting and regulatory system for the siting of aquaculture facilities in the Exclusive Economic Zone exists. Under the previous administration, NOAA sought legislation to establish this authority. The Committee intends to conduct oversight to determine whether such legislation is necessary, including questions of environmental reviews, permitting and site selection, and properly monitoring and mitigating the potential, specific and cumulative ecological impacts of offshore aquaculture.

International Whaling Commission: The Committee will monitor the activities of the U.S. Delegation as it engages in negotiations on the future of the International Whaling Commission.

Reaffirming U.S. Global Leadership in Coral Reef Conservation and Science: In recognition of the persistent threats to, and tenuous health of, global coral reef resources, several bills to reauthorize and strengthen the Coral Reef Conservation Act were introduced in the previous Congress. The Committee will look to pass legislation in the 117th Congress to increase support for local coral reef action strategies, to strengthen international cooperation and enforcement of coral reef protections, to enhance effective federal coordination by giving statutory authority to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, and to explicitly authorize the Secretary of the Interior to protect coral reef resources under the Department's jurisdiction.

Addressing U.S. Needs for Advancement and Innovation in U.S. Ocean Science, Research and Technologies: Recognizing the need to jumpstart efforts to address the declining investments in and attention to U.S. ocean science, research, and technology, a number of Committee-led bills were signed into law in the 116th Congress, including reauthorizing integrated ocean observations, the National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanographic Partnership Program and the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps, and authorizing NOAA's Digital Coast activities, the Ocean Policy Committee, and more. In the 117th Congress, the Committee intends to advance more legislation that will improve science and management of our ocean resources, including Regional Ocean Partnerships and legislation on blue carbon.

National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

In the 117th Congress, the Committee plans to continue its focus on: understanding the impacts of climate change on public lands and ensuring that public lands serve as a key part of the climate solution; ensuring that public lands serve all Americans through equitable access and increased representation; ensuring fair taxpayer returns for the use of public lands and their resources; and assessing opportunities to protect public land and water for the enjoyment and benefit of all Americans.

Budget Oversight: The Committee will review the President's budget requests for the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) programs and activities, ensuring that they appropriately address issues of interest to the Committee and responsibly steward federal resources.

Climate Change: Global climate change poses an existential threat to America's national parks, forests, and public lands, as well as the communities that depend upon them. In order to address this threat, Congress will need to work alongside the executive branch to ensure federal leadership on an all-lands climate response. The Committee will review the impacts of climate change on public lands to understand options for enhancing their resiliency and mitigation potential. This will include the review of existing land management systems and practices, and the consideration of new land management programs. The Committee will also consider the role of protected landscapes in helping preserve and protect ecosystem services, land use values, and functional ecosystems, all of which aid in climate change adaptation.

Economic Stimulus and Public Lands: The coronavirus pandemic has created acute economic difficulties for many Americans. While Congress may act to address these immediate difficulties and support Americans in the midst of the pandemic, it is likely that additional actions will be necessary to bolster the economy in the long term. Any such effort must include funding to address the climate and nature crises and must put Americans to work in well-paying jobs. The Committee will review opportunities to increase funding for existing programs and consider new programs that support the stewardship and restoration of public lands and wildlife, while supporting American workers and local economies in transition.

Lands Restoration and the Public Land Corps: The Trump administration's race to open public lands to extractive uses has increased the acreage in need of restoration. There is ample opportunity for Congress to increase restoration spending, support communities in transition and those hurt by the coronavirus pandemic and ensure that healthy public lands are part of the climate solution. The Committee will review proposals and work with the Biden administration to plan for a civilian climate corps that employs young Americans and teaches jobs training skills while restoring public lands and waters. Congress recently authorized the Indian Youth Service Corps, and the Committee will examine opportunities to ensure this program is appropriately prioritized.

Urban Parks: Our public lands encompass countless natural wonders to visit and explore but, for many families, these places can feel a world away. Ample opportunities exist to leverage federal expertise and resources to invest in local and urban parks. The Committee will consider how state, local, and urban parks programs can be expanded in order to provide outdoor recreational spaces in environmental justice communities while promoting expanded access through pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit connectivity to more distant parks and public lands.

Recreation: Public lands outdoor recreation is an undeniably growing use of our national parks, forests, and public lands. Increased use brings new challenges and opportunities for federal

land management agencies and multiple-use groups. The Committee will continue to consider the economic and job creation potential of outdoor recreation on public lands as well as ways to enhance recreational opportunities, including through reforms to special use permitting, concessions contracting, funding for land acquisition, and designation of recreational areas.

Outreach and Representation: National parks, forests, and public lands belong to all Americans. National Park Service theme studies analyze existing efforts and identify opportunities for increased representation of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage, LGBTQ+ Americans, and American Latino heritage, among others. The Committee looks forward to working with the Biden administration to advance policies and efforts to diversify outreach and representation of underserved communities. The Committee will also explore legislative opportunities to increase outreach and representation throughout America's public lands.

Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation: National parks, forests, and public lands contain an array of valuable cultural resources, including many considered sacred by Native American communities. Programs like the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) provide critical funding for heritage preservation that states, and tribal communities rely on to fund local, regional, and national historic preservation efforts. The Committee will look for opportunities to strengthen the HPF and other related programs and spotlight the need to inventory cultural and historic resources on public land, exploring opportunities to create additional protections for cultural sites.

Wildfire: Climate change, increased development near wildlands, funding and workforce challenges, and misplaced management priorities have put a record number of people and communities at risk from wildfire. The Committee will examine how federal land management agencies can better account for climate change, adapt to year-round wildfire risk, and leverage federal resources and partnerships to prepare vulnerable communities and populations. The Committee will assess the effectiveness of current federal programs, policies, and funding levels to determine how legislation or administrative actions could more effectively address issues related to wildfire, climate change, and community protection.

Wildfire Suppression Costs: Federal wildfire suppression efforts cost billions of dollars annually and are anticipated to continue growing in the face of climate change and other factors. The urgent need to protect people and communities from this growing wildfire risk has led to doubling down on costly suppression tactics, which contributes to a long-term lack of investment in other land management programs and priorities. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of annual fire suppression efforts and consider how federal land management agencies can better align fire and non-fire objectives in order to reduce costs, promote fire-adapted ecosystems, and direct resources to the highest need and most vulnerable communities.

Land Acquisition: The enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act made an historic investment in the future of American conversation, providing full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Despite that success, the Trump ad-

ministration put forward policies designed to limit federal land acquisition by the Bureau of Land Management and divert funds away from urban and underserved communities. The Committee will highlight the need to restore programs like the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in park-poor communities while continuing to support land acquisition to connect ecosystems through wildlife migration corridors, promote access for outdoor recreation, and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Land Management Planning: While Congress designates certain lands for management as national parks, monuments, and wilderness areas, the land management agencies themselves have a key role in setting out the parameters of management for the majority of public lands. Under the Trump administration, they exercised this responsibility to weaken federal conservation efforts and open lands to extractive uses. The Committee will examine these efforts to reduce federal conservation efforts, and consider options to update land management planning to ensure that climate change mitigation and resilience, wildlife protection, recreation access, and other key considerations are at the heart of land use planning and management.

Wilderness and Protected Public Lands: Protected public lands are one of our most valuable tools in the fight against climate change. They can limit carbon intensive activities, naturally sequester carbon, provide areas where natural wildfire can help restore the landscape, provide buffering for inhabited areas, encourage non-motorized recreation, and provide clean air, clean water and critical wildlife habitat. The Committee plans to reconsider place-based legislation to protect public lands through wilderness and other congressional designations, while working to identify new high- conservation value areas deserving of protection. The Committee will examine opportunities to increase conservation across U.S. public lands, including the role of public lands in achieving President Biden's objective of conserving 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

National Environmental Policy Act: The Committee remains concerned about the Trump administration's efforts to undermine science and public participation in agency decision-making. The Committee will review how Counsel on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA procedures and directives are being implemented at the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service, including the increased tendency to categorically exclude major decisions from stronger environmental analysis. We will also explore implementation of recently enacted land management authorities and other laws, policies, and directives relating to NEPA.

Roadless Area Conservation: The Committee will continue examining the decision to provide an Alaska Roadless Exemption for the Tongass National Forest and consider options to reverse this decision, ensuring the integrity of roadless area protections for National Forest System lands nationally.

Addressing the BLM Reorganization: The Trump administration's effort to reorganize and relocate the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) headquarters away from Washington, D.C., led to the loss of up to 80 percent of the agency's senior career staff. The Govern-

ment Accountability Office found this reorganization poorly planned and hastily executed, and reported that it lacked clear and measurable goals. The Committee intends to review the impacts of this reorganization effort on BLM staffing and work product and consider options for addressing any issues identified. This review will provide the Committee with an opportunity to consider how BLM, the largest federal land management agency by acreage, might be better utilized to support public lands conservation, wildlife protection, and climate mitigation and resilience efforts.

National Heritage Areas: National Heritage Areas (NHA) preserve unique aspects of the American story, supporting historic preservation efforts while bolstering local economies. However, these sites lack a clear and consistent system to standardize management and oversight of NPS's heritage area program. The Committee will examine efforts to establish a system for heritage area management and consider proposals for the designation of NHAs, while seeking to address the pending loss of authorization for 31 NHAs before January 1, 2022.

National Monuments and the Antiquities Act: The Antiquities Act has protected some of our nation's most iconic places, including the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and the César E. Chávez National Monument. Unfortunately, the Trump administration's illegal reduction of two previously established national monuments threatens this historic, bipartisan commitment to preservation. The Committee intends to continue exploring the impacts of the previous administration's decision to eliminate protections at the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase—Escalante national monuments and the Biden administration's response to this illegal action.

Grazing: The vast majority of public lands are open to some form of livestock grazing, with BLM managing more than 150 million acres of grazing permits and the USFS managing more than 90 million acres. Due to staffing and funding shortages, these agencies lack the ability to effectively manage their grazing programs, often relying on outdated information regarding the health and capacity of these grazing lands. GAO acknowledges that BLM and USFS lack a comprehensive system to track and monitor unauthorized grazing on federal land. Moreover, the fee for grazing on federal land is well below market rate. The Committee will explore opportunities to improve oversight of federal grazing programs and consider opportunities to improve these programs, including through options for voluntary permit retirement.

Energy and Mineral Resources

Budget Oversight: The Committee will examine the budgets and priorities of the USGS, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and the Minerals and Geology program of the U.S. Forest Service.

Climate Change: The urgent need to address climate change demands a rapid transition away from fossil fuel development on America's public lands and waters. Coal, oil, and gas extracted from U.S. federal lands are responsible for nearly a quarter of the nation's carbon dioxide emissions each year, and the Committee

plans to vigorously work to reduce these emissions through legislation and oversight activities. In the 117th Congress, the Committee will hear from expert witnesses and environmental justice leaders as it develops legislation to achieve net-zero emissions from public lands and waters as soon as possible. As part of these efforts, the Committee will work to develop strategies to aid local communities that will need to transition away from economic dependence on fossil fuel extraction.

Onshore Oil and Gas Development: In 2019, roughly 22 percent of U.S. oil production and 12 percent of gas production came from federal land. In addition to harming the climate, the extraction, processing, and transportation of oil and gas resources on public lands degrades air quality, damages water resources, fragments wildlife habitat, and impairs the health of local communities. Over the last four years, the Trump administration weakened and eliminated safeguards that protected local communities from the harmful impacts of oil and gas development on public lands. In the 117th Congress, the Committee plans to carry out aggressive oversight over all aspects of BLM's oil and gas program, including the need to reform the leasing process, update fiscal terms, regulate methane emissions, and strengthen financial assurance policies. The Committee will work to restore health and environmental safeguards and press the Biden administration to protect Americans from the pollution that results from fossil fuel extraction.

Offshore Drilling: Protecting coastal communities from oil and gas drilling in federal waters will be a major focus for the Committee in the 117th Congress. Over the last four years, the Trump administration tried to open more than 90 percent of U.S. waters to new leasing, tried to eliminate protections for U.S. Arctic waters, and weakened two critical offshore oil and gas safety rules created in response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Last Congress, the House passed two bipartisan bills (H.R. 1941 and H.R. 205) to prevent drilling along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. In the 117th Congress, the Committee will work to enact bills that protect coastal communities from offshore drilling and examine the regulations and policies that govern existing offshore oil and gas production.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: A provision inserted in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge) to oil and gas development. The language signed into law required two lease sales offering no fewer than 400,000 acres be held, one within four years of enactment and one within seven years. In 2017, the Congressional Budget Office estimated opening the Arctic Refuge to drilling would raise more than $1 billion in federal revenues, a figure Republicans used to help offset a portion of the $1.4 trillion costs of their tax cuts. In early January 2021, the Department of the Interior (DOI) rushed to hold the first lease sale before President Trump left office. The lease sale resulted in little interest from industry and raised only $7 million in federal revenues. The Committee will examine the impacts of oil and gas activities on land, wildlife, and local communities, the shortcuts DOI took to lease areas of the Arctic Refuge, and legislative options for permanently protecting the Arctic Refuge.

Onshore and Offshore Renewable Energy Programs: Renewable energy resources on public lands and waters can and must play a leading role in driving the transition to a clean-energy economy. The Committee plans to perform oversight on programs and policies for renewable energy development on federal lands and waters, including reviewing agency staffing levels to ensure that permitting processes are responsible and efficient and that fees and rental rates charged to renewable energy developers are appropriate. The Committee also plans to perform oversight of the Department's implementation of new requirements passed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, including the new goal of permitting at least 25 GW of renewable energy projects on public lands by 2025.

Federal Coal: Production and consumption of coal has fallen dramatically over the past decade. As coal is replaced by renewable energy and cheap natural gas, coal plants and mines are shutting down and coal companies are falling into bankruptcy. In the 117th Congress, the Committee will focus on oversight and reform of BLM's federal coal program and ensuring a smooth economic transition for communities currently reliant on coal mining.

Abandoned Mine Lands: The Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 established a system for reclaiming Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) using fees paid by coal companies, but the AML fee is set to expire in September 2021. There are an estimated $11 billion in remaining abandoned coal mine cleanup costs, with abandoned mine sites across the country posing significant and ongoing risks to public health and safety. In the 117th Congress, the Committee will consider legislation to reauthorize the AML program. The Committee also intends to consider legislation to help states and tribes accelerate the cleanup of high priority abandoned coal mine sites while promoting economic development in distressed communities in Appalachia, and will conduct oversight into the functionality of the AML Program.

1872 Mining Law: The Committee will again consider legislation to reform the nation's antiquated mining law and examine ways to bring the nation's hardrock minerals policy into the 21st century. Unlike nearly every other country in the world, the United States operates on an open-access policy for hardrock minerals on public lands rather than a leasing system, and development occurs without any royalty being paid to the American taxpayers. Unlike for coal, the hardrock mining industry does not contribute toward cleaning up abandoned hardrock mines that have no responsible parties, forcing taxpayers to bear the entire remediation cost and exposing communities throughout the nation to serious environmental and safety hazards. As part of its efforts to reform America's hardrock mining system, the Committee will examine ways to make the hardrock industry address its own legacy of contamination.

Critical Minerals: Minerals are considered "critical" if they satisfy two conditions: they are at high risk of a potential supply disruption, and they perform essential functions for which there are few if any satisfactory substitutes. The Committee will examine the need for critical minerals in advanced energy technologies and will conduct oversight on the potential to enhance critical mineral sub-

stitution and secondary recovery. The Committee will also conduct oversight of the process behind the Trump administration's dubious inclusion of uranium on its recently issued Critical Minerals list.

Oversight & Investigations

The Committee will conduct oversight of and investigations into matters within the full Committee's jurisdiction. These activities will hold polluting industries accountable to the American people through transparency and the exposure of corruption, waste, fraud, and abuse. The Committee will also work with the Biden administration at the Department of the Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Forest Service to hold our federal agencies to the highest standards. In addition to supporting the areas of oversight already outlined in this plan, the Committee will prioritize the issue areas below.

National Environmental Policy Act: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is one of our nation's most consequential laws. It gives American communities the right to know about federal actions in advance and have a say in government decisions that impact their local communities and our nation's public resources. The Committee will continue its work to reverse the previous administration's extensive efforts to gut environmental and public health protections under NEPA that protect our air, water, and local communities.

Polluting Industries' Outsized Influence and Science Denial: Polluting and extractive industries frequently go to great lengths to make working families pay for the hidden costs of their unsustainable practices. This includes the costs of carbon pollution from fossil fuel industries that radically change our climate and economy. These companies often propose development in areas where the natural resources are unable to survive the demand and engage in heavy chemical usage that puts human health and the existence of more than 1,000 different species in jeopardy. Economists call these costs, and others like them, "externalities." Americans experience these externalities as chronic health problems, loss of life, loss of livelihood, loss of biodiversity and loss of living space. Polluters looking to defend their ability to continue polluting often question valid scientific evidence that directly establishes the causes and effects of their pollution. The fossil fuel industry's support for a decades-long campaign to distort science and manufacture uncertainty around the broad scientific consensus that climate change is caused by humans is now well documented. The Committee will work to expose these externalities, introduce accountability measures to account for their costs to the public, and seek to end the public bearing of these costs.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Federal Workforce: The professional fields of environmentalism and conservation in the United States continue to lack diversity, and the federal agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction have a long history of failing to recruit, retain, and promote a diverse workforce. The National Park Service, often considered the "face" of our public lands, has been repeatedly identified as having a white, male-dominated culture, especially among park rangers and law enforcement. The Committee will work to promote effective policies, procedures, and

resources that protect agency employees and prospective applicants in hiring processes and the workplace. The Committee will also work with agency leadership to shift the workplace culture to one that promotes justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Sexual Harassment and Other Forms of Harassment: The agencies and bureaus within the Committee's jurisdiction have a number of organizational risk factors that put their employees at increased risk for harassment, including sexual harassment. These risk factors include geographically isolated workplaces, homogenous workforces, and gendered power disparities, among others. Addressing the cultural issues that underpin persistent organizational harassment problems requires a major commitment of resources and leadership over a period of years. The Committee will work to promote effective policies, procedures, and resources that protect agency employees and prospective applicants in hiring processes and the workplace. The Committee will also work to support the agencies in making rapid, meaningful progress to address harassment issues.

Scientific Integrity in Federal Agencies: Sound, objective science is the backbone of decision- making in the agencies and bureaus under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee will work to eliminate political and industry influence within scientific research and programs, including those related to the climate crisis. The Committee will work to strengthen the safeguards protecting the independence and objectivity of federal agency science and scientists.

Federal Law Enforcement: On June 1, 2020, the U.S. Park Police (USPP) were principally involved in an attack on peaceful protestors at Lafayette Square, just before President Trump walked to St. John's Church for a public appearance. Acting USPP Chief Gregory Monahan testified at a Committee hearing that the use of force was justified, which conflicts with extensive evidence, including testimony from a National Guard whistleblower, that law enforcement's actions were excessive. The USPP's actions separately came under scrutiny after the 2017 shooting of Bijan Ghaisar, an unarmed man, by two USPP officers. Incidents involving the USPP and other law enforcement units of DOI demonstrate that body worn cameras and fair body worn camera policies are warranted. The USPP's actions, as well as other use-of-force incidents and testimony from law enforcement experts that have worked with the USPP, have raised serious concerns about the agency's lack of accountability. The Committee will work with the administration to ensure transparency and accountability among these entities.

Damage Caused by the Border Wall: The Trump administration repeatedly used racist, xenophobic rhetoric to falsely justify needless construction of a U.S.-Mexico border wall and militarization of border communities. To expedite border wall construction, the Trump administration's Department of Homeland Security abused its authority in order to waive all laws and legal requirements standing in the way of construction, many of which are among the nation's most critical environmental, public health, and safety protections. As a result, the border wall and the process of its construction have inflicted significant environmental, economic, and

social harm on border lands and communities, which disproportionately include communities of color.

The Committee will support efforts to cease border wall construction, assess the extent of the damage caused by previous construction, and determine the most prudent course of action to mitigate further harm.

MINORITY VIEWS

FEBRUARY 26, 2021.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR GRIJALVA: As you know, on the first day of the 116th Congress, House Democrats eliminated the requirement that Committees mark up oversight plans, thus avoiding any meaningful debate or amendment to those plans in a public setting. I believe that meaningful deliberation on the Committee's oversight plans would ultimately benefit the Committee's effectiveness and the stakeholders impacted within our jurisdictional bounds.

While I concur with your oversight pursuit on some matters, the included views also incorporate neglected areas that warrant examination as well as a refreshed oversight focus on some continued areas of oversight. Some proposed oversight topics in the Majority's 117th Congress oversight plan, however, are outside the Committee on Natural Resources' jurisdiction under House Rules.

Your adherence to clause 2 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, which requires you to circulate your plan among the members of the Committee and incorporate Minority views, is appreciated. Minority views are attached to this letter.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Ranking Member,
Committee on Natural Resources.

MINORITY VIEWS

Insular Affairs

Budget Oversight: The Ranking Member supports a continued review of the Administration's budget proposals and activities related to the Office of Insular Affairs. A review of the Administration's budget is a Committee function that should occur annually.

General Oversight of the Office of Insular Affairs: The Committee should review the fundamental issues facing each of the territories and freely associated states. These issues include supporting 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 law, implementation and funding for the Compacts of Free Association, and management of limited land and water resources.

Puerto Rico: The Committee should continue to conduct oversight over the implementation of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) and review any actions conducted by the Oversight Board established under the Act. Further, the Committee should continue to monitor the results of

any plebiscites held expressing the preference of the populace as it relates to the relationship status between the Commonwealth and the United States.

Indigenous Peoples of the United States

Budget Oversight: The Ranking Member supports a continued review of the Administration's budget proposals and activities for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Trust Funds Administration and the Indian Health Service. This function of the Committee should occur annually. The Chair should be conscious of the need to work closely with the bipartisan staffs of the Committee on Education and Labor, which has primary jurisdiction over the Bureau of Indian Education.

Infrastructure and Economic Development: Oversight of infrastructure development on tribal lands is imperative. The Committee previously explored potential improvements to Indian health care facilities. While the Committee may be supportive of infrastructure projects to improve roads and bridges, however, the Chair should be mindful of the Committee' jurisdictional limits on these matters. Additionally, the Committee should review the tools available for tribes that will provide them greater control over their lands.

Indian Healthcare: Committee Republicans have spent considerable time analyzing the state of the Indian health care delivery system after record funding increases to the Indian Health Service (IHS). The Committee determined that despite considerable funding increases, the health care system is in a dire need of reform. Massive funding increases or moving the IHS budget into mandatory spending fails to address the problems plaguing the agency. The Committee should increase IHS oversight and accountability.

Tribal Consultation: The Ranking Member applauds the Chair's prioritization of tribal consultation. To enact full tribal consultation, the Committee should be cautious, however, not to continue conducting selective or biased oversight favoring one tribe over others. The Committee should seek the consultation of a variety of tribal viewpoints in its oversight.

Tribal Sovereignty: Unfortunately, some in Congress use partisan politics to undermine tribal rights. While the Chair's previous public sentiments to address tribal sovereignty are laudable, many in the Majority have continuously voted against policies that promote sovereignty, especially relating to a tribe's labor force. The Committee should review mechanisms for an improved government to government relationship with tribes.

Tribal Energy Development: The Committee's narrow focus on only renewable energy development on tribal lands in the 117th Congress is disappointing. Reviews of how the federal government can assist tribal governments, and Native Hawaiian organizations in energy development should encompass all potential forms of energy resources. Many tribes have developable resources on their lands that they choose to produce. The Committee should not inhibit tribes' development of all energy resources.

Indian Education: While the Ranking Member applauds the sentiments behind the Chair's desires to review the Bureau of Indian Education school system and its backlog of maintenance and con-

struction projects, these matters fall outside the Committee's jurisdiction and any action of this Committee should be closely coordinated with the bipartisan staffs of the Committee of jurisdiction.

Water, Oceans, and Wildlife

While the Ranking Member agrees with the Chair on some areas of water policy, the Majority is focused on bringing back unbalanced and non-transparent regulatory policies that failed to protect both people and species. For example, the Majority seemingly intends to reverse progress made on California's integrated Central Valley Project/State Water Projects, which are now under operating plans and biological opinions that incorporate updated science and were independently peer-reviewed.Returning to the days of regulatory drought is not sustainable, as the people of California know all too well.

Instead, the Committee should focus on new and ongoing projects, such as water storage, that bring multi-purpose benefits to communities, the environment, and fish and wildlife. Sadly, major federal water storage has not been added in California since 1979, while in the intervening 42 years, California's population has nearly doubled. The Committee should also focus on updating the Endangered Species Act through transparency, common sense, and accountability, not a one-size-fits all regulatory regime that utterly fails to recover species.

The Majority also seems to highlight their need to drive up the cost of hydropower and electricity transmission facilities through "mitigation" and other means. In some cases, mandatory conditioning authorities found under federal law have allowed for the imposition of non-hydropower project related costs that impose higher bills on ratepayers and can make current and future hydropower and electricity transmission facilities uneconomical. There is ample room for growth in the hydropower sector as outlined by prior Republican and Democrat administrations. Hydropower is a clean, emissions-free renewable resource that the Committee should generally embrace, not punish.

Strengthening the U.S. Commitment to International Wildlife Conservation: During the 116th Congress, a bipartisan investigation was conducted into whether taxpayer dollars had inadvertently funded international human rights abuses.As a result, the Department of the Interior (DOI), under the Trump Administration, halted funding of certain grants until oversight and accountability mechanisms were implemented.The Committee should work with the Biden Administration to ensure these funds remain frozen until DOI can adequately monitor its international grants to prevent U.S. support of human rights abusers. The Committee's oversight activity should also include examination of DOI's other grant programs to determine if funds are appropriately monitored and safeguarded from abuse.

Advancing Bird Conservation: Under the Trump Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service updated the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) regulations to exclude incidental take of migratory birds.The rule was designed to protect farmers, agriculture and industry workers, and other private citizens who accidentally harm a migratory bird while performing daily operations.As the

Committee works to address this issue, it should review and propose commonsense solutions, like the rule issued by the Trump Administration, that account for the everyday activities occurring in rural America.

Fisheries and Oceans: The Majority indicates that it will conduct oversight of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other laws governing fisheries in off-shore waters.The Majority should consider Republican legislation aimed at re-authorizing and updating this statute to better support fish and fishing communities. 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.

National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands

Forest Health & Wildfires: The health of many of our national forests, particularly in Western states, continues to decline as they become more overgrown and susceptible to insects, disease, and catastrophic wildfire. 2020 sadly produced yet another record-breaking wildfire season as the National Forest System (NFS) saw more acres burn than any year since 1910. Roughly 80 million acres of NFS land are in urgent need of treatment to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, the spread of invasive species, and threats to watershed health.

The poor health of the NFS has many adverse effects on rural communities. These adverse effects can include danger to life and property posed by catastrophic wildfire, the closure of sawmills and loss of jobs and economic opportunity due to a lack of proper forest management, and degradation of drinking water quality and quantity due to the flooding and mudslides that often follow a wildfire. Effective, science-based management of our forests continues to be hampered by frivolous litigation from extreme special interest groups and cumbersome agency regulations. The combination of frivolous litigation and excessive regulations impede efforts to eradicate devastating insect infestations, conduct much needed fire mitigation, and harvest timber.

Over the last several Congresses, the Committee heard repeated testimony about how needless litigation and the fear of litigation caused USFS to avoid engaging in necessary stewardship activities. If properly managed, national forests can contribute to our national well-being, while providing economic opportunities that flow to surrounding communities and keep the forests healthy and productive. Prior oversight hearings on effective forest management have clearly demonstrated the wisdom of facilitating environmentally-responsible harvesting and re-planting of forest lands, which not only produce useful timber products, but continuously improve forest soils and its carrying capacity, preserve watersheds, maximize carbon capture, and reduce the build-up of fuel loads that lead to mega-fires. The Committee should examine ways to streamline the environmental review process through policies such as categorical exclusions to facilitate these scientifically-sound forest management practices.

National Monuments and the Antiquities Act: The Antiquities Act of 1906 pre-dates the creation of every land management agency except the U.S. Forest Service, five states, and nearly every major

environmental protection and resource management law. Despite this, it is still used as a tool by presidents of both parties to lock away increasingly larger areas of land and water with little to no input from local and state officials and state congressional delegations. Currently, the Biden administration is more than half way finished with a review conducted by the Acting Secretary of the Interior of three national monuments that were reduced or modified by President Trump, despite the fact that there is no Senate-confirmed Secretary in place.

The Committee should continue to examine responsible modifications to the Antiquities Act to ensure greater public and stakeholder input, particularly by elected local and state officials. President Trump's executive actions to review 27 national monuments and to include local input in rightsizing the boundaries of the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments to the "smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected" should serve as a model to guide responsible future permanent legislative modifications of the Act. The Committee should also review any modifications to boundaries made without proper review and in the face of opposition from local and state officials.

Access and Recreation: More Americans than ever have started to rediscover our public lands during the COVID–19 crisis. Ensuring proper access to our public lands and an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities should be a top priority of the Committee. Too often, the federal government's management policy is overly restrictive and requires excessive permitting, which has disenfranchised the American people from some of their greatest treasures. The Committee should conduct oversight of restrictive land designations harmful to local economies which limit recreational opportunities like mountain biking and e-biking, off-highway vehicle use, snowmobiling, and a host of other outdoors activities. In particular, the Committee can examine ways to increase access for hunters and anglers to enjoy our public lands and ensure the next generation of sportsmen and women can fully utilize public lands.

Natural Climate Solutions: Based on recent studies, natural climate solutions could sequester an amount of carbon equivalent to over 20 percent of domestic annual emissions. 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. For example, planting one trillion trees could sequester 205 gigatons of carbon, an amount equal to two-thirds of all anthropogenic carbon remaining in the atmosphere and the same amount of carbon emitted through global deforestation since 1850. Solutions this impactful cannot be ignored and must be a focal point of the Committee's oversight and legislative efforts.

The Committee should continue to review new innovative practices that benefit the environment without sacrificing rural jobs and our overall economic health. This should include engaging with stakeholders to identify new frontiers in research and development that could be explored and further opportunities for American innovation.

Grazing: When managed properly, grazing of federal lands consistently enhances the health of rangelands and reduces the fuel-build up which contribute to extreme wildfires. As one of the most effective wildfire-reduction tools, grazing can also help preserve the habitat for wildlife species such as the Greater Sage Grouse. The Committee should examine ways in which grazing can be used to benefit the economy and the health of federal range lands and ecosystems, and to preserve the practice against frivolous litigation and unnecessary regulation.

Park Partnerships: To truly enter the 21st Century, the National Park Service (NPS) should adopt more market-based solutions and engage in public-private partnerships to maximize park resources and enhance visitor services. Examples that the Committee has previously reviewed include historic leasing of bathhouses at Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas. Smart, thoughtful public-private partnerships like these not only allow NPS to focus its resources and avoid maintenance costs, but also improve the overall experience for visitors to the park. The Committee should continue to seek out additional examples of successful partnerships and encourage the NPS to actively promote these partnership opportunities.

Alaska Roadless Rule: The economy in Southeast Alaska, where less than one percent of the land is privately owned, is closely tied to natural resources including fishing, timber harvesting, mining and tourism. All of those uses are dependent on reasonable access to the Tongass National Forest. Access was significantly reduced two decades ago, and the regional economy suffered immensely. The Trump Administration's granting of an exemption from the Clinton-era Roadless Rule has provided Alaskans the ability to seek responsible opportunities to create jobs, increase connectivity, and grow the economy. As the Majority examines the Alaska Roadless Rule exemption, members of the Committee and the public will once again learn about the unnecessary and burdensome regulation that was inappropriately applied to the Tongass National Forest and the necessary relief provided to the State of Alaska by the Trump Administration.

Great American Outdoors Act: In 2020, Congress passed the Great American Outdoors Act with bipartisan support, which provided permanent, mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) as well as $1.9 billion annually for the next five years to address crumbling and deteriorating infrastructure at our national parks and public lands. The Committee should ensure that funding dedicated to our parks through the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund are being used appropriately to fund the highest priority projects on the deferred maintenance backlog that impact visitor experiences, public access, and safety. The Committee should also conduct oversight on the use of LWCF funding and gather additional information on historic uses of LWCF funding.

In addition, it is crucial to conduct oversight on the longevity of revenue streams for these conservation funds in light of recent efforts to ban new oil and gas leases on federal lands and waters. These bans will unquestionably undercut the Great American Outdoors Act and threaten the long-term solvency of these important

conservation programs. Without proper funding, these critical conservation programs will cease to exist. The Committee should conduct oversight on the misguided attacks against these revenue streams to protect these programs from jeopardy.

Energy and Mineral Resources

Energy Poverty and Environmental Justice: The Majority aims to achieve these goals in ways that may have severe, unintended consequences if not thoroughly reviewed. For instance, the Majority refers to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as a "critical law for environmental justice." Public input and environmental considerations are, of course, integral aspects of federal decisionmaking. As the Committee balances its priorities, it is important to acknowledge that exacerbating already lengthy timelines for federal approvals for important projects would hinder, not help, our country's most vulnerable communities as they seek to modernize their infrastructure. A longer and more cumbersome NEPA process, for example, could drastically delay community improvements or disincentivize development altogether. Instead, the Committee should consider legislative efforts to address the vast economic impacts of overly burdensome energy and environmental policies, as well as the disproportionate impact such policies may have on vulnerable communities.

Climate: A healthy economy and a healthy environment are linked. The Committee Minority supports the responsible development of all energy resources that federal lands and waters have to offer, including renewable sources of energy. Domestic production of both conventional and alternative energy sources ensures that the best global standards will be used to power our nation and our allies abroad, as the United States has some of the most stringent environmental and labor standards in the world. Even assuming renewable energy continues its recent growth trajectory, global demand for oil and natural gas is not expected to fade in the foreseeable future. The Energy Information Administration predicts a 40 percent growth in global natural gas consumption by 2050. The Majority's attempts to abruptly stop conventional energy production on federal lands will not stop market forces but instead will outsource our demand to countries with inferior emissions trends and human rights standards. Oversight of the Biden Administration's attempts to impede energy development on federal lands and waters is a critical priority for the 117th Congress.

Onshore and Offshore Oil and Gas Development: The Biden Administration has made its plans to halt oil and gas development on federal lands and waters explicit in Secretarial Order 3395 and the Executive Orders titled, "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis'" and "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad." These administrative actions endanger the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of American workers across the country. The Majority's promise to "transition away" from conventional energy industries through new unemployment funds and retraining programs is an unacceptable and unrealistic replacement for the well-paying careers of nearly half a million Americans over the next two decades. Further, energy-producing states receive billions of dollars in mineral revenues

to fund vital services such as public safety and local schools. Eliminating this revenue stream would significantly jeopardize state budgets and public services. Many bipartisan conservation programs, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, are also funded by oil and gas development. Offshore oil and gas specifically funds critical coastal resiliency programs and environmental restoration in the Gulf. The Committee should examine the vast economic impacts of the Administration's Executive Orders and other harmful actions in this sector.

Onshore and Offshore Renewable Energy Programs: To support an all-of-the-above energy strategy, the Committee should pursue legislative efforts to increase renewable energy development, as well as conventional energy development, on federal lands and waters. Exhaustive environmental review and other regulatory hurdles have historically impeded renewable development on federal lands. To improve these processes, the Committee should consider statutory changes to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and similar laws to ease federal permitting for renewable energy projects.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: The Committee's desire to discuss the Department of the Interior's opening of less than ten percent of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to development presents an opportunity to examine the bountiful resources that exist in the region and the economic benefits that the oil and gas industry has brought to Alaska's native population. The Majority has stressed the need to discuss tribal sovereignty and economic development. Conversations about ANWR highlight the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, which has maximized the economic benefits of resource development while maintaining their cultural and ethnic heritage. Further, legislative attempts to permanently close this region to development would expressly ignore certain tribal interests, which voiced their opinions on the record during Committee hearings last Congress. An examination of this region will also enable a discussion of new drilling techniques, such as those that allow a single, 12-acre well pad to reach 154 square miles, whereas in 1970 a similarly sized well pad could only reach 3 square miles.

Fair Return for Taxpayers: The Majority has acknowledged that federal resource production should provide a fair return to the American taxpayer. Certainly then, the Committee should commend and favorably highlight the previous Administration's efforts to reverse the handicapping regulations and policies that limited development of these federal resources, in turn diminishing revenues. For example, in 2018 the Department of the Interior tripled the previous record set in 2008 for revenues raised from onshore oil and gas lease sales alone to an astounding $1.1 billion, of which $550 million will be used by states to fund education and public services. The Committee should continue holding legislative hearings on bills that would codify the efforts of the previous Administration that have reduced red tape, maximized revenues returned to the federal and state governments, and ensured our federal lands are being used in the most efficient and productive ways possible.

Offshore Drilling: As the Majority considers policies affecting offshore oil and natural gas development, the Committee will discover the overwhelming economic and conservation benefits the offshore industry provides to this country. Without offshore drilling, bipartisan programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund would be underfunded, and the nation's Gulf states would have less funding to protect against the threats of climate change. The Committee should examine the expansion of offshore drilling and revenue sharing programs and the economic benefits and accompanying coastal resiliency that would occur because of such expansion.

Federal Coal Program: The Majority expresses interest in "oversight and reform of BLM's federal coal program" this Congress. Coal continues to be a valuable source of baseload power that is particularly important in extreme weather conditions. Attempts to curtail federal coal leasing through "reform" of the program would only handicap domestic sourcing of this important energy resource and distort energy markets. It would also threaten coal communities across the nation, many of which are already experiencing economic downturns. The Committee should examine ways in which the Federal Coal Program can provide reliable, low cost energy, and support economic growth in coal country.

Abandoned Mine Lands: As noted by the Majority, the fee authorized by the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to fund the reclamation of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) expires in September 2021. AML sites are hazardous to surrounding communities. Reclamation of such sites provides jobs and economic opportunities. In considering reauthorization of the fee, the Committee should engage all interested Members and stakeholders and seek to balance the needs of the program with the economics of the coal industry.

Critical Minerals: The Majority correctly defines a critical mineral as one that is at high risk of a potential supply disruption, and performs essential functions for which there are few, if any, satisfactory substitutes. With the desire to examine the "need for critical minerals in advanced energy technologies," presumably including critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, copper, and tellurium needed for wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles, the Committee should focus on lessening the nation's dependence on foreign sources for these materials.

The Minority welcomes the Majority's suggestion to enhance substitution and secondary recovery of minerals. Given the major discrepancy between U.S. demand and domestic supply, however, additional measures to secure mineral supply chains are needed. The Committee should, therefore, consider legislation to reduce redundancies in the regulatory process for domestic mining without weakening environmental safeguards. Aggressive legislation to "reform" domestic mining laws, as suggested by the Majority, would do the opposite, hurting U.S. critical mineral development and creating even greater import reliance on foreign nations to meet domestic demand.

Oversight and Investigations

The Committee should conduct oversight and investigations to ensure that taxpayers are protected from government waste, fraud, and abuse. Taxpayers deserve thorough oversight of the Biden Administration's Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce regardless of which party is in power in Congress. The Committee should use the oversight and legislative tools of Congress to address the federal government's inefficiencies and harmful regulatory schemes that adversely impact insular areas, the indigenous peoples of the United States, water, oceans, and wildlife resources, federal lands, and energy and minerals development.

In its pursuit of addressing these matters, the Committee should remain cognizant of its jurisdiction as outlined in rule X(1)(m) of the House of Representatives.

National Environmental Policy Act: Under the Trump Administration, comprehensive updates to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) were made for the first time in over 40 years. These updates facilitate more effective NEPA reviews by simplifying regulatory requirements, eliminating obsolete provisions, and updating guidance to reflect current technologies and agency practices. The Majority plans to conduct oversight in an effort to reverse these changes. Their reversals are unwise and misguided, and the Committee should also examine the benefits of these updates during its oversight activity, including improved coordination between states and tribes and more timely completion of paperwork and reviews.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Federal Workforce: The Committee should continue oversight activity of the diversity of the federal workforce. Efforts to promote diversity should build upon policies implemented under the previous Administration. President Trump appointed many "firsts" at the Department of the Interior (DOI), including Brenda Burman, as the first woman to lead the Bureau of Reclamation, Tara Mac Lean Sweeney, as the first female Alaska Native to serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and Aurelia Skipwith, as the first African American Director of the Fish and Wildlife Services. The Committee's oversight efforts of DOI's ability to recruit, retain, and promote a diverse workforce should include the lessons learned from the previous Administration's successes. Additionally, the Committee should work with the Biden Administration and DOI to continue the work of the Workplace Culture Transformation Advisory Council.

Sexual Harassment and Other Forms of Harassment: Through work in prior Congresses, the Committee has established a record of oversight of employee misconduct, as well as hiring practices and policies at agencies. The Committee should continue this examination to ensure employees have a safe workplace. The review should include an analysis of the impact the Department of the Interior's first comprehensive policy on the Prevention and Elimination of Harassing Conduct, implemented in 2018, has had on the workplace environment. The Committee should work to make meaningful progress in addressing harassment issues, which have plagued the Department of the Interior for several decades. Examination of

these issues should include a balanced deliberation and objective fact-finding.

Federal Lands and Border Protection: In prior congresses, the Committee investigated challenges faced by Border Patrol agents on federal borderlands and the environmental impact of illegal border crossings and drug smuggling. The remote location of large portions of federally-owned borderland make them a popular location for cross-border violators (CBVs), such as drug and human smugglers. Moreover, stakeholders reported that bureaucratic regulations and policies related to federal natural resources laws slow or impede Border Patrol operations on federally- owned land. The violence associated with high levels of CBVs deprives the public of access to federally-owned lands and causes significant damage to local environments. The Committee should continue to examine the significant environmental, economic, and social consequences on federal borderlands by CBVs and work with relevant committees to enhance border security.

Undue Influence and Scientific Integrity: Sound, objective science is the backbone of decision-making in the agencies and bureaus under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee should work to eliminate foreign political influence from global adversaries that seek to hinder our domestic resources development and land management. Additionally, the Committee should work to strengthen the safeguards to protect independence and objectivity of federal agency science and scientists from excessively litigious organizations, whose questionable objectives can hinder sound decision-making.

The need to ensure scientific integrity at the agencies and bureaus within the Committee's jurisdiction should also include the oversight of various government funding recipients. Therefore, the Committee should conduct oversight of federal grants awarded by the agencies and bureaus within the Committee's jurisdiction to ensure efficiency, fairness, and transparency of the grantmaking process.

Federal Law Enforcement: The Committee should carefully examine the proper uses of law enforcement power and procedures by Department of the Interior agencies to ensure that prior abuses by rogue Interior law enforcement personnel, particularly in the Bureau of Land Management, do not recur. The Committee should also seek to make mandatory the notification and cooperation by the federal government with state and local law enforcement officials.

Regulatory Review of Natural Resources Laws: Committee oversight activities should collect relevant information to support the Committee's ability to develop legislation, monitor the implementation of public policy, and transparently ensure the government's performance in subject matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. Accordingly, the Committee should conduct oversight on the effectiveness of major natural resources laws within the Committee's jurisdiction. Focus should be provided on how laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Wilderness Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 may exceed their regulatory purposes resulting

in costly litigation and other adverse consequences for the environment, proper management of federal natural resources, and to American taxpayers.

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Ranking Member,
Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

OVERSIGHT PLAN

Committee on Oversight and Reform

U.S. House of Representatives

117th Congress

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman

Rule X, Clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each committee of the House to submit an oversight plan to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on House Administration by March 1 of the first session of Congress.

The following is the oversight plan for the Committee on Oversight and Reform for the 117th Congress. This plan consists of topics designated for investigation, evaluation, and review by Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, in consultation with Ranking Member James R. Comer, other Committee Members, and other committees.

In the beginning of March, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is expected to issue its biannual "High Risk" report, which identifies government programs that are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud, or abuse.[25] The Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing on that report on March 2, 2021. In addition, the Inspectors General from various agencies have submitted audit plans to the Committee.[26] The Committee will review GAO's report and the Inspectors General plans and investigate areas of concern as appropriate.

The Committee has received, and will continue to receive, information from whistleblowers regarding waste, fraud, and abuse. Whistleblowers perform an essential service to the Committee, flagging critical issues that otherwise might go unnoticed and unaddressed.

Below are descriptions of some of the issues the Committee intends to investigate during the 117th Congress. This list is not exhaustive but highlights significant areas for Committee oversight. Some investigations listed below specifically focus on inequities related to race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin. The Committee will

[25] *See, e.g.*, Government Accountability Office, High Risk Series: *Substantial Efforts Needed to Achieve Greater Progress on High-Risk Areas*, (GAO–19–157SP) (Mar. 6, 2019) (online at www.gao.gov/assets/700/697245.pdf).

[26] *See, e.g.*, Office of Inspector General, Department of Labor, *Office of Audit Workplan Fiscal Year 2021* (October 2020) (online at www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2021/FY%202021%20OIG%20Audit%20Workplan%20-%20Final.pdf).

also seek to identify and address inequities across investigations and oversight topics. The Committee will retain the flexibility to investigate emerging issues as appropriate.

HEALTH CARE

In the 117th Congress, the Committee will continue its work on several pressing health care issues facing the American people.

In response to the coronavirus outbreak in the middle of the 116th Congress, the House established the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis within the Committee to conduct oversight and investigations related to the pandemic. The Committee, in cooperation with the Select Subcommittee, will examine the effectiveness and equity of our national response to the coronavirus pandemic and ensure the appropriate expenditure of taxpayer funds. The Committee will also examine whether federal resources are being used to promote transparency into the pandemic's disproportionate impact on marginalized populations—including people with disabilities—and to prioritize science in health policymaking in order to better prepare our country to confront future pandemics.

Starting in the beginning of the 116th Congress, the full Committee's top health care priority was to investigate the actions of drug companies in aggressively raising the prices of prescription drugs in the United States and the effects of these actions on individuals, families, and federal and state budgets. As part of this investigation, the Committee released five staff reports and held two hearings with pharmaceutical executives. The Committee will continue this investigation in the 117th Congress and will launch additional inquiries as appropriate to further examine aggressive pricing practices in the U.S., tactics to limit competition, and actions the federal government can take to lower drug prices.

The Committee will continue to examine the origins of the opioid crisis and the need for robust, sustained federal funding to expand access to treatment and support services for those with opioid and other substance use disorders, particularly in light of the increase in substance misuse as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.[27] The Committee will review the federal government's actions to address the opioid epidemic—including those taken by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which the Committee reauthorized in the 115th Congress—to ensure that they are equitable and rooted in public health.

As part of the Committee's commitment to pursuing reforms that promote racial equity in all aspects of American life, it will examine systemic discrimination in health care settings, health inequities, and other barriers that prevent Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color from accessing high-quality, nondiscriminatory medical care in the U.S.

The Committee will also examine barriers to access to comprehensive reproductive health care in the U.S., including restrictions that prevent historically underserved communities from ac-

[27] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Overdose Deaths Accelerating During Covid–19* (Dec. 17, 2020) (online at www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p1218-overdose-deaths-covid-19.html); Kaiser Family Foundation, *The Implications of Covid–19 for Mental Health and Substance Use* (Feb. 10, 2021) (online at www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-implications-of-covid-19-for-mental-health-and-substance-use/).

cessing abortion care. Among these barriers are discriminatory refusals of care to people seeking abortion services and LGBTQ+ people seeking care that affirms their sexual orientation and gender identity.

POSTAL SERVICE

The Committee will continue to oversee the operations of the United States Postal Service, over which the Committee exercises legislative and oversight jurisdiction. The Postal Service is an essential public institution that connects every family, business, and community in the nation by providing service to more than 157 million delivery points across the United States. The Committee will examine the urgent need for reform legislation to address the Postal Service's deepening financial challenges while guaranteeing universal service. The Committee will also seek ways to facilitate the Postal Service's adoption of a greener infrastructure, including a green vehicle fleet.

The Committee will continue its investigation into the root causes of the widespread delays and service deterioration at the Postal Service that began shortly after the current Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, took office in the summer of 2020, and that continue to persist. The delays held up millions of pieces of mail during a global pandemic, including prescription medication and other critical supplies. In September 2020, the Committee issued a subpoena to the Postal Service seeking documents and information related to, among other things, actions or proposals made by the Postmaster General that may have resulted in the service deterioration. The Committee will continue this investigation in the 117th Congress and will expand the investigation if necessary to combat the persistent service delays.

CENSUS

The Committee will continue to monitor data production from the 2020 Census for congressional apportionment and state redistricting and conduct ongoing oversight of the Census Bureau. The Committee will also continue its investigation into the Trump Administration's attempt to politicize the 2020 Census. This includes enforcing the Committee's subpoenas concerning the Trump Administration's attempt to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census and to rush the production of potentially inaccurate data prior to the 2021 inauguration, which the Committee reauthorized on January 13, 2021.

FEDERAL WORKERS' RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS

The Committee will continue to examine and remedy the impacts of the Trump Administration's repeated attacks on the federal workforce and collective bargaining. The Trump Administration froze federal pay; issued executive orders that undermined collective bargaining rights and practices; prompted the longest government shutdown in our nation's history; attempted to eliminate the Office of Personnel Management (OPM); and sought to abandon merit system principles.

The Committee will examine the effects of the Trump Administration's efforts to weaken the federal civil service and will work to revitalize the federal workforce through the bolstering of merit-based principles and a focus on expertise over partisanship. The Committee will examine the impact of federal agency vacancies at all levels, staffing reductions, and diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce.

The Committee will also examine ways to improve the operations of OPM, helping the agency become the entity that all of government can use to improve its Human Resources operations, train its future leaders, and provide data and evidence to distill best practices that will help managers effectively lead the federal workforce. In addition, the Committee will work to strengthen whistleblower protections and federal employee appeal rights.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CYBERSECURITY, AND DATA PRIVACY

The Committee will continue its oversight of the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA), which requires federal agencies to implement security controls on their information systems. The Committee will examine compliance with FISMA throughout the Executive Branch and explore ways to improve the law.

The Committee will also continue to conduct oversight of the increasing number of cyberattacks affecting federal agencies and the private sector. In particular, the Committee is investigating the significant compromise of multiple federal government and private sector information technology networks resulting from the compromise of the widely deployed networking software called SolarWinds Orion, and other cyberattacks. The Committee intends to examine ways to ensure that agencies and corporate entities take appropriate steps to protect government and business entity networks and systems that are critical to the nation's infrastructure and security, and the personal information of American consumers. The Committee also will continue its oversight of government-wide cybersecurity tools and support provided to federal agencies by the Executive Branch, including, but not limited to, the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation program.

The Committee will continue to examine the use of facial recognition technology by public and private entities to inform legislative efforts.

The Committee, through the Subcommittee on Government Operations, will continue to hold semiannual hearings on the Federal Information Technology Acquisition and Reform Act (FITARA) scorecard, which holds federal Chief Information Officers accountable for continuously improving their agencies' IT security and operations.

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee will continue to examine government and private sector policies and actions related to the environment, natural resources, and public health. In particular, the Committee will review how current policies and actions affect marginalized communities, which often lack public health infrastructure and bear the

brunt of the consequences of climate change, including the social and environmental determinants of health.

HOMELAND AND NATIONAL SECURITY

In the 116th Congress, the Committee investigated the security clearance process at the White House and across federal agencies, which included specific examinations of individuals at the White House who were granted access to classified information despite significant security concerns expressed by career officials. The Committee also conducted oversight of the Trump Administration's restructuring of the majority of federal background investigation functions, which were removed from OPM and placed in the Department of Defense under the newly-formed Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency.

In the 117th Congress, the Committee will continue oversight regarding procedures for granting clearances and safeguarding classified information. This will include continued oversight of the new agency to ensure efficient and appropriate security clearance practices.

The Committee has also taken steps to examine the January 6, 2021, insurrectionist attack on the Capitol, which was an act of domestic terrorism to prevent Congress from performing its Constitutional duty to affirm Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as the next President and Vice President of the United States. The Committee will continue to support efforts to examine the events that led to this attack, as well as the ongoing impacts of the attack and the rise in domestic extremism.

The Committee also intends to conduct oversight of multiple agencies charged with securing the homeland, enhancing national security, and promoting American interests overseas.

The Committee will also examine management at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), continuing its focus on implementation of unfulfilled security recommendations made by the Inspector General, GAO, and TSA's own internal testing teams.

STRUCTURAL RACISM AND RACIAL EQUITY

The Committee intends to examine government and private sector policies that perpetuate structural and institutional racism and racial inequality in the United States. People of color have been harmed by discrimination and structural inequalities in many areas of life, including education, criminal justice, health care, employment, and wealth building. Despite incremental advances in criminal justice reform, people of color are still disproportionately arrested, prosecuted, and sentenced, and there is evidence of white supremacist domestic extremist infiltration of law enforcement agencies. The coronavirus pandemic offers another recent example, with racial and ethnic minorities dying from the coronavirus at higher rates.

The Committee intends to conduct oversight of government and nongovernment activities related to the sources of institutional and structural racism and inequality, as well as the need for legislative reforms to ensure that people of color in the U.S. are protected from discrimination and treated equally under the law.

GENDER EQUITY

The Committee will examine structural barriers to gender equity, as well as the need for reforms to promote equity domestically and abroad for people of all genders. The Committee will place particular emphasis on the experiences of those who have historically faced gender-based and race-based discrimination.

Among the reforms the Committee will examine is the Equal Rights Amendment, which would help to ensure that women and people of marginalized genders in the United States are equal under the law in matters of health care, employment, education, property, family law, and more.

The Committee will also review the expansion of paid family and medical leave, which allows women—who disproportionately fulfill caregiving responsibilities—and people of marginalized genders to better access economic opportunity while taking care of themselves and their loved ones.

The Committee will examine the need for comprehensive legislative reforms to ensure that LGBTQ+ people in the U.S. are protected from discrimination and treated equally under the law.

VOTING RIGHTS

The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy. The Committee will continue conducting oversight of the development and impact of laws and policies that have hindered eligible individuals from registering to vote and casting their ballots. The Committee will conduct robust oversight to support the Voting Rights Act and other laws aimed at preventing barriers to those seeking to exercise their right to vote. State and local elections officials did a heroic job of conducting the 2020 election safely and securely in the middle of a pandemic. However, since the election, several states have begun considering increased restrictions on voting.[28] The Committee will continue to examine efforts to restrict the right to vote.

IMMIGRATION

The Committee intends to conduct oversight of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other agencies tasked with developing and implementing federal immigration policies. In the 116th Congress, the Committee conducted robust oversight of the Trump Administration's immigration policies, including policies separating thousands of children from their families and policies related to the immigration detention facilities. The Committee will continue to examine the persisting results of the Trump Administration's immigration policies to provide accountability, and it will work with the Biden Administration in its efforts to reunify separated families and address harms from the separations. The Committee will also continue to examine the immigration detention system, as well as the use of secret Facebook groups by Border Patrol employees to post offensive and inappropriate comments.

[28] *State Republicans Push New Voting Restrictions After Trump's Loss,* Politico (Jan. 24, 2021) (online at www.politico.com/news/2021/01/24/republicans-voter-id-laws-461707).

The Committee will conduct oversight of other immigration issues to ensure that the Administration's immigration policy meets U.S. security needs and provides humane and equitable treatment to people in the U.S.'s care and custody.

GUN VIOLENCE

The Committee will evaluate the public health impacts of the gun violence epidemic in the United States. Tens of thousands of Americans die every year from firearms and gun violence. Yet due to aggressive lobbying by organizations like the National Rifle Association, gun manufacturers operate largely free from oversight. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which is charged with overseeing gun manufacturers, has been stripped of many of its most effective oversight tools and is prevented by law from publicly disclosing much of its data about gun manufacturers and dealers to the public.

As a result of focused efforts by the gun lobby, gun manufacturers and dealers also enjoy broad immunity from legal liability in federal and state courts. The Committee will examine the impact of allowing gun manufacturers to operate with impunity and how oversight of gun manufacturers and dealers can be strengthened.

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

The Committee will continue to examine the role of the private sector in facilitating societal ills, including examining how private entities may have undermined human rights, facilitated corruption, contributed to the opioid epidemic, injured consumers, and engaged in other activity that harms the public. As part of this work, the Committee will also investigate how such entities attempt to avoid accountability for their conduct and leverage the United States tax system to maximize profits.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS, TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PROCUREMENT

The Committee will continue conducting oversight over compliance with the Ethics in Government Act, regulations issued by the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), Executive Orders, and other laws, regulations, and guidance, to determine whether legislative reforms are needed to enhance our ethics laws or to prevent abuses.

The Committee will conduct oversight over implementation of the Hatch Act. The Committee will review efforts to implement and enforce the Hatch Act by the Office of Special Counsel.

The Committee will conduct oversight over compliance with the Federal Records Act and the Presidential Records Act. The Committee will investigate compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and other transparency laws. The Committee will investigate the presidential transition and consider whether additional legislative reforms are necessary for future presidential transitions.

The Committee will support the passage of H.R. 1, the For the People Act. This sweeping legislation is intended to clean up cor-

ruption in government, fight secret money in politics, and make it easier for American citizens across this country to vote.

The Committee will investigate allegations of retaliation against whistleblowers and will seek legislative reforms to ensure that whistleblowers are adequately protected under the law. The Committee will also investigate compliance with GAO audits, evaluations, and investigations, and compliance with agency Inspectors General.

The Committee will continue conducting oversight over government procurement. The Committee will evaluate whether additional legislative reforms are necessary to make the procurement process more effective and efficient. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight over the F–35 Joint Strike Fighter program including issues related to an inadequate information technology system for the F–35.

PRESIDENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND EMOLUMENTS

The Committee will continue to examine presidential conflicts of interests. Although President Trump is no longer in office, many unresolved questions remain regarding the former president's business interests and whether current ethics laws and regulations are sufficient to ensure accountability and transparency in government.

After Donald Trump was elected in 2016, he defied the advice of bipartisan ethics experts and retained financial interests in businesses across the United States and around the world that posed both perceived and actual conflicts of interest. Those business interests raised grave questions about whether President Trump received emoluments that are prohibited by the U.S. Constitution "without the consent of Congress."[29] President Trump also chose to defy decades of precedent by concealing his tax returns from the public so Congress and the American people could not fully evaluate his global financial interests.

Recognizing the unprecedented nature of President Trump's actions, in the 116th Congress, the Committee conducted robust and independent oversight of then-President Trump and his multiple business interests to thoroughly examine weaknesses in current ethics laws and regulations. The Committee will continue this important investigative and oversight work in the 117th Congress to obtain accurate and relevant information to inform legislative actions going forward.

The Committee will continue its investigation of former President Trump's federal financial disclosures to OGE to develop legislation to ensure presidential financial disclosures include sufficiently detailed information to assess potential conflicts of interest, close loopholes in the financial disclosure process, and strengthen OGE.

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the General Services Administration's (GSA) management of the lease for the Old Post Office Building to develop legislation to ensure that GSA administers federal contracts in a fair and transparent manner, to prevent future presidents from engaging in and maintaining self-

[29] U.S. Const. art. I, § 9, cl. 8.

dealing contracts with the U.S. government, and to close loopholes in government contracting.

The Committee will continue its investigation of former President Trump's receipt of funds from foreign governments, federal officials, or state officials through his business holdings while in office, resulting in the receipt of emoluments. The goal of this investigation will be to obtain accurate and relevant information to inform legislation to prohibit taxpayer funds from flowing to a president's business, strengthen disclosure requirements to ensure compliance with the Emoluments Clauses, enable Congress to identify noncompliance and conflicts of interest involving foreign governments, and consider other potential remedies for specific conflicts of interests as they are identified.

In the 116th Congress, the Committee issued a subpoena to Mazars USA LLP for then-President Trump's personal financial records that were relevant to the Committee's investigations into financial disclosure, GSA oversight, and emoluments, and necessary to help the Committee define areas that require legislative reform. President Trump and his businesses filed a lawsuit seeking to prevent Mazars from complying with the Committee's lawful subpoena. On July 9, 2020, the Supreme Court issued a decision in *Trump* v. *Mazars*, holding that the President is not above the law and announcing a new four-factor standard for evaluating congressional subpoenas for a sitting President's personal information. The case has been remanded to the district court. The Committee intends to vigorously pursue the litigation.

The Committee will also continue its investigation of the Trump Administration's abrupt decision in June 2017 to abandon a long-term plan developed over multiple administrations to move the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from its current site in Washington, D.C. to a suburban location, allowing developers to build on the existing site just blocks from then-President Trump's hotel, and replace this plan with a more costly proposal to demolish the existing building and construct a new facility on the same site. The Committee will continue to examine whether proposals for the expenditure of taxpayer funds protect against waste, fraud, and abuse and whether any officials inappropriately interfered in the decision to cancel the procurement in favor of a costlier option.

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis was established by Congress in April 2020 and reauthorized in the 117th Congress to "conduct a full and complete investigation" of "the use of taxpayer funds and relief programs to address the coronavirus crisis," "preparedness for and response to the coronavirus crisis," "the economic impact of the coronavirus crisis," and other issues related to the pandemic.[30]

The Select Subcommittee intends to continue to conduct robust oversight to ensure the nation's ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic is effective, efficient, and equitable. The Select Subcommittee intends to identify lessons from the Trump Ad-

[30] H. Res. 935, 116th Cong. (2020); H. Res. 8, sec. 4(f), 117th Cong. (2021).

ministration's failure to control the virus, with the goal of identifying and correcting errors and preventing these problems from recurring. The Select Subcommittee also intends to continue to detect and root out waste, fraud, and abuse in pandemic-related relief programs, contracts, and loans.

Development and Distribution of Coronavirus Vaccines

The Select Subcommittee intends to continue to review the development and distribution of coronavirus vaccines, including efforts to ensure these vaccines are equitably distributed and administered.

Role of Political Appointees in Public Health Response

The Select Subcommittee intends to continue to investigate political interference during the Trump Administration that may have undermined the nation's pandemic response, putting Americans at further risk of infection and death during the pandemic. The Select Subcommittee intends to conduct oversight of potential interference related to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scientific reports, public health guidance, testing, and other topics.

Acquisition and Distribution of Supplies

The Select Subcommittee intends to continue to conduct oversight of efforts to acquire and distribute personal protective equipment and other critical supplies necessary to protect Americans during the pandemic, including efforts to address shortages as well as contracts awarded by federal agencies that may be subject to waste, fraud, and abuse.

Impact of the Pandemic on Nursing Home Residents

The Select Subcommittee intends to continue to examine how nursing homes have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, including investigating infections and deaths among staff and residents. This review will include an assessment of how for-profit nursing homes fared during the crisis and how these entities used federal emergency relief funds.

Paycheck Protection Program

The Select Subcommittee intends to continue oversight of the Small Business Administration's implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program, including whether the program has favored large companies over the neediest small businesses, whether underserved markets have been prioritized as Congress intended, and efforts to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in this relief program.

Emergency Lending Facilities

The Select Subcommittee intends to continue examining the emergency lending facilities implemented by the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department using CARES Act funds. This review will include assessing the efficacy of the loan programs and the steps the Federal Reserve is taking to fulfill its maximum employment mandate.

Treasury Lending Programs

The Select Subcommittee intends to continue oversight over direct lending programs implemented by the Treasury Department, including the aviation industry Payroll Support Program. This review will examine whether federal funds were used as intended and whether the Treasury Department appropriately considered the risk of default and taxpayer protections, consistent with congressional intent.

Coronavirus Protections for Meatpacking Workers

The Select Subcommittee will investigate coronavirus outbreaks at meatpacking plants, including the actions of meatpacking companies and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which is responsible for establishing and enforcing worker safety laws.

Farmers to Families Food Box Program

Millions of Americans have faced hunger and food insecurity during the pandemic. The Select Subcommittee intends to continue its review of the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, a Department of Agriculture program intended to provide food assistance to Americans in need during the coronavirus crisis. The Select Subcommittee is examining whether the program achieved its goal of delivering food to communities experiencing food insecurity and is investigating reported problems with program management and accountability.

Protecting Homeowners and Renters During the Pandemic

The Select Subcommittee intends to continue its oversight of housing hardships during the pandemic, including efforts by the Federal Housing Finance Agency, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac to prevent Americans from losing their homes and provide financial relief for renters and homeowners.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

The Subcommittee on National Security intends to conduct robust oversight of United States national security and foreign policy, including, but not limited to:

- Implementation of the National Security Strategy;
- Global force posture of U.S. military personnel, assets, equipment, and resources;
- U.S. counterterrorism operations against al Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and affiliated terrorist organizations;
- U.S. diplomatic and foreign assistance programs, including stabilization and reconstruction activities in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria;
- Overseas construction and security of U.S. embassies, consulates, and diplomatic facilities;
- U.S. support to multilateral institutions, including United Nations peacekeeping operations;

- Matters related to homeland security and defense, including, but not limited to:
  - State and non-state physical and cyber threats to U.S. critical infrastructure;
  - Defending the integrity of U.S. election systems;
  - Protecting U.S. federal information technology networks;
  - Climate change;
  - U.S. biodefense preparedness;
  - Domestic terrorism and homegrown violent extremism; and
  - Security of U.S. government property and employees;
- Military readiness, including matters related to the health, safety, and nondiscriminatory treatment of U.S. servicemembers;
- Matters related to military veterans and their families, including the provision of medical and disability benefits for veterans exposed to toxic and environmental hazards;
- The recovery and repatriation of U.S. servicemember remains from overseas conflicts; and
- Federal acquisition policy related to national security.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Intelligence Community, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, U.S. Agency for International Development, and other entities within its jurisdiction.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The Subcommittee on Government Operations intends to conduct robust oversight of many aspects of the Executive Branch, including, but not limited to:

- Restoring OPM after the Trump Administration's attempts to eliminate it;
- Revitalizing the federal workforce, improving compensation and benefits, and finding ways to recruit and retain expert talent;
- Bolstering the independence and effectiveness of federal Inspectors General;
- Overseeing the proper expenditure of federal funding, including aid to counter the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic;
- Restoring effective leadership and financial stability at the U.S. Postal Service;
- Documenting the ramifications of the SolarWinds data breach for more effective federal procurement of information technology (IT) and improved cybersecurity;
- Facilitating the creation and operations of the Technology Modernization Fund to allow for multi-year IT modernization projects that will improve the operations of government and delivery of federal services;
- Strengthening federal information technology and cybersecurity policy, including compliance with the requirements of FITARA and reviewing FISMA for potential amendment;

- Improving the effectiveness of future presidential administration transitions;
- Ensuring the safe and efficient return to federal office space at the conclusion of the pandemic, including consideration of greater use of telework and other vital tools;
- Strengthening whistleblower protections;
- Restoring the effective operation of the Merit System Protection Board to resolve its years-long backlog of employee appeals;
- Examining the safety, infrastructure, finances and performance of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;
- Improving intergovernmental affairs, particularly through continued efforts to implement the work of the bipartisan Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs and the reestablishment of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations; and
- Continuing efforts to investigate improper management and procurement of federal property, including working with the full Committee to investigate political interference in relocating FBI Headquarters.

The Subcommittee will conduct regular and robust oversight of OPM, the Office of Management and Budget, the GSA, and government operations within its jurisdiction.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND CONSUMER POLICY

The Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy intends to conduct robust oversight and investigations of consumer protection matters and of the role that public policy plays in the lives of the American people, including, but not limited to:

- Protection of personal care products users;
- Prevention of illegal marketing of vaping products to young people;
- Regulation of toxic heavy metals in baby foods;
- Financial consumer protection in banking, education, housing, and telecommunications;
- Prevention of harm to health and well-being, particularly matters affecting infants and children;
- The causes of income inequality, including the disproportionate impact of economic policies on people of color, and the policies required to promote the growth and prosperity of the middle class;
- The economic and social impact of federal policies relating to labor, workers' rights, intellectual property, taxes, trade, small business, agriculture, and investor protections;
- The federal response to the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic in cooperation with the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis;
- The extent to which federal agencies responsible for public health and consumer protection are fulfilling their statutory missions;
- Cybersecurity and digital privacy in the private sector;
- Free market and commerce regulations that affect the safety and well-being of Americans; and

- Federal acquisition policy unrelated to national security and information technology.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of the Treasury, Department of Education, Small Business Administration, Department of Labor, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Federal Trade Commission, and other entities within its jurisdiction.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

The Subcommittee on Environment intends to conduct robust oversight of our nation's environmental protection policies, with a focus on job creation in the transition to clean energy and a green economy, environmental justice, and the harmful effects of disinformation in the fight against climate change, including, but not limited to:

- Examining the Executive Branch's effectiveness in addressing the impacts of climate change and implementing mitigation and resiliency strategies;
- Examining the spread and perpetuation of climate denialism and online climate disinformation;
- Advocating for a just and green recovery from the coronavirus pandemic;
- Promoting job creation and equity in a transition to a green workforce and clean technologies;
- Documenting the disproportionate burden of pollution affecting rural, low-income, and minority communities; and
- Examining the federal government's preparation for, and response to, natural disasters in the United States and its territories.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, and other entities within its jurisdiction.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties intends to continue to conduct robust oversight of federal, state, and local governments—as well as private entities—that are violating the civil rights and civil liberties of the American people, including, but not limited to:

- The spread of violent white supremacy and similar extremist ideologies;
- The rise of hate crimes against minority communities;
- Use of federal and state law enforcement to respond to peaceful demonstrations;
- The rights of immigrants, including any abuses of persons detained by the federal government, the lack of due process for undocumented immigrants, refugee asylum seeker, and their families;
- LGBTQ+ rights;
- Voting rights and other attempts to undermine the democratic process and perpetuate voter suppression;

- Criminal justice reform policies, including the reform of the death penalty;
- The implementation of the 2020 Census results and other investigations related to the census;
- The enforcement of laws ensuring equal employment and the use of non-disclosure agreements in employment and other contexts; and
- Other efforts throughout society to undermine Equal Protection and core civil liberties such as freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Department of Justice, Census Bureau, Department of Homeland Security, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, federal and state voting authorities, and other entities within its jurisdiction.

Committee on Oversight and Reform

U.S. House of Representatives

117th Congress Oversight Plan

REPUBLICAN VIEWS

The Republican Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform intend to conduct objective, fact-based oversight of the Executive Branch. The Members will continue to work closely with the Government Accountability Office, the community of Inspectors General (IG), good-government groups, whistleblowers, and others to improve the efficiency and transparency of the federal government. The Democrat majority seems intent on continuing to investigate the Trump Administration, tearing down any positive policy gains from his presidency, and advancing far left policies that kill jobs and keep schools shuttered. In contrast, the Republican Members will conduct responsible oversight to make the federal government more effective and more accountable to the American people.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ABUSES

The Republican Members will continue their oversight into wrongdoing at the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In the 115th and 116th Congresses, the Committee began a wide-ranging investigation into actions taken by the DOJ and FBI in 2016 and 2017. The Members will continue to examine the conduct of the DOJ and FBI personnel in departing from the norms of impartial justice and fairness, the political bias of DOJ and FBI personnel, departures from traditional investigative and prosecutorial practices, and insufficient adherence to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Republicans will continue to conduct oversight of the FBI to ensure the agency is not abusing its law enforcement tools particularly in light of the unrest across America.

OBAMACARE AND HEALTH CARE REFORM

The Republican Members will continue to examine the consequences of Obamacare to America's healthcare system.

The Republican Members will continue to seek to bringing transparency to the federal government's increased role in health care markets, with an emphasis on assessing Obamacare's effect on consumer choice and insurance premiums.

The Members will continue to examine efforts by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid program. The GAO has consistently classified Medicaid as a "high risk" program due to its increasing size and expense, stressing the need for enhanced oversight and data quality.

The Members will also assess the incentives created by the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion for states to obtain more federal funding by artificially changing their state share. Additionally, we must conduct oversight of the effects of the COVID related spending on our nation's health care system. The Republican Members will also examine the opioid crisis, its effects on states and localities, and how the federal government can best assist state and local jurisdictions

The Republican Members will also conduct oversight of the Food and Drug Administration's implementation of Right to Try and its enforcement actions relating to e-cigarettes.

BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

The Republican Members will continue to oversee the Executive Branch's enforcement of border security and immigration laws. President Biden in his short time in office has incentivized illegal immigration and there is now a crisis at the Southern border. Republicans have sought information on border security, interior enforcement, and construction of the barrier on the Southern border. Republicans will continue to highlight this administration's flawed policies that seek to reward those to break our immigration laws. According to media reports, to date, approximately 700 unaccompanied minors are being held by the Customs and Border Patrol. President Biden's empty promises and unraveling of our enforcement mechanisms has caused the current unprecedented crisis at the border. The Republican Members will examine how violent transnational criminal organizations exploit loopholes in our immigration laws for drug smuggling and human trafficking as well as the Biden Administration's weak treatment of gangs in the U.S. Finally, the Republican Members will conduct oversight of the 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

The Republican Members will continue to conduct oversight of attempts to restrict Americans' freedoms of speech and assembly by compelling the disclosure of the organizations to which they donate. Republicans have repeatedly requested documents and information from social media companies related to the silencing of conservative voices. Republicans will continue to fight the "cancel culture" perpetuated by Democrats engaged in identity politics. All voices should be heard in a free and tolerant society. On December 15, 2020, Republicans called on Chairwoman Maloney to hold an emergency hearing to review social media companies' censorship of a news articles regarding then-candidate Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden. Social media companies suppressed this news which we later learned was true—going so far as to lock the New York Post's Twitter account. In the wake of the events of January 6, 2021, the largely conservative leaning platform, Parler, was essentially barred from the Internet even though we now know much of the planning of the events of January 6 actually occurred on more widely used social media platforms.

The Republican Members will also continue to conduct this important oversight of allegations that social media companies re-

duced the visibility of conservative social media accounts, effectively silencing those individuals' right to free speech.

REGULATORY REFORM

The Republican Members will continue to examine the effect of burdensome regulations on small businesses and job creators. Republicans will also endeavor to track and point out actions by President Biden to reverse actions by the Trump Administration to cut red tape. President Biden has already banned energy production on federal lands, and he has halted the Keystone Pipeline. Fourteen attorneys general sent a letter to President Biden explaining the devastating costs of his action on Keystone. In Montana, for example, the state will lose approximately $58 million in tax revenue.

In the summer 2020, Republicans undertook a project to understand what reforms would help the private sector grow and promote jobs. The Members will continue to not only look for regulations to curb but point out regulatory actions taken by the Biden Administration that kill jobs, negatively affect the associated school districts, and interrupt innovation.

AN EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

The Republican Members will continue to encourage a federal workforce that is efficient, effective, and accountable to the American taxpayers. The Members will assess the Administration's efforts to undue the prior administrations' efforts to make federal workers more accountable for poor performance or misconduct, including sexual misconduct. The Members will assess the use of taxpayer-funded official time by federal workers, some of whom perform exclusively union business during work hours.

In addition, the Members will support the work of the Office of Special Counsel and will examine findings of systemic Hatch Act violations in the United States Postal Service. The Members will support the work of the IG community and strive that IGs have the resources they need to carry out their duties responsibly.

CYBERSECURITY

The Republican Members will continue to examine implementation of federal laws to enhance cybersecurity at federal agencies, including the Federal Information Management Act of 2002 and the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015. Members will continue to conduct oversight of the massive cyber attack that was discovered in December 2020. The Members will focus on the state of cybersecurity practices at federal agencies, as well as federal agencies' policies and regulations affecting cybersecurity technology.

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Early on in the pandemic it became clear that certain states were fairing better than others in combatting COVID and protecting the most vulnerable. Select Subcommittee Republicans have highlighted the work of the leaders in Florida to safely reopen that state, keep its economy going, and protect its most vulnerable. In

contrast, Governor Cuomo in New York failed to protect nursing home residents, has crushed his state's economy, and is struggling to reopen schools. In at least three separate letters, Select Subcommittee Republicans have called on Governor Cuomo to be transparent and to provide the true data on nursing home fatalities in his state. *Here is a link to the Republican's work in this area*. The Republican Members will continue to press Governor Cuomo to stop playing politics.

Since this summer Republican Members of the Select Subcommittee have called on Chairman Clyburn to join in the call to safely reopen schools. Republicans pledge to all parents to continue to press for full five days in person for every child. The science supports reopening and we must quell the knowledge loss. A whole generation of children—who are the least vulnerable to COVID–19—are being punished by Democrat leaders cow towing to the teachers' union.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

U.S. House of Representatives

Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson

117th Congress Oversight Plan

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to rule X, clause 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY & OVERSIGHT THEMES

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 Science Committee was created to help the United States foster innovation and stay globally competitive in the science and technology domains. House Rule X, clause 1 (p) sets forth the legislative jurisdiction of the Committee. However, rule X, clause 3 (k) grants the Committee "special oversight functions" that stretches beyond its legislative jurisdiction. As this clause sets out: "The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development."[31] This provides the Committee with wide-ranging oversight authority over science and technology issues throughout the government.

Each of the Committee's five subcommittees, as well as the full Committee, engage in oversight work as authorized by House rules. These five subcommittees include the Subcommittee on Energy, Subcommittee on Environment, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, and the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight. In general the Investigations and Oversight (I&O) Subcommittee coordinates and directs oversight activities across the Committee.

Emerging issues not previously planned or anticipated will require Congressional investigation and oversight and will necessarily affect the Committee's oversight agenda as they evolve. However, there are several general themes the Committee intends to focus its oversight resources on during the 117th Congress.

- **Scientific Integrity:** *Ensure federal science activities, including environmental and climate sciences, are free from political or industry interference and undue influence.*

[31] House rule X, clause 3, (k)—attached as Appendix A.

• **Public Accountability:** *Hold public officials and federal agencies accountable for efficient, cost-effective, ethical program management.*

• **Safety & Security:** *Consistently review science and technology activities that can have an impact on the safety and security of the American people.*

• **Emerging Technology:** *Examine potential societal consequences of emerging technologies.*

The Committee will consult as appropriate with other Committees of the House where we share common oversight priorities.

GENERAL

The federal response to COVID–19. As of this writing, COVID–19 has killed nearly 500,000 Americans over the course of the year. The Committee will consider how scientific integrity failures may have contributed to the pandemic's severity in the United States to date and evaluate strategies for addressing future outbreaks of infectious disease.

Science Integrity. The Committee will continue to collect and examine allegations of intimidation of scientists in federal agencies or suppression or revisions of scientific findings because of political or other pressures. The Committee will also consider policy changes to prevent recurrence of the types of scientific integrity violations our Members have observed within Federal agencies in recent years.

Scientific advisory committees. Federal agencies receive scientific advice and analysis from independent science advisory committees to help inform policymaking. The Committee will examine the structure, independence, functionality and ethical requirements of these committees to ensure that they are able to deliver sound expertise without undue influence by special interests.

Whistleblowers. The Committee maintains an open door policy for any whistleblower who would like to alert Congress to issues of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement at agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction or within other activities within the Committee's broad oversight authority. The Committee takes confidentiality issues seriously and will help to protect the identity of any individual who approaches the Committee with issues of concern.

GAO & OIGs. The Committee will coordinate with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the various Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs) within agencies under the Committee's legislative jurisdiction to ensure Departments, programs, and agencies are being transparent and implementing GAO and OIG recommendations. The Committee will also utilize the resources of the GAO and IG community to steer them towards oversight issues of concern to the Committee. In addition, the Committee will ensure the IG offices within the agencies under the Committee's jurisdiction are being managed appropriately and effectively.

Cybersecurity. The Committee will continue its work to help ensure federal agencies are complying with cybersecurity standards across the government, consider the quality and adequacy of the standards and best practices themselves, and investigate reported breaches of government and private sector computer systems when they endanger the public's privacy, safety, or security.

Voting system design and integrity. A multitude of election system vulnerabilities in the diffuse voting infrastructure in the United States were following the 2016 and 2018 elections. The 2020 election cycle then saw state election officials marshalling an unprecedented shift to mail-in and early voting in order reduce the spread of COVID–19. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight on the cyber and physical security standards and best practices for the complete supply chain of voting system technologies to help ensure elections are secure and resilient.

Identifying and mitigating influence operations. The use of social media platforms for influence operations against the American public by both domestic and foreign actors has become an area of intense interest. The Committee will examine what tools and technologies are being developed by the scientific and technical community to help identify these threats to mitigate their impact.

Unauthorized use of private data. The unauthorized use of private data for commercial or political purposes is a growing concern. The Committee will investigate such cases wherein public trust is breached, whether the perpetrator be a government or commercial entity and whether the intended use of the data is for financial, political, or other purposes. In an increasingly digital world, the Committee has a responsibility to expose Internet privacy failures and deliberate on potential solutions.

DHS Science & Technology Directorate. The Committee will reassert its oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate in the 117th Congress. The Committee will examine the S&T Directorate's programs and activities to ensure they are being managed efficiently and effectively.

Sexual harassment in the sciences. Sexual harassment in academia drives talented scientists out of the field as some perpetrators continue to hold high-status positions and receive federal grant money. The Committee will continue its bipartisan oversight of federal science agencies to ensure they have clear policies in place and are handling reports of sexual harassment effectively and efficiently.

Academic espionage. The Committee will continue to conduct bipartisan oversight into the coordination and collaboration between law enforcement, the intelligence community, and institutions of higher education regarding the protection of sensitive, often government-funded research. The Committee will consider strategies to ensure the United States remains a global science leader while respecting the international collaborations that help foster U.S. innovation.

STEM Education. The Committee will continue to review Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education related subjects, particularly the need to increase the diversity of individuals who have access to STEM education. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of federal programs in improving the recruitment and retention of a diverse pool of individuals pursuing STEM-related degrees and careers.

Arctic Research. The Committee will examine the scientific issues related to the warming of the Arctic and the environmental, social, public health, and safety and security implications that represents for the United States and the world.

Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The Committee will ensure that OSTP is functioning as effectively as possible to confront national science priorities, including COVID–19, and is fulfilling its statutorily mandated responsibilities.

Public Access to Federally Funded Research. Currently, federally funded research papers can be locked behind paywalls for twelve months. The revenues from paywalls are used in part to support the peer review and hosting services provided by the major science publishers. The Committee will explore how this model is functioning to maximize both academic rigor in science publishing and public access to a taxpayer funded resource.

Facial recognition technology. Facial recognition applications are growing widely around the globe, creating privacy concerns and enabling misidentification of individuals by law enforcement, particularly people of color. The Committee will continue to explore the role of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and other federal science agencies in evaluating and validating the performance of facial recognition technologies.

Critical infrastructure and electricity grid security. The Committee will continue to conduct oversight over the state of the nation's critical infrastructure to ensure that vulnerabilities to cyberattacks, physical attacks, and natural hazards are identified and remedied to the extent possible, and to ensure the government has the capability to respond to such threats efficiently and effectively.

Clean energy technologies in general. The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that the newly enacted authorizations for DOE energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application (RDD&CA) programs in the Energy Act of 2020 as part of the FY2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 116–260, are being executed faithfully. The Committee will examine whether the Department's energy technology offices are supporting the full range of high value RDD&CA activities that the private sector is unable or unwilling to support on its own. The Committee will also evaluate potentially transformational clean energy technologies that currently receive little federal support.

DOE Laboratory Complex. The management, upkeep, and security of the Department's aging facilities remains a continuing concern of the Committee. Efforts will continue to assure that the Department meets its responsibilities to control risks in and around these facilities.

Nuclear waste cleanup. Remediation and site management of legacy weapons sites accounts for over $6 billion annually from the Department of Energy. The Committee will examine whether the Department is leveraging its science and technology capabilities to their maximum potential in order to achieve site cleanups more quickly and at less cost.

Nuclear energy R&D spending. The Committee will examine how the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy informs its decisions for financial assistance to private companies.

DOE Loan Programs Office. The Committee will continue to provide oversight of the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office, which the prior Administration sought to terminate, to ensure that the Office is diligently carrying out its statutory mission.

Fusion research. The Committee will provide oversight of the Department of Energy's fusion energy research activities to ensure that direction provided in the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act, P.L. 115–246, and the Energy Act of 2020, a Division of P.L. 116 260, is being faithfully executed, including the establishment of programs to advance inertial fusion for energy applications and to advance other innovative fusion energy concepts. The Committee will also oversee the U.S. contribution to the ITER fusion project to ensure that the Department is actually providing the resources that it has projected are required to minimize the project's schedule and total cost.

Emerging technologies. The Committee will examine emerging technologies such as autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence, deep fakes, and gene editing. The positive use cases of each of these are well-documented, as are their high-profile failures and misapplications. Where they are commercializing faster than the technical standards, cybersecurity standards and applicable public policies, emerging technologies may threaten the safety, security and privacy of the American people. The Committee intends to examine their potential social, public health, economic, and security consequences.

Climate science. The Committee will aggressively track emerging issues and scientific studies regarding global warming and climate science and eliciting thoughtful science-based discussions on potential solutions and remedies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes the role of federally funded research and innovative technology demonstration and development related to cutting-edge mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Environmental effects of COVID–19. The Committee will examine how the vast societal and economic changes forced by COVID–19 have temporarily affected global environmental air quality and consider implications for environmental management strategies going forward.

Extreme weather hazards. The severity of storms, floods, fires, and hurricanes has increased tremendously over the past few years, leaving a path of death and multi-billion dollar destruction in their wake. The Committee will examine various issues surrounding these extreme weather events, including the science behind these hazards and how climate change has increased the frequency and severity of these events, improvements to forecasting and warning, and proposed methods to reduce their impact.

IRIS Program Oversight. The Committee will continue its longstanding oversight of the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). IRIS develops critical toxicological assessments of environmental contaminants, providing the science that underpins regulations of toxic chemicals. Since a 2011 National Academies of Sciences (NAS) report on process issues at IRIS, the program has come a long way, and has received praise from NAS and EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) on its progress. The Committee is concerned that limited resources and political interference are restricting the IRIS program's productivity, and that critical assessments are being held up.

EPA chemicals. The Committee will work to ensure the public is being protected from the release of toxic chemicals, that EPA is

using the best available science in its chemical policy decisions, and that it is not unduly influenced by the industries it is legally mandated to regulate.

Deregulatory actions at EPA. The Trump administration made rollbacks of environmental protection a hallmark of its policy agenda. The Committee will examine incidents where principles of scientific and analytical integrity were not met in the effort to promulgate these policy measures and evaluate strategies for ensuring EPA adheres to its mission of protecting human health and the environment in the future.

Methane leak detection. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. Methane emissions in the U.S. are systemically underestimated by the EPA, largely due to poorly quantified leaks in the oil and natural gas sector. The Committee will review the effectiveness of current leak detection technologies and the need for additional data, research and development.

Earth observations satellite oversight. The Committee will continue to review the federal government's development, management, and operation of its earth observations satellites at both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). These satellites provide critical data that feed into weather forecasting and climate models. The current and future planning of the satellite architecture is crucial to ensuring continuity of data collection.

National Weather Service workforce issues. The Committee has been concerned with workforce issues at NOAA and the National Weather Service (NWS), which the GAO is currently investigating. The Committee will continue to monitor these issues and work with the GAO to ensure workforce issues are handled effectively and efficiently in a manner that does not jeopardize the ability of NWS or NOAA to perform their crucial life-saving missions.

Access to the International Space Station (ISS). The Committee will conduct oversight into NASA's oversight of contracted commercial crewed flights and the certification of commercial crew providers to ensure U.S. access to the ISS will continue safely and without a gap, as well as NASA's contingency plan should commercial crew certification or operational flights experience delays.

ISS research priorities. The International Space Station, and its crew and facilities, are precious and limited resources. The Committee will conduct oversight of the use of the ISS, the prioritization of ISS resources to meet and enable key objectives, and plans for meeting such objectives once the ISS reaches the end of its operational life.

Oversight of NASA's flagship science missions. The Committee will oversee the management of major flagship science mission development projects, including the James Webb Space Telescope, the Wide-field Infrared Survey Telescope, and the Europa Clipper spacecraft.

NASA Earth Science programs. NASA's Earth science programs offer valuable insights into Earth systems, climate change, severe weather, land change, and more. The Committee will conduct oversight of NASA's Earth science program, its progress in implementing the priorities of the 2018 National Academies' Earth

science decadal survey, and its contributions climate change research.

Orbital Debris. Hundreds of thousands of debris objects orbit the Earth. Travelling at very high velocities, debris of any size can pose significant risk to active space systems and human spaceflight operations. Mega constellation deployments comprising thousands of small satellites increase potential collision risk. The Committee will conduct oversight of NASA's activities in orbital debris monitoring, mitigation, and modeling, as well as its efforts to coordinate with other Federal agencies and internationally on orbital debris mitigation standards and guidelines.

Human spaceflight schedule pressure. The Space Shuttle Challenger accident in 1986 made clear that launch pressure can lead to catastrophic consequences. In all expeditions, but particularly human space flight, oversight must be conducted to ensure that schedule pressures do not influence decisions that have implications for the overall safety of human spaceflight systems and operations.

Lunar Campaign. The Trump Administration prioritized a return to lunar expeditions at NASA. Lunar missions could ostensibly contribute to the mission of getting humans to Mars. However, without clear objectives as part of a human exploration roadmap, significant investments in a lunar campaign could delay the United States' efforts to send humans to the surface of Mars by the 2030s. The Committee will examine the status of lunar activities, NASA's management of development projects, and how they would contribute toward the goal of a manned mission to Mars.

Civil Aeronautics Research and Development. The Committee will evaluate research and development activities at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and NASA's aeronautics research into topics including the next generation air transportation system (NextGen), the integration of unmanned aviation systems into the national airspace system, safety of civil aviation and aeronautics, and efforts to mitigate the environmental impacts of civil aviation.

FAA Commercial Space Transportation. FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation licenses commercial launch and reentry vehicles and commercial spaceports. The Committee will conduct oversight on the FAA's AST, its licensing activities, and the implementation of the FAA's updated launch and reentry licensing regulations. In addition, the Committee will examine the growing commercial launch industry, including the emerging commercial human space flight industry, and the challenges facing it.

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER COMMITTEES

The Committee may coordinate on the following oversight priorities with other House Committees as follows:

- With Administration on election security technologies
- With Agriculture on integrity in cost-benefit analysis, biofuels, and climate change
- With Energy & Commerce on environmental policy, including climate change, emerging trends in technology that may affect American consumers, and public health research priorities
- With Homeland Security on facial recognition technology, advanced technology strategies for national security, including

cybersecurity, and for addressing chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats

- With Natural Resources on climate change science, advanced energy technologies, and geological sciences
- With Oversight and Reform on ensuring the effectiveness and independence of Inspectors General at federal science agencies, on scientific integrity in the federal response to COVID–19, cybersecurity in federal agencies, the federal science workforce, and other general oversight priorities
- With Transportation & Infrastructure on advanced infrastructure materials and technologies, strategies for reducing aircraft emissions and climate resiliency of transportation infrastructure
- With the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis on climate science priorities

Appendix A

HOUSE RULE X

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES

Committees and their legislative jurisdictions

1. There shall be in the House the following standing committees, each of which shall have the jurisdiction and related functions assigned by this clause and clauses 2, 3, and 4. All bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to subjects within the jurisdiction of the standing committees listed in this clause shall be referred to those committees, in accordance withclause 2 of rule XII, as follows:

(p) Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

(1) All energy research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor, and all federally owned or operated nonmilitary energy laboratories.

(2) Astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities.

(3) Civil aviation research and development.

(4) Environmental research and development.

(5) Marine research.

(6) Commercial application of energy technology.

(7) National Institute of Standards and Technology, standardization of weights and measures, and the metric system.

(8) National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(9) National Space Council.

(10) National Science Foundation.

(11) National Weather Service.

(12) Outer space, including exploration and control thereof.

(13) Science scholarships.

(14) Scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefor.

Special oversight functions

3(k) The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Oversight Plan of the Committee on Small Business for the 117th Congress

Ms. Velázquez, from the Committee on Small Business, submitted to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following

REPORT

Rule X, cl. 2(d)(1) of the Rules of the House requires each standing Committee to adopt an oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and to submit the plan to the Committees on Oversight and Reform and House Administration not later than March 1 of the first session of the Congress. Under rule X, the Committee has oversight authority to investigate and examine any matter affecting small business. This Report reflects that broad oversight jurisdiction.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL ACCESS PROGRAMS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other federal agencies that provide capital to America'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.
- Effectiveness of the capital access programs to assist and create jobs in underserved businesses, including minority, women, immigrant, veteran, and rural owners.
- Effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's outreach and structure as it pertains to increasing assistance to underserved and rural businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Whether lenders are meeting their goals to lend to small businesses and create jobs.
- 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 SBA disaster loan program and its oversight ensures that small businesses are able to revive and rebuild communities.
• Review the recent change by SBA for fee waivers and the impact moving from a dollar limitation to a geographic determination will have on small businesses.
• Efficacy and duplication of federal capital access programs offered by the Department of Agriculture to small businesses in rural areas.
• Adequacy of capital access in underserved rural areas.
• Utilization by small businesses of export capital programs at the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.
• Study the need to enhance the 7(a) and Certified Development Company programs so that they are more effective in reaching borrowers unable to secure conventional loans.
• Analyze the Microloan program to enhance utilization of the program by small businesses.
• Examine methods to enhance equity financing to meet the needs of small business borrowers wherein debt financing is not appropriate and how SBA programs may be used to increase equity financing.
• Continued examination of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), EIDL Advance program, debt relief, and other small business programs established by Pub. L. No. 116 136, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, in providing emergency stimulative capital to small businesses.
• Implementation of program clarifications and enhancements made to PPP, EIDL, Microloan, 504/CDC, 7(a), and other SBA programs, including debt relief and fee reductions established by Pub. L. No. 116–260, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, to provide stimulative capital to small businesses to retain and create jobs.
• 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.
• Implementation of crowdfunding and other provisions of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act, Pub. L. No. 112–106.
• Implementation 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.
• Implementation of changes made to increase oversight of the 7(a) loan program established by Pub. L. No. 115–189, the Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight Reform Act of 2018.
• Examination of the Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program for disaster recovery lending for small businesses and its performance after recent disasters, such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, numerous wildfires and flooding.
• Examine the franchise model to learn how SBA loans are being utilized, including whether improvements in the SBA franchise directory can be made.

• The effectiveness of SBA in minimizing risk to the taxpayer in the SBA capital access programs.

In performing oversight, the Committee will focus on all aspects of lending, along with those that may increase risk of financial assistance programs including, but not limited to, commercial real estate refinancing, 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 AND OTHER FEDERAL ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into SBA programs that provide 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:

• Examining effectiveness of SBA entrepreneurial development programs in creating jobs at startups and traditional firms.

• Examining effectiveness of enhancements to SBA entrepreneurial development programs established by Pub. L. No. 116–136, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Pub. L. No. 116–260, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, in assisting small businesses access to federal pandemic support resources.

• Suggesting methods for enhancing coordination among federal agencies in aiding entrepreneurs, including, but not limited to, businesses located in underserved areas, such as rural and low-income communities and those seeking to provide goods and services in the federal procurement marketplace.

• Enhancing the efficacy and utilization of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at the Department of Commerce.

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 the 8(a), HUBZone, service-disabled veteran, women-owned contracting, and Small Business Innovation Research programs.

• Effectiveness of SBA contracting programs to increase participation by small businesses in federal procurement.

• Effectiveness of federal agency protections against contract bundling and consolidation.

• The accuracy and utility of SBA size standards and federal procurement databases.

• 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 Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.

• Development of federal acquisition policies and whether small businesses have sufficiently effective voice in development of such policies.
• Cost-effectiveness of outsourcing government work to private enterprise rather than expanding the government to provide the good or service internally (i.e., government insourcing).
• Examining effectiveness of 8(a) small business federal procurement extension established by Pub. L. No. 116–260, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.
• Implementation and efficacy of changes made in small business federal procurement programs arising from the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Acts for FYs 2012–2021.
• Examination of the Small Business Innovation Research Program as modified by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012, Pub. L. No. 112–81, including, but not limited to, increased efforts at commercializing federally-funded technology.
• Implementation and efficacy of changes made to the Small Business Innovation Research Program arising from the enactment of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub. L. No. 115–232.
• Implementation and efficacy of changes made to the HUBZone program arising from the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Pub. L. No. 115–91.
• Implementation and efficacy of changes made to small business programs from enactment of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. Pub. L. No. 116–283.
• Monitor the migration of the veteran certification program from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Small Business Administration.
• Examine the effects on the supply chain as they relate to the pandemic and analyze the impact relief programs have had on small government contractors.

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 SBA MANAGEMENT

The Committee will conduct the 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 appropriate mission of the SBA.
• Whether agency employees in the field are empowered to assist small businesses.
• Organizational structure of the agency to ensure it is meeting its mission, prevent duplication of offices, modernize the agency to meet the needs of the business community, particularly underserved and rural entrepreneurs.
• Effectiveness of personnel management to ensure that employees are rewarded for assisting small businesses.
• Capabilities of SBA employees to provide proper assistance to small business owners.

• Review the agency's cooperative agreements, partnerships and co-sponsorships.
• Continue to assess the adequacy of the agency's budgetary requests, financial management, and reporting goals.
• Agency personnel capabilities to properly manage loan defaults to maximize recovery of collateral.
• Whether SBA improperly utilizes statutory authority to create untested initiatives and the procedures by which the agency develops such programs.
• Monitor the agency's spending and efforts as it relates to the pandemic response and fully account for Covid–19-provided appropriations.
• Review the SBA's technology and data systems in an effort to modernize, strengthen, and improve interoperability between platforms.
• Assess the agency's efforts to secure their networks and data systems.
• Examine the SBA's Office of Inspector General's funding and personnel levels, given COVID legislation and increasing reports of fraud within COVID specific programs.

In carrying out this oversight, the Committee will focus particularly on streamlining and reorganizing of the agency's operations to provide maximum assistance to small business owners. 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 REGULATORY AND PAPERWORK BURDENS

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into burdensome federal rules and 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:
• Examine agency compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act and Paperwork Reduction Act.
• Oversee, to the extent relevant, the work of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget and the Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration to ensure that they are fulfilling their mission to advocate vigorously on behalf of America's small business owners in regulatory matters at federal agencies.
• Assess whether small businesses are provided sufficient compliance assistance, including small entity compliance guides issued by agencies as mandated by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.
• Identify specific rules and regulations issued that impact small businesses.
• Evaluate the need to amend and further strengthen the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act to improve agency compliance with the laws and ensure that small businesses are not unnecessarily burdened by regulations.

OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL TAX POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into the federal tax code, its impact on small business, and Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) 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:

- Identification of 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 business job growth.
- Examination 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.
- Impact of the tax reform law, Pub. L. No. 115–97, on small business.
- Examining effectiveness of small business tax provisions established by Pub. L. No. 116–136, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Pub. L. No. 116–260, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.
- 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.
- Investigate incentives that may be used to support the growth of the micro-entrepreneur.
- Analyze tax code restructuring to enhance the ability of small businesses to offer retirement benefits through lowering their costs.

OVERSIGHT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into federal health care policy (such as Medicare and Medicaid), as well as matters brought to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the filing of this Report:

- The cost and availability of health insurance to small businesses and their employees.
- Implementation and efficacy of changes made to health care policy through various laws enacted throughout the 116th Congress, including but not limited to the tax reform law, Pub. L. No. 115–97.
- Examination of increases in efficiencies that will improve the provision of health care while reducing costs to small businesses that offer their workers' health insurance.

OVERSIGHT OF ENERGY POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into energy policy to reduce the cost of energy and increase alternative energy sources 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 create greater energy independence.

• Federal policies that impact small business dependence on renewable and clean energy and decrease energy costs
• Policies needed to incentivize production of energy in the United States.
• Examination of commercialization of research in renewable and clean energy.
• Federal initiatives to streamline business operations and reduce energy costs for small firms.

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 following, 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 business exports.
• Examination of the impact of 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 innovations of American entrepreneurs.
• Efforts to increase exports by small businesses.
• Whether the United States Trade Representative and Department of Commerce sufficiently protect the interests of small businesses in the negotiation of free trade agreements.
• Whether the United States Trade Representative takes positions at the World Trade Organization that sufficiently promote the interests of American small businesses.
• Measure the performance of federal trade programs, which seek to reduce small firms' costs of expanding into international markets, including those administered by the SBA, Departments of Commerce and Agriculture, the Export-Import Bank, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.
• Examine methods to increase the representation of small business interests in the negotiation of new trade agreements and enforcement of existing agreements and treaties.
• Assess current trade duties and tariffs, both domestic and foreign, to evaluate their impact on American small businesses, economic growth, and job creation.
• Conduct analysis on the importance of intellectual property rights to entrepreneurs.

OVERSIGHT OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into agriculture 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:

• Examine the impact of federal policies on family farms, ranchers, and rural small businesses.
• Evaluate the impact of access to capital issues facing rural areas, farmers and agribusinesses.
• Analyze the extent to which SBA programs and United States Department of Agriculture programs overlap and how they can better coordinate to provide better services and streamlines assistance to the agriculture community.
• Oversee federal activities to spur economic development and job creation in rural communities.
• Examine efforts to expand small farm, producer, and ranch operations and encourage more women, minorities, young people, and other non-traditional owners to start and invest in small agricultural ventures.
• Investigate the federal government's response to agricultural and rural business needs during the pandemic to ensure such firms receive the necessary assistance to continue operations.

OVERSIGHT OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into technology and telecommunications 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:
• Examine the impact of federal policies on broadband deployment, particularly in underserved and rural areas.
• Assess the economic benefits of increasing the speed of broadband and the Universal Service Fund.
• Examine the cost and benefits of proposed reforms to the United States patent system and their impact on small innovators.
• Evaluate the need to increase IP education and services to innovators, especially underserved innovators.
• Monitor efforts to assist small businesses in cybersecurity hygiene and evaluate the role the SBA has in the process to collect and disseminate information and educate small businesses.
• Assess the current government-wide initiative to ensure small technology firms have adequate contracting opportunities while also protecting government systems through rigorous cybersecurity requirements.
• Examine ways in which the federal government can enhance the use of next-generation technologies in small agriculture businesses.
• Investigate and strengthen the vulnerability of small business cybersecurity and its impact on the broader federal government's ability to protect itself against cyberattacks and breaches.

OVERSIGHT OF VETERAN'S ENTREPRENEURISHIP POLICY

The Committee will conduct hearings and investigations into veterans' 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:
• Examine how current entrepreneurial and capital assistance programs are accommodating the growing veteran population.
• Review federal actions to assist veteran entrepreneurs and ensure they are consistent with federal small business policy.

• Evaluate the effectiveness of federal programs that seek to improve veterans' access to markets and training.
• Assess whether the federal government is sufficiently coordinating activities and allocating resources appropriately with regard to veteran entrepreneurship activities and initiatives.
• Monitor the transition of federal entrepreneurial programs from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the SBA.

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.
• Study the effectiveness of efforts to encourage more underserved workers to enter fields where skilled labor is needed.
• Study the effectiveness of career and technical education and its impact on small businesses.
• Evaluate the role immigration policy on small businesses, including an examination of workforce needs and the existing visa system.
• Investigate policies to encourage more participation in labor market through initiatives that can be offered by small businesses, such as paid sick leave, paid parental leave, and flexible work arrangements.
• Study the role student loan debt plays in entrepreneurship and methods to address the crisis.
• Assess the effect of an increase in the minimum wage and its impact on small businesses and job creation.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

OVERSIGHT PLAN

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

117TH CONGRESS

In accordance with rule X clause 2(d) of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for determining whether laws and programs within its jurisdiction are being implemented according to Congressional intent and whether they should be continued, changed, or eliminated. In the 117th Congress, the Committee will review the administration and effectiveness of laws and programs within its jurisdiction, the organization and activities of government agencies and entities within its jurisdiction, and examine whether new or additional legislation is needed to address subjects in its jurisdiction. As appropriate, the Committee will investigate options to improve the overall performance and operation of the agencies and entities it oversees, address inequities, promote cost savings, and eliminate fraud, wasteful spending, abuse and mismanagement where possible. The Committee will also evaluate the administration's yearly budget requests with respect to programs and activities within the Committee's jurisdiction.

The oversight and investigation functions are vested at the Full Committee level. Oversight and investigation activities will be coordinated between the Full Committee and the Subcommittees. This structure will facilitate oversight of issues that cut across the jurisdiction of several Subcommittees. The Committee will continue to exercise its oversight duties through its own staff, as well as through work performed at the Committee's request by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the various Inspectors General (IG) within their respective agencies and departments. Oversight activities will include hearings, briefings, interviews, correspondence, reports, media releases, and public statements.

The GAO provides Congress a biennial update on high-risk programs, which are federal programs and operations that the GAO considers to be at high risk for waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, or in need of broad reform. Consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee will hold hearings on the programs within the Committee's jurisdiction on GAO's "high-risk" list. The rules also require the Committee to hold at least one hearing every 120 days on "waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize."

These hearings will focus on "the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement," as documented by any report that the Committee has received from an IG or GAO. Finally, the Committee will hold hearings if any agency has received disclaimers on its agency financial statements.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

1. Addressing COVID–19 in the U.S. Aviation Industry. The COVID–19 pandemic has presented unique challenges to the U.S. aviation industry. In the months following the initial spread of the novel coronavirus within the United States in 2020, commercial air travel plummeted by as much as 90 percent from the same periods in 2019,[32] and many companies were forced to furlough tens of thousands of aviation employees due to the harsh economic effects. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (P.L. 116–136; CARES) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L. 116–260) provided tens of billions of dollars in financial and regulatory relief for airlines, airports, and other aviation stakeholders in order to mitigate the pandemic's effects on their workforces; maintain air service and support necessary for the movement of consumers and goods across the country; and help ensure the survival of the aviation industry throughout this crisis. The Subcommittee will closely oversee the implementation of these relief programs; the aviation industry's use of financial relief awarded under the Acts; and awardees' compliance with any conditions contained therein. The Subcommittee will also evaluate the potential for future financial and regulatory pandemic relief and explore legislative changes that may be necessary to support the aviation industry's recovery and to ensure the industry is prepared for future pandemics and other unforeseen events of a similar magnitude and effect.

2. Implementation of the 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 strengthens the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) aircraft certification process; ensures transparency, accountability, and integrity in FAA regulation of U.S. aircraft manufacturers; addresses 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 increases, 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 U.S. aerospace industry.

3. Implementation of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (P.L. 115–254; FAARA) was signed into law on October 5, 2018. This Act authorizes funding for the FAA through fiscal year 2023, and contains numerous provisions to enhance aviation safety; strengthen consumer protections for airline passengers; support U.S. aviation manufacturing; im-

[32] Transp. Sec. Admin., *TSA Checkpoint Travel Numbers (Current Year(s) Versus Prior Year/Same Weekday)*, https://www.tsa.gov/coronavirus/passenger-throughput.

prove airport infrastructure; increase and develop the U.S. aviation workforce; and advance the safe and efficient integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the National Airspace System, among other things. The Subcommittee will continue to closely oversee the efforts of the FAA and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to implement the provisions of FAARA.

4. Implementation of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016. The FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–190) was signed into law on July 15, 2016. This short-term extension of FAA programs contained several safety-critical and time-sensitive reforms, several of which the FAA has yet to implement. The Subcommittee will continue to closely oversee the FAA's efforts to implement the remaining mandates contained in this Act.

5. Implementation of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. The FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (P.L. 112–95; FMRA) was signed into law on February 14, 2012. This Act reformed and revised FAA safety programs, air traffic control modernization efforts, and operations of the FAA. The Subcommittee will continue to closely oversee the FAA's efforts to implement the remaining mandates contained in the FMRA.

6. Safety Programs. During the last several Congresses, the Subcommittee held numerous safety hearings and will continue this oversight in the 117th Congress. Maintaining a safe and efficient airspace system is critical to the aerospace industry, passengers, and the U.S. economy, including job creation and U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace. Issues to be addressed include: commercial airline safety, general aviation safety, aircraft design and manufacturing, repair stations, the FAA's drug and alcohol and medical testing programs, key safety agreements, the safe integration of UAS and advanced air mobility concepts, commercial space transportation safety, civil supersonic aircraft safety, pilot and controller training, airport and runway safety, losses of separation between aircraft, the FAA's enforcement and certification activities, the transportation of hazardous materials and dangerous goods, and the FAA's voluntary reporting and data-sharing and assessment programs.

7. Investment in Airport Infrastructure. U.S. airports are part of a global aerospace system, and as such they must remain safe and efficient in order to compete as global hubs of commerce. It is also critical for airports to develop infrastructure designed to reduce pollution and be more resilient in order to mitigate and protect against the effects of climate change. Over the next five years, the FAA estimates a need for $43.6 billion in projects eligible for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants—an increase of twenty-four percent (or $8.5 billion) since the agency's 2019 estimate. Congress has authorized $3.35 billion in annual AIP funding since fiscal year 2012. The FAARA extended that same authorization level through fiscal year 2023, meaning the program will not have received additional authorized funding for 12 years. AIP grants meet less than half of the FAA's identified annual airport development needs. The statutorily authorized passenger facility charge (PFC) is a user fee that an airport sponsor, subject to FAA-approval, may choose to levy on most enplaned passengers. PFCs generated an additional $3.6 billion for airport development in 2018. The PFC

has been capped at $4.50 per segment and $18 per round trip since 2000. PFC collections for calendar year 2017 were $3.286 billion; in 2018 they were $3.514 billion; and in 2019 they were $3.630 billion.[33] Given that airports have capital needs and debt servicing costs beyond those identified by the FAA, airports must supplement their AIP grants and PFC receipts through other sources of revenue or financing. The significant drop in passenger traffic due to COVID–19 has only further affected airports' financial health. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight regarding airport financing and the FAA's administration of the AIP, including the distribution of supplemental AIP funds authorized in recent appropriations acts, and will explore legislative options for increasing financial investment to address airports' current and anticipated needs.

8. Airline Competition, Financial Position, and Customer Service. The aviation marketplace has gone through many changes, including a period of consolidation resulting in the four largest U.S. carriers representing more than two-thirds of the total U.S. domestic market.[34] The Office of the Secretary at the DOT is responsible for economic oversight of the airline industry, including ensuring that air carriers do not engage in unfair and deceptive practices and that certain business agreements among air carriers do not result in harmful effects. The Subcommittee will continue to examine opportunities to improve the airline industry's competitiveness, review recently established regulations to ensure the aviation system remains safe and accessible to the traveling public, and provide oversight of Congressionally mandated consumer protections for airline passengers. The Subcommittee will also review acts or events in air transportation that arise due to an individual's race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin.

9. U.S. Aerospace Workforce. The U.S. aerospace industry has identified projected workforce shortages and experienced difficulties in recruiting the next generation of aerospace workers, including pilots, flight attendants, maintenance technicians, aerospace engineers, and other aviation professions. The Subcommittee will examine whether these difficulties have been compounded by COVID–19. Language similar to the Promoting Aviation Regulations for Technical Training (PARTT) 147Act of 2019 was passed as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (P.L. 116–260) to modernize aviation maintenance and technician (AMT) schools and address workforce shortages within the AMT industry. To ensure the United States remains globally competitive, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of FAA implementation of the requirements in P.L. 116–260, monitor the levels and anticipated levels of employment in other aerospace sectors; and explore ways to encourage or facilitate the recruitment, development, maintenance, and diversification of the U.S. aerospace workforce, while maintaining or improving safety. The Subcommittee will also explore ways to address

[33] FAA, *Key Passenger Facility Charge Statistics as of December 31, 2020*, available at https://www.faa.gov/airports/pfc/monthly_reports/media/stats.pdf.

[34] DOT, Bureau of Transp. Statistics, *Revenue by Airline 2019*, https://www.bts.gov/airline-rankings-2019 (indicating the four largest U.S. carriers in 2019—Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, United Airlines, and Southwest Airlines—had a combined 80.7 percent of total operating revenue of all reporting U.S. carriers).

inequities on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin in the composition of the U.S. aerospace workforce and barriers to entry.

10. 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 U.S. commercial space transportation. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the status and future of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry and the role of the FAA in providing safety oversight of the industry. The Subcommittee will also oversee the effectiveness of the FAA's Streamlined Launch and Reentry License Requirements final rule (85 Fed. Reg. 79566) issued in October 2020 to streamline and reform the agency's commercial space launch and reentry licensing regime.

11. Evaluation of FAA's NextGen Air Traffic Control Modernization. The FAA continues its work to modernize the air traffic control system through implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). NextGen is intended to increase airspace system efficiency; reduce noise exposure, pollution, and fuel burn; improve safety; increase accuracy and reliability in equipment and software used for navigation and air traffic control; and maintain the capacity for future technology enhancements. As the FAA continues to implement NextGen, the Subcommittee will continue to closely monitor and examine the FAA's efforts to implement NextGen, including the effects the COVID–19 pandemic has had on the agency's implementation, and the agency's efforts to establish performance metrics, meet deadlines, stay within budget, ensure an appropriate level of aircraft equipage with NextGen avionics, and pursue solutions to identified challenges.

12. Cybersecurity of the National Airspace System. The FAA's modernization of air traffic control technology and the aerospace industry's increasing use of innovative new technologies in its aircraft fleet necessitates robust cybersecurity efforts. Ensuring the cybersecurity of aerospace systems is of critical importance to the safety of aircraft and air traffic control. The FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 directed the FAA to implement a strategic framework for cybersecurity and the FAARA requires the FAA to review and assess, and update as appropriate, this strategic framework. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the cybersecurity activities of the FAA and other relevant stakeholders to ensure appropriate steps are being taken to address cyber-threats, to confirm the FAA's strategic framework for cybersecurity is effectively employed, and to ensure that the supremacy of the FAA in aerospace safety matters is maintained.

13. Oversight of Implementation and Deployment of Counter-UAS Authority. Congress authorized the Department of Defense and Department of Energy to operate counter-UAS equipment to detect, interdict, or neutralize UAS that pose a threat to the safety or security of certain facilities and assets in the United States in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017 (P.L. 114–328) and the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2018 (P.L. 115–91).

The FAARA granted similar authority to the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and United States Coast Guard to deploy counter-UAS equipment to protect critical assets and facilities within the agencies' purview. The introduction of systems originally designed for use in combat areas into the National Airspace System poses unique safety challenges, particularly in complex or crowded airspace. 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 U.S. airspace and to ensure the safety of civil aviation.

14. National Transportation Safety Board. The FAARA also authorizes National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) programs through fiscal year 2022. The bill includes, among other things, provisions aimed at improving transparency of the NTSB's investigations and enhancing public understanding of the Board's safety recommendations. The Subcommittee will closely oversee NTSB's efforts to implement the provisions of the FAARA and evaluate whether the changes to NTSB's programs and practices achieve their intended objectives.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

1. Maritime Transportation Programs Budget Oversight. The Subcommittee has broad authority over the programs and activities of the U.S. Coast Guard codified under titles 14 and 46, United States Code, and other statutes. The Elijah E. Cummings Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020 (P.L. 116–283; Division G) authorized discretionary Coast Guard funding levels of $11.1 billion in fiscal year 2020 and $11.9 billion in fiscal year 2021. For fiscal year 2019, specific funding lines for the Coast Guard Reserve and the Coast Guard's environmental compliance and restoration activities were consolidated within the overall operations account to conform to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) budget requirements. Section 8515 of the Elijah E. Cummings Act made additional modifications to title 14 to complete all remaining conforming changes to meet DHS requirements.

The Subcommittee also has jurisdiction over the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) and the non-defense programs of the Maritime Administration (MARAD). The FMC is responsible for the economic regulation of U.S. waterborne foreign commerce and unfair shipping practices. The MARAD oversees several programs related to defense readiness, as well as programs designed to promote and develop the domestic merchant marine and shipbuilding industries. Title LVXXXVI of Division G of P.L. 116–283 authorized funding for the FMC of $29.01 million in fiscal year 2020 and $29.6 million in fiscal year 2021. Subtitle A of title XXXV of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (P.L. 116–283) authorized $1.89 billion for fiscal year 2021 to support MARAD's activities, including $750 million for the Port and Intermodal Improvement Program, $494 million for the Maritime Security Program, $20 million for the Small Shipyard Grant Program, $9.775 million for the Marine Highway program, and $388 million for the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel

Program to recapitalize the fleet of state maritime academy training vessels.

In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will hold hearings on the President's fiscal year 2022 and 2023 budget requests and consider legislation to authorize the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The Subcommittee will continue its efforts to explore options to improve Coast Guard operations; to address the estimated $2.6 billion backlog in Coast Guard unmet needs for shoreside infrastructure and deferred maintenance; to instill and ensure a culture of respect and inclusion throughout the entire Coast Guard active duty, reserves, and civilian workforce; and to make improvements to laws governing maritime transportation and the U.S. merchant marine. The Subcommittee also will focus on the Coast Guard's implementation of new measures contained in the Coast Guard Academy Improvement Act (Subtitle E of Title LVXXXV of the Elijah E. Cummings Act) to prevent discrimination and harassment of any individuals based upon their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, or geographic origin at the Coast Guard Academy. In order to ensure the Coast Guard can continue to address its ever expanding suite of missions, the Subcommittee will also continue to examine the needed mix of Coast Guard surface asset; the required recapitalization of Coast Guard rotary wing assets; the increased use of unmanned systems; and the recapitalization of obsolete stoved piped Coast Guard information technology systems.

In addition, the Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of the functions and activities of the FMC and MARAD, especially the FMC's ongoing implementation of amendments to the Shipping Act contained in title VII of P.L. 115–282, MARAD's activities to promote job growth in the maritime and shipbuilding sectors and expansion in the U.S. flag fleet, and the resilience, efficiency and needs of the U.S. maritime transportation system during the COVID–19 pandemic.

2. Coast Guard Acquisitions. The Coast Guard is currently undergoing a major recapitalization of its oceangoing assets. The recapitalization will replace or modernize more than 90 ships and 200 aircraft used to carry out the Service's missions beyond near coastal waters. It will also replace antiquated command, control, and communications systems, although that portion of the program has been scaled back in lieu of funding constraints. The program continues to face serious challenges related to schedule and budget, although recent appropriations bills have provided additional resources, including new funding for initiation of the Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) Program and to support construction of Polar Security Cutters to recapitalize the Service's aged heavy icebreaker fleet. The longer these acquisition programs drag out, the longer existing legacy assets—especially the Medium Endurance Cutter fleet—must remain in service. In many cases, these assets are at or well beyond their projected service lives and are increasingly more difficult and expensive to maintain. The Subcommittee is concerned that delays in new asset acquisition, competing demands from shore side infrastructure and other Coast Guard cutter capital needs—including ever-increasing costs to maintain less reliable legacy assets—threaten the ability of the Service to complete this re-

capitalization and avoid serious gaps in readiness and operational capability. The Subcommittee will examine whether existing production lines should continue to meet the Service's expanding suite of missions, particularly those related to the national defense missions.

In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue to review closely the ongoing programs of record, especially the status of the $12.1 billion OPC acquisition—the most expensive segment. Specifically, the OPC program was granted extraordinary financial relief under P.L. 84–805 to modify the contract awarded to Eastern Shipbuilding Group (ESG). The Subcommittee intends to examine the revised delivery schedule for the lead ship and other financial oversight controls imposed on ESG. In addition, the Subcommittee will consider a 2020 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report regarding recommended changes to the OPC program to ensure that the men and women of the Coast Guard have the best equipment possible at the best value for the taxpayer.

The Subcommittee will examine how to meet the Coast Guard's operating needs for which no program of record yet exists. Also, the Subcommittee expects to review a 2020 fleet mix analysis of Coast Guard rotary aircraft needs completed by the RAND Corporation's Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center, to evaluate the status of the Coast Guard's Waterway Commerce Cutter recapitalization program and service life extension program for the Coast Guard's fleet of 49 foot motor life boats, and to look at the recapitalization of Coast Guard IT programs.

3. Arctic. The U.S. Arctic, as defined in statute, include the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) north of the Aleutian Islands. Three Arctic seas—the Bering, the Chukchi, and the Beaufort—border Alaska. Historically, these seas have been frozen and nonnavigable for more than half the year. The U.S. Arctic contains 568,000 square nautical miles for which less than half is considered "navigationally significant." Vessel traffic between the North Atlantic and the North Pacific through the Arctic requires transit through the Bering Strait, located along the U.S. boundary with Russia. The Coast Guard has been gathering data on vessel transits in the U.S. Arctic since 2008, and the Service uses the annual transit count as a general indicator of Arctic vessel activity. In the past decade, the overall trend is towards increasing maritime activity. While all areas of the Arctic are seeing increased vessel activity, the Northern Sea Route along the Eurasian Arctic coast continues to account for the bulk of Arctic shipping activity. Northern Sea Route traffic must pass through the Bering Strait adjacent to Alaska.

While U.S. agencies have a physical presence and substantial interests in the Arctic, the Coast Guard's unique experience in both Polar regions, and the Service's material assets and installations located throughout Alaska, establish it as a key maritime operational presence in the U.S. Arctic. However, with no assets permanently stationed in the Arctic, the Service must operate seasonally, usually by employing mobile command and control platforms and establishing seasonal air and communications capabilities by deploying and/or leasing assets and facilities. In 2018, the RAND Corporation's Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center viewed

this strategy as inadequate. The RAND Center identified four major gaps in Coast Guard Arctic Capabilities, including unreliable communications, lack of adequate maritime domain awareness, scarcity of available assets and supporting infrastructure, and institutional difficulty to identify, articulate, and close capability gaps. The GAO reported similar conclusions.

The Subcommittee remains concerned that the Coast Guard is ill-prepared to cope with current operational demands in the Arctic, let alone react quickly should operational activities in the region need to surge suddenly or if warming accelerates at a rate more rapid than climate model projections.

In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of maritime transportation related activities and challenges in the evolving Arctic maritime environment. In addition to the aforementioned oversight of heavy icebreaker recapitalization, the Subcommittee will focus on implementation of several new Arctic provisions contained in title LVXXXIV of the Elijah E. Cummings Act, most notably a report on Arctic search and rescue capabilities, and development of Coast Guard Arctic priorities. The Subcommittee will also investigate the status of the two U.S. polar icebreakers which remain operational (USCGC Polar Star and USCGC Healy), with particular interest in the status of replacement and repairs to one of Healy's propulsion systems stemming from an onboard fire in 2020.

4. Coast Guard Mission Balance/Performance. The Subcommittee continues to have concerns regarding the Coast Guard's ability to carry out its traditional transportation-related missions, including marine safety; search and rescue; aids to navigation; living marine resources; marine environmental protection; and ice operations. Since September 11, 2001, significant additional resources have gone to the Service's homeland security activities, including ports, waterways, and coastal security; drug interdiction; migrant interdiction; defense readiness; and other law enforcement. Traditional transportation related missions, though they have grown as maritime commerce has grown, have not fared as well and have been under-resourced. Resources and man-hours devoted to these missions remain well below pre-September 11, 2001, funding levels, and in the case of marine safety, lack of funding has substantially reduced the Service's core competence. If anything, growing geopolitical tension in South Asia and the China Sea, and numerous calls for the Coast Guard to play a more active role in the region, might further exacerbate the current imbalance, if not make it far worse.

In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of Coast Guard mission balance to ensure the Service qualitatively and quantitatively reviews its many missions; establishes and justifies performance measures; identifies and responds to exigencies that divert resources among missions; and plans how best to allocate limited resources appropriately among its many missions. Specifically, the Subcommittee will probe opportunities to increase funding for Coast Guard operations, especially operations in support of Department of Defense initiatives.

5. 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 U.S. jurisdiction. The successful gathering, interpretation, and distribution of MDA data is critical to promote and ensure maritime safety, homeland security, and the efficiency and reliability of the U.S. maritime supply chain. In the current COVID–19 pandemic, MDA is even more vital in identifying, tracing, and preventing community spread of the virus via ocean transportation networks.

The Coast Guard relies on several new and developing technologies to acquire, manage, and disseminate interoperable MDA information. The Subcommittee remains concerned with the Coast Guard's apparent inability to assess, or disinterest in, new technologies, such as unmanned autonomous aerial and underwater vehicles, to acquire MDA information in a more cost-effective manner with greater accuracy and efficiency. Building on progress made during the 115th Congress when the Subcommittee successfully passed legislation to establish a Coast Guard Blue Technology Center of Expertise (title III of P.L. 115–265), the Subcommittee will continue to track efforts by the Coast Guard to use this new Center to assess and test the range and diversity of Blue Technologies and their potential to enhance Coast Guard mission readiness, operational performance, and regulation of such technologies.

In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the Service's ongoing efforts to assess, develop, and implement new MDA technologies, including the Service's progress in implementing the two MDA initiatives passed by the 115th Congress. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight to ensure that Coast Guard operations utilize the best available MDA information, and that MDA data are gathered in a timely, reliable manner, to provide a high return on investment for the taxpayer and maritime stakeholders. Additionally, now that the National Academy of Sciences has completed its congressionally-directed assessment of available unmanned, autonomous, or remotely controlled maritime domain awareness technologies (referred to as UsX), for use by the Coast Guard (P.L. 115–282; section 812), the Subcommittee will investigate promising UsX systems that could be incorporated into Coast Guard operations.

6. Coast Guard Prevention and Response Activities. The Coast Guard plays major roles in response to oil spills and natural disasters such as hurricanes and flood events. The Service was the federal On-Scene Coordinator and National Incident Commander for the 2010 DEEPWATER HORIZON spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The Coast Guard was a first responder to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which devastated New Orleans and the Mississippi River Delta in 2005, and in 2016, the Coast Guard responded to severe flood events in Louisiana and North Carolina. More recently, in 2017 the Coast Guard responded to a series of three devastating hurricanes (Harvey, Irma, and Maria) that ravaged portions of the Southeast United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and according to the National Weather Service, in 2020 there were no less than seven severe cyclonic storms impacting the Southeast United States at a cost of $1 billion, or more. Clearly, this Coast Guard mission responsibility will continue to strain existing operating budgets and response assets.

In addition to its emergency response obligations, the Coast Guard enforces domestically the implementation of the National Invasive Species Act, and internationally, U.S. compliance with a convention to prevent vessels from dumping invasive species inadvertently into U.S. waters through the discharge of ballast water. Due to a 2008 federal court decision, discharge of ballast water and other "discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels'" such as bilge water, deck wash, and air conditioning condensate, are now regulated under the Clean Water Act (CWA) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Title IX of P.L. 115–282 (the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act or VIDA) amended the CWA to establish a new comprehensive authority to allow both the EPA and the Coast Guard to regulate vessel discharges, finally providing a uniform national standard for ballast water discharges in U.S. waters, including the Great Lakes.

In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight on the Coast Guard's crisis prevention and response capabilities. Oil spills, natural disasters, and mass migration events each can over-extend the Coast Guard's prevention and response capabilities. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight on Coast Guard prevention and response programs under the *Oil Pollution Act* (Chapter 40, title 33, United States Code), including its existing regulations authorizing the use of Alternative Planning Criteria and adequacy and availability of oil spill response or marine firefighting assets identified in required vessel response plans. The Subcommittee also will work with the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee to conduct oversight of the EPA's and the Coast Guard's implementation of the VIDA authority. Moreover, the Subcommittee will work to determine if existing response vessel requirements included in vessel response plans are sufficient to meet all contingencies, or whether there is a need for further revisions to tighten requirements to protect the marine environment or whether alternatives which include additional prevention measures are required in areas where the size and low population density make it unrealistic to meet National Planning Criteria.

7. Marine Highways. Marine Highways, (also referred to as "short sea shipping") is the waterborne movement of commercial freight between coastal and river ports which does not involve a sans ocean movement. At present, the most highly developed water freight transportation systems in the U.S. operate on the Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, and along the international St. Lawrence Seaway, most often carrying agricultural products and other raw bulk materials. However, the MARAD has found these routes are under-utilized and carry approximately 13 percent of total freight tonnage in the U.S. By comparison, nearly 70 percent of freight tonnage transported in the U.S. travels across roadways. To promote short sea shipping in the U.S., Congress established the Marine Highway Program under section 1121 of the *Energy Independence and Security Act* (P.L. 110–140) and is now codified as Chapter 556 of title 46, United States Code.

The Subcommittee continues to recognize that 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 in the 117th Congress will examine potential options for addressing factors inhibiting the cost-competitiveness and expanded use of marine highways in the United States. Further, the Subcommittee will evaluate how marine highways could stimulate job creation for maritime workers, both those who work on vessels and on the waterfront, reduce overall air emissions, and stimulate growth in the U.S. coastwise shipbuilding market.

8. Coast Guard Marine Safety Activities. Stemming from the tragic sinking of the U.S. flag commercial vessel El Faro on October 15, 2015, in the 115th Congress, the Subcommittee was successful in enacting the Hamm Alert Maritime Safety Act of 2018 (P.L. 115–265; title II). This legislation made several important maritime safety improvements to rebuild the Coast Guard's marine safety proficiencies and policy framework. Moreover, it included a new requirement to guarantee a more transparent and accountable vessel inspection and survey process, especially the Coast Guard's oversight of 3rd party inspectors, such as classification societies, that participate under the Coast Guard's Alternate Compliance Program (ACP). Since passage of that marine safety legislation, subsequent high profile marine casualties, including the 2018 sinking of the *Stretch Duck 7*, a 33′ DUKW ("duck boat") amphibious small passenger vessel in Branson, MO, the 2019 tragic fire and sinking of a 77' commercial dive vessel, M/V Conception, off of Santa Cruz Island, CA, and the capsizing and total loss of the 656' Ro-Ro cargo vessel, M/V Golden Ray, off of Brunswick, GA, have occurred. None of the Coast Guard's Marine Boards of Investigation established for these casualties has completed their work and filed recommendations for corrective actions.

During the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the Coast Guard to determine the progress made in implementing requirements under the *Hamm Alert Act*. Of particular concern, the Subcommittee will assess the Coast Guard's oversight of recognized organizations operating on behalf of the Coast Guard under the ACP to determine if additional changes are required to ensure accountability and transparency, and the Coast Guard's delegation and oversight of this vital marine safety function. Moreover, when the individual Marine Boards of Investigation referenced above complete their work, the Subcommittee intends to review their recommendations, especially those for improving small passenger vessel safety, to determine if new small passenger vessel safety requirements enacted in section 8441 of the *Elijah E. Cummings Act* need further strengthening.

9. National Maritime Strategy. Section 603 of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (P.L. 114–120) directed the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, to develop and transmit to Congress a National Maritime Strategy (Strategy) no later than 60 days after the date of enactment. The law directed this comprehensive strategy to include recommendations to increase the competitiveness and use of U.S.-flag vessels in the U.S. foreign trade; enhance shipbuilding; ensure federal agency compliance with cargo preference requirements; and increase the use of marine highways in the United States. After almost two years of delay, on March 4, 2020, the Secretary of Transportation submitted a report entitled,

"Goals and Objectives for a Stronger Maritime Nation: A Report to Congress". This report, while generally helpful in identifying four goals and thirty-nine objectives, fell far short of the intent of the Subcommittee in providing the granular details for a comprehensive strategy to rebuild and reinvigorate the U.S. maritime industry.

The new administration has publicly expressed its support for the Jones Act, and the Subcommittee in the 117th Congress will continue its oversight of the MARAD and other jurisdictions within the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (established under 46 U.S.C. chapter 555), to ascertain the status of the new administration's interest in developing a National Maritime Strategy that fulfills congressional intent. In addition, the Subcommittee will seek to work with MARAD to identify new opportunities to reutilize existing maritime assistance authorities (e.g., Cargo Preference, Title XI Maritime Loan Guarantees, Capital Construction Funds, etc.) and to review MARAD's progress in implementing its competitive grant programs for port infrastructure development and small shipyards. The Subcommittee also intends to examine MARAD's Maritime and Environmental Technical Assistance Program to determine how this program might be expanded to support more rapid development of industrial technologies and systems to support U.S. "green shipping" initiatives.

10. Status of the U.S. Merchant Marine. The Subcommittee remains concerned with the downward trend in the number of licensed and unlicensed U.S. mariners and a potential spike in attrition when many seafarers soon reach retirement age. The recruitment, training, and retention of credentialed U.S. mariners is necessary to not only maintain a U.S. flag presence on the high seas and in the U.S. domestic coastwise trade, but also to maintain a sufficient number of seafarers to operate vessels deployed for military sealift during times of national emergency. An ongoing investigation by the Coast Guard regarding private training institutions that are issuing fraudulent mariner credentials or ratings which has resulted in criminal indictments, has raised serious concerns regarding the adequacy of oversight of private maritime training facilities.

In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the issues involved in the current estimated deficit of 1,800 licensed merchant mariners and explore potential options to expand the U.S. maritime workforce. The Subcommittee will also look at credentialing requirements for U.S. seafarers, including recent Coast Guard enforcement of mariner credential requirements for non-maritime, industrial, and technical workers on vessels. Furthermore, the Subcommittee will strengthen viable pathways for separating service members to enter the commercial maritime workforce, either at sea, on the docks, or in the shipyards through the existing Military to Mariner initiative.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. 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 emer-

gencies of all types, including health crises and terrorism. In the 117th Congress, oversight will be necessary as states, tribes, and territories continue to be affected by, and recover from, prior disasters and the COVID–19 pandemic. In addition, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementation of reforms and additional authorities to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act, P.L. 93–288 as amended) under the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA, Division D of P.L. 115–254), 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).

The Subcommittee will continue its comprehensive review and assessment of how federal disaster assistance has evolved over the past several decades and its continued effectiveness. The purpose is to examine how to make the U.S. more resilient to future disasters in consideration of the changing climate, which agencies provide assistance and how that money is spent, what guidance or controls are in place for the effective use of assistance, and the appropriate role for federal, state, tribal, and local governments. The Subcommittee will also examine FEMA's roles and authorities related to earthquake hazards, flooding, and wildfires to ensure that the U.S. is prepared for the risks that it faces.

In the 116th Congress, full Committee Chair DeFazio, Subcommittee Chair Titus, full Committee Ranking Member Sam Graves, and then Subcommittee Ranking Member Katko urged FEMA and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to set aside the full six percent of Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) spending for pre-disaster mitigation allowed pursuant to Sec. 1234 of DRRA. The Subcommittee will continue to oversee FEMA's efforts to advance and enhance resilience and mitigation measures, including FEMA's re-branded pre-disaster mitigation program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC; section 203 of the Stafford Act). Through increased pre-disaster mitigation, the Subcommittee will also seek opportunities to address potential inequities in communities that may be disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change.

On March 13, 2020, President Trump formally tapped FEMA to join the federal response to COVID–19, invoking the Stafford Act and declaring a national emergency.[35] During the 116th Congress, the Subcommittee organized multiple briefings on FEMA's progress in acquiring and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) and in-demand medical equipment, such as ventilators, as well as working to advance statutory cost share relief for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments' efforts to mitigate and defeat the pandemic. In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue oversight of FEMA's COVID–19 response efforts and vaccine distribution support.

2. Border Security. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of Land Ports of Entry (LPOE) construction projects and reexamine public-private partnership programs created as part of the Fiscal

[35] Letter from President Donald J. Trump on "Emergency Determination Under the Stafford Act". March 13, 2020. Available at https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/letter-president-donald-j-trump-emergency-determination-stafford-act/.

Year 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 113–76), with the goal of finding additional ways in which private sector dollars can be leveraged.

3. Leasing. The General Services Administration (GSA) currently leases 183.5 million rentable square feet—about half of the GSA's total space inventory.[36] The cost of leasing space accounts for greater than half of the GSA's Federal Buildings Fund's (FBF) annual expenses. While commercial leasing may be advisable in many cases, the GSA is often driven to costly operating leases when ownership may be less costly to the taxpayer. In the next few years, more than 50 percent of the GSA's leased space will expire, creating an opportunity to significantly reduce leasing costs of the federal government, that would hopefully be passed on as savings to the taxpayer. The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) interpretation of its budget scorekeeping rules are key drivers of "own versus lease" asset decision-making. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of GSA leasing and how it manages the replacement of expiring leases with quantifiable value for the taxpayer.

4. Real Property Management. The management of federal real property has been on the GAO's "High Risk" list since 2003 due to several mismanagement issues, including the overreliance on costly leasing to meet long-term space needs and underused or vacant space.[37] With nearly half of the GSA's assets over 50 years old, the agency 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 catastrophic consequences for tenant agency missions and taxpayer costs. The Subcommittee will examine how GSA manages its maintenance portfolio and whether GSA is sufficiently prioritizing maintenance.

During the 116th Congress the Subcommittee held a hearing on the efficiency and sustainability of GSA's public buildings. In the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will examine the extent to which GSA's processes incorporate real estate industry guiding principles and enable the agency to ensure sustainability in the design, construction, and operation of its buildings portfolio as well as potential actions GSA can take to improve building performance and reduce energy consumption.

The Subcommittee will continue oversight of the Public Buildings Reform Board created by the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (FASTA) which is charged with developing recommendations for the sale or redevelopment of high value real estate assets. The Subcommittee will examine the potential impact of COVID–19 on the level of unneeded properties as well as examine whether improvements are needed for the Federal Real Property Profile database codified in FASTA to help facilitate better management of real estate.

The COVID–19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the way federal workers utilize real property. The Subcommittee will exam-

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[36] *See* U.S. General Services Administration Fiscal Year 2021 Congressional Budget Justifications, available at https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/GSA_FY2021_Congressional_Justification.pdf.

[37] U.S. Government Accountability Office, Report to Congressional Committees, *High Risk Series: Substantial Efforts Needed on Others* (GAO–19–157SP, March 2019), available at GAO–19–157SP, HIGH-RISK SERIES: Substantial Efforts Needed to Achieve Greater Progress on High-Risk Areas.

ine how the pandemic has affected the amount and type of space GSA tenants need and will oversee the GSA's work with federal tenants to understand the lasting changes the pandemic will have on federal workspace and what that means for future project funding.

5. Capital Investment and Leasing Program (CILP). As part of the Committee's annual work to review and authorize the 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. The Subcommittee will work with the GSA and tenant agencies to reduce the space footprint and associated costs as appropriate.

6. 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 U.S. Courts Design Guide, including courtroom sharing by judges and staying below or within budget.

7. Federal Protective Service (FPS). The Subcommittee will continue to monitor and review the policies, procedures, and requirements of security at public buildings. The Subcommittee will also continue to monitor the use of the FPS's law enforcement authority, including delegations of such authority to other agencies, to ensure resources are appropriately focused on securing federal buildings. The Subcommittee will also examine impacts of reduction of federal office space on FPS and building security funding—derived largely from fees collected from GSA's tenant agencies.

8. Architect of the Capitol (AOC). The Subcommittee will continue ongoing oversight of projects being undertaken by the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) pursuant to the Master Plan for the Capitol Complex, including renovation of the Cannon House Office building and the Rayburn House Office Building Garage Rehabilitation. The Subcommittee will also examine the AOC's assessment of damage inflicted during the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, as well as logistical support provided by the AOC for the 2021 inauguration, and the discussion of possible enhancements to physical security around the Capitol Complex.

9. Smithsonian Institution Facilities. During the 116th Congress, the Subcommittee invited Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch III to testify on operational challenges and space needs at the Smithsonian Institution. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of projects undertaken by the Smithsonian Institution, including the renovation, 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, including the National Women's History Museum and National Museum of the American Latino. The Subcommittee will continue to oversee cost-effective solutions to address the Smithsonian's space needs such as leveraging private dollars and disposal or effective reuse of underused assets.

10. John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As a part of its ongoing oversight of the Kennedy Center's programs, the Sub-

committee will regularly review the construction, alteration, and modernization activities of the Kennedy Center that are conducted using federal funds to ensure appropriate management and cost savings. Given the cancellation of currently a year's worth of in-person performances at the Kennedy Center, the Subcommittee will continue review of the disaster relief funds appropriated and challenges associated with re-opening the facility to the public in the wake of the COVID–19 pandemic, as well as exploring options the Center may have to further expand the reach of virtual performances and educational offerings.

11. Economic Development. In the 116th Congress, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the importance of reauthorizing the Economic Development Administration (EDA), its programs and activities supporting economic growth in distressed communities, and the role EDA plays in disaster recovery. For the 117th Congress, the Subcommittee will continue to work to reauthorize the EDA and enhance additional programs to ensure these efforts are targeted, effective, and remain focused on their core missions. In addition, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of the disaster relief funds appropriated for EDA programs to assist communities impacted by natural disasters and the COVID–19 pandemic. In addition, the Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of regional economic development agencies such as the Appalachian Regional Commission.

12. Old Post Office Building. In the 116th Congress, the Subcommittee held two hearings on the GSA's management of the Old Post Office Building lease agreement with the Trump Organization, focusing on conflicts of interest and an alleged violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Sec. 9, Clause 8). The Subcommittee will continue to engage with the GSA regarding how the agency plans to address potential future conflicts of interest associated with other federal property.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

1. Surface Transportation Investment and Program Authorizations. Bringing the nation's crumbling transportation infrastructure to a state of good repair, upgrading bridges, improving road quality, addressing road user safety, and ensuring access to active transportation and reliable transit options will require substantial investment. According to the latest Department of Transportation (DOT) Conditions and Performance report, we need to invest $2.7 trillion at all levels of government over the next 20 years to bring roads, bridges, and transit systems to a state of good repair and to expand capacity. At the same time, transportation investments made today must meet the needs of the future while considering the impacts on all impacted communities. This includes utilizing new technologies and incorporating innovative mobility solutions to move people and goods more safely, efficiently, and equitably. This also includes reducing carbon pollution and building stronger, more resilient, and adaptive transportation networks. The Subcommittee will probe surface transportation investment needs and policy as part of its work on a long-term reauthorization bill. The authorization for highway, transit, and safety programs expires on September 30, 2021.

2. Surface Transportation Funding. Federal highway, highway safety, and public transportation programs are funded out of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), which is funded by federal excise taxes levied on motor fuels and on various highway-related products such as tires and heavy trucks. Revenues from these taxes may be used only for eligible transportation projects and activities. By fiscal year (FY) 2022, revenues credited to the Highway Account and Mass Transit Account of the HTF will be insufficient to meet its obligations, according to projections by the Congressional Budget Office. Congress has not raised these federal excise taxes in 28 years, and improved vehicle fuel efficiency and the advent of electric vehicles have further eroded federal revenues. Since FY 2008, this combination has led to a gap in the HTF between revenues and expenditures. As a result, Congress has transferred approximately $157 billion from the general fund of the Treasury and other sources into the HTF to maintain the solvency of the HTF. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the status and solvency of the HTF, its ability to fund currently authorized programs and to meet future surface transportation investment needs while also examining other future funding options.

3. Addressing the Threat of Climate Change. Light-duty vehicles and medium- and heavy-duty trucks account for 82 percent of the U.S. transportation sector's greenhouse gas emissions and the transportation sector generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions. The impacts of climate change can pose risks to our infrastructure, the economy, and communities nationwide. At the same time, transitioning to a more sustainable surface transportation system may bring the opportunity for new U.S. job bases and a more competitive position in the global economy. The Subcommittee will examine means of reducing the impacts of carbon pollution from the transportation sector.

4. Ensuring a Qualified Transportation Workforce. The Subcommittee will examine workforce trends in the transportation and construction industries, as well as evaluate policies to invest in human capital through worker training and other programs within its jurisdiction to prepare the next generation of transportation workers. As more automation occurs in transportation, the Subcommittee will also monitor the potential impact on workers that will be affected.

5. Motor Carrier Oversight. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor motor carrier safety issues including assessing the safety fitness of truck and bus companies, compliance with hours of service regulations, and considering options to improve safety of commercial motor vehicles. The Subcommittee will also examine issues related to or affecting commercial motor vehicle drivers including attracting and retaining qualified drivers, the impacts of congestion and detention time, supply chain accountability, and training requirements for new drivers entering the industry.

6. Improving the Safety of U.S. Roadways. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provide grants to states to help address highway safety challenges. This includes specific NHTSA programs to address high risk factors such as alcohol and drug impaired driving, pedestrian and bicycling fatalities, and distracted driving. The

Subcommittee will examine the performance of these programs, as well as their effect on enforcing transportation safety equitably, and consider changes to boost the effectiveness of federal dollars at reducing fatalities.

7. Effects of COVID–19 on Surface Transportation. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the effect of COVID–19 on the surface transportation network. This includes overseeing the impacts of the pandemic on state and territorial Departments of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, transit agencies, local governments, and tribal governments. The Subcommittee's oversight will include safety issues such as monitoring workplace protections for essential transportation workers and assessing states' ability to meet highway safety grant requirements. It will also include oversight into the ability of transportation providers to maintain reliable and efficient transportation options for essential workers and the general public. The Subcommittee will monitor actions by the federal agencies within its jurisdiction to ensure appropriate stewardship of relief funding and assistance for transportation providers to better deal with the effects of COVID–19.

8. Surface Transportation Innovation. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the use of federal dollars used for the research, development, and implementation of innovative technologies and solutions on the surface transportation system. The Subcommittee will probe the impact that the development and deployment of these innovative technologies have on safety, congestion, mobility, pollution, equity, and surface transportation workers and users. The Subcommittee will include in its work oversight of the proposed reallocation of the 5.9 gigahertz radio frequency band, and impacts to the safe, efficient operation of connected vehicles and intelligent transportation systems.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

1. Rail Infrastructure Investment and Financing. The nation's passenger rail network is in need of significant federal funding. Grants, loans, and tax benefits to Amtrak, other intercity passenger, and commuter rail systems are important to safely delivering passengers on time. Amtrak alone received $1.941 billion in fiscal year 2019 appropriations. Yet the needs to replace rail bridges and tunnels, some of them dating to the civil war, remain substantial. Amtrak's state of good of repair needs exceed $33 billion.[38] Commuter rail faces a state of good repair total backlog that exceeds $23.5 billion, according to the Department of Transportation's Performance and Conditions report. At the same time, proposals for high speed rail and technologies like hyperloop and magnetic levitation are seeking federal support for multi-billion-dollar projects. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor future rail investment needs and examine additional options to provide funding to support Amtrak, promote passenger rail expansion, and spur rail safety investments.

[38] 2019 Amtrak Five Year Infrastructure Asset Line Plan, available at https://www.amtrak.com/content/dam/projects/dotcom/english/public/documents/corporate/businessplanning/Amtrak-Infrastructure-Asset-Line-Plan-FY20-24.pdf.

The Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) program provides long-term, low-interest loans and loan guarantees for railroad-related improvements. While this program is authorized to provide up to $35 billion in lending, the DOT has executed only about $6.29 billion in loans; leaving $30.2 billion currently available in credit authority.[39] The Subcommittee will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the RRIF loan program, assess the credit authority balance, and examine ways to increase accessibility to RRIF loans while limiting risk to the taxpayer.

In addition to Amtrak's operating grants, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) administers competitive grants that support rail investments. The Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant funds projects that improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of freight and passenger rail transportation systems; the Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair grant funds capital projects to replace or rehabilitate qualified railroad assets to reduce the state of good repair backlog; and the Restoration and Enhancement program provides operating assistance grants to initiate, restore, or enhance intercity rail passenger transportation. The Subcommittee will continue to monitor FRA's grant performance.

2. Amtrak. The National Railroad Passenger Corporation, known as "Amtrak," was created by the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970, and its operations were significantly restructured by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA 2008; P.L. 110–432). 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 213 of PRIIA 2008), long-distance routes operated directly by Amtrak, and "state-supported" routes less than 750 miles (partially financed by states with costs allocated in accordance with Section 209 of PRIIA 2008). Because Amtrak relies on federal funding, the Subcommittee exercises extensive oversight of the railroad to ensure that it is serving passengers reliably in accordance with statutory mandates. Specific areas of concern include food and beverage service, station agent staffing levels, issues with contracting out work, ADA compliance, and policing.

In 2020, the COVID–19 pandemic severely disrupted Amtrak's operations and reduced its ridership and revenue. Amtrak experienced challenges in maintaining service levels across all three business lines, protecting the safety and livelihood of its workers, and continuing infrastructure investments. The Subcommittee expects to continue oversight of Amtrak's recovery, with a particular focus on protecting the health and safety of Amtrak workers, monitoring Amtrak's compliance with statutory and contractual labor provisions, and tracking Amtrak's recovery plans and use of government appropriations.

3. Rail Safety. The FRA has broad statutory authority over rail safety, administered through its Office of Rail Safety. FRA also has uncompleted rail safety mandates from the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA; P.L. 110–432), and the Passenger Rail Re-

[39] https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/financing/rrif/railroad-rehabilitation-improvement-financing-rrif.

form and Investment Act of 2015 (PRRIA 2015), enacted as title XI of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Infrastructure (FAST) Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–94).

RSIA's outstanding mandates include: regulations requiring railroad carriers to providing emergency escape breathing apparatuses for crewmembers in locomotive cabs on certain freight trains; regulations to improve the establishment of pilot programs to analyze practices that may be used to reduce fatigue for certain railroad workers; and finalization of requirements that railroad carriers develop and implement fatigue risk management programs. PRRIA 2015 included an FRA rulemaking requiring the installation of inward and outward facing locomotive image recording devices on all lead locomotives in passenger trains—FRA has also yet to complete this rulemaking.

Beyond the specific outstanding statutory mandates, the Subcommittee monitors FRA's safety programs and industry trends for potential safety improvements. Recently, the Subcommittee identified areas of potential concern that warrant further review: industry-wide trends towards longer freight trains, precision scheduled railroading, and the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) rail accident investigations.

Long Trains. Average freight train length is increasing, and anecdotal reports indicate that maximum train length—the longest trains that carriers run on their networks—has increased. In May 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report finding that freight train length has increased in recent years, according to all seven Class I railroads operating in the U.S. While data on train length is not publicly reported, GAO verified data provided by two Class I railroads and found that trains they operated have increased in length by an average of about 25 percent from 2008 through 2017. Potential impacts identified by GAO's May 2019 report include issues related to train makeup and handling; impacts to operating crews; and impacts to grade crossing safety in communities, such as delayed emergency response and effects on driver and pedestrian behavior. The Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight regarding the potential impacts that long freight trains may have across the rail network.

Precision Scheduled Railroading. Precision scheduled railroading (PSR) is a widely adopted freight railroad management framework that relies upon several concepts, including controlling costs and optimizing asset use to improve the efficiency of operations across the network. PSR challenges the view that more locomotives, cars, and crews allow for greater traffic volume, instead viewing more equipment as a contributor to congestion that slows down the system. As railroads have implemented PSR concepts, some railroads have closed rail yards, removed locomotives from their networks, and downsized their workforce. According to employment data from the Surface Transportation Board, the seven Class I railroads and Amtrak employment levels have been in a steady decline in the U.S. since 2015. In light of these developments, the Subcommittee will continue to monitor safety and network sustainability.

National Transportation Safety Board Rail Investigations. The NTSB is required to investigate a railroad accident in which there is a fatality or substantial property damage, or that involves a pas-

senger train (in addition to its authorities related to other transportation modes) (49 U.S.C. 1131(a)). Such investigations are critical to establishing the facts, circumstances, and cause or probable cause of railroad accidents. The NTSB's 2019 annual investigation report identified a large number of railroad accidents that it was statutorily required to investigate but did not pursue, mostly using "limited resources'" as an explanation.[40] The Subcommittee will monitor whether NTSB has sufficient resources to conduct NTSB rail investigations.

4. Surface Transportation Board. The Surface Transportation Board (STB) enforces the "common carrier" obligation, under which railroads must provide "transportation or service on reasonable request" (49 U.S.C. 11101(a)). A railroad may not refuse to provide service merely because to do so would be inconvenient or unprofitable. Railroad shippers have raised concerns regarding the quality and level of service provided by railroads since the adoption of PSR. The STB sought information from stakeholders about this issue, including a May 2019 public hearing in Docket No. EP 754 during which railroad shippers stated that several Class I railroads had made changes to tariffs governing demurrage and accessorial charges or began enforcing longstanding tariffs on demurrage and accessorial charges without providing adequate prior notice, resulting in substantial costs to the shipper.[41] The Subcommittee will continue to conduct oversight of STB's efforts to ensure that railroads adhere to the common carrier obligation, particularly in relation to PSR.

In 2019, the STB solicited information on integrating cost-benefit analysis into STB's rulemaking process (Docket No. EP 752). To date, STB has not issued a final action on this issue. The Subcommittee will continue to track STB efforts to impose additional cost-benefit analysis requirements on its regulatory process.

Amtrak's right of preference to dispatching services on freight-owned lines is also within STB's jurisdiction (49 U.S.C 24308(c)). Under Section 24308(f) of chapter 49, United States Code, the STB has the authority to investigate substandard performance of Amtrak. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the STB, including substandard performance investigations and enforcement of Amtrak preference.

5. Pipeline Safety. The 116th Congress reauthorized the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) pipeline safety program through fiscal year 2023 in the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020 (PIPES Act; P.L. 116–260). The PIPES Act authorized increases to PHMSA's pipeline safety inspection and enforcement personnel; enabled PHMSA to offer key employees additional recruitment and retention bonuses; directed PHMSA to update its regulations on large-scale liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities; directed PHMSA to issue a final rule governing gas gathering lines; extended whistleblower protections for disclosure of pipeline safety concerns; directed companies to conduct leak detection and repair programs that protect the environment and pipeline safety; required PHMSA

[40] https://www.ntsb.gov/about/reports/Documents/2019-NTSB-ARC-Appendices.pdf.
[41] Oversight Hearing on Demurrage & Accessorial Charges, Docket No. EP 754.

to study and implement best available technologies or practices to prevent or mitigate the release of natural gas when making planned repairs or maintenance; provided PHMSA clear definitions of "coastal beaches" and "certain coastal waters"; created a new technology pilot program; mandated PHMSA issue regulations prescribing the applicability of pipeline safety requirements to certain idled pipelines; and required PHMSA to report to Congress on its progress on outstanding Congressional mandates, among other items. Title II of the bill ("The Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act") responded to the tragic gas distribution explosions in the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts, by directing improvements in distribution integrity management plans; mandating that emergency response plans address timely communications with first responders and the general public as highlighted by the NTSB; directing improvements to operations and maintenance manuals and pipeline safety management systems; and requiring that pipeline safety practices safeguard pressure controls. The Subcommittee will monitor PHMSA's overall work on pipeline safety and its implementation of PIPES 2020, as well as any outstanding mandates from the 2011 and 2016 pipeline safety bills.

6. Hazardous Materials Safety. The Hazardous Material Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2015, enacted as Title VII of the FAST Act (P.L. 114–94), reauthorized the hazardous materials safety program administered by PHMSA. The Act included provisions to enhance the safety of hazardous materials transportation, with a significant focus on the transportation of flammable liquids, including crude oil and ethanol, by rail. In 2019, PHMSA authorized the transportation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) by rail tank car by special permit. The special permit was followed by a July 2020 final rule permanently authorizing LNG by DOT 113 specification tank cars.[42] These actions were spurred in part by a Trump administration Executive Order which directed PHMSA to allow LNG via tank car on a delineated schedule.[43] The Subcommittee will review the integrity and independence of PHMSA's safety evaluation of LNG in rail tank cars. The Subcommittee will also continue oversight of the PHMSA's hazardous materials safety program.

7. PHMSA Safety Culture. On January 13, 2021, the DOT Office of Inspector General released a report that examined PHMSA's safety culture and found "opportunities to further enhance" the agency's safety culture.[44] Areas identified for improvement included: transparency, communication, employee perceptions of undue influence on agency decision-making, and retaliation concerns. The Subcommittee will monitor PHMSA's efforts to improve its safety culture.

8. Railroad Unemployment and Sickness Benefits. Eligible railroad employees are not covered by traditional state-administered unemployment programs; rather, qualifying railroad workers re-

[42] Hazardous Materials: Liquefied Natural Gas by Rail, 85 Fed. Reg. 44994, (July 24, 2020), available at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-07-24/pdf/2020-13604.pdf.

[43] Executive Order 13868, Promoting Energy Infrastructure and Economic Growth, (April 10, 2019), available at https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-04-15/pdf/2019-07656.pdf.

[44] DOT Office of Inspector General, PHMSA Safety Culture Efforts, (January 13, 2021), available at https://www.oig.dot.gov/sites/default/files/PHMSA%20Safety%20Culture%20Final%20Report%5E01.13.2021.pdf.

ceive unemployment and sickness benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA). Unlike benefits paid through state-operated unemployment compensation programs, RUIA unemployment and sickness benefits are subject to sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act. As a result, amounts payable to qualifying beneficiaries for both sickness and unemployment benefits are typically reduced each year by an arbitrary amount. While emergency unemployment relief under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES; P.L. 116–136) and the Continued Assistance to Rail Workers Act of 2020 (section 231 of P.L. 116–260) included provisions to temporarily avoid sequestration of essential benefits.

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) administers railroad unemployment and sickness benefits, as well as other railroad-specific employment benefit programs. The RRB meets its responsibilities of administering benefits to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries using legacy computer systems that were built 40 years ago and are increasingly difficult to maintain. As a result, RRB's essential functions are strained by these outdated systems, and the agency may require more resources to assure the system's continued effectiveness. The Subcommittee will evaluate potential measures to improve the RRB's effectiveness and avoid unfair sequestration of benefits.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Clean Water Act and Water Infrastructure Programs. The Clean Water Act (Act) was enacted in 1972 to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." The Act established the basic structure for regulating the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the U.S., provided the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with authority to establish nationwide standards for water pollution control programs that are implemented either by the EPA or approved states, funded the construction of wastewater treatment projects, and recognized the need to address nonpoint sources of pollution.

While the Act has made significant progress in addressing water quality impairments, continued improvement of water quality will likely require a combination of regulatory and non-regulatory approaches, as well as continued and increased investment in the implementation of water quality-related and water infrastructure programs. The Subcommittee's oversight will focus on issues related to implementation of the Act, both by federal agencies and approved states, as well as the need for additional water infrastructure investment.

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the implementation of various regulatory and non-regulatory programs under the Act, including how the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) implement and enforce these programs in conjunction with approved states, and trends on the effectiveness of the Act to improve local water quality. This includes oversight of issues involving the establishment and implementation of water quality standards and total maximum daily loads; the development and application of new or revised effluent limitations; compliance with and enforcement of the permitting programs of the Act under section 402 (point source

discharges of pollutants under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES permit program) and section 404 (permitting of discharges of dredged or fill materials)); and how the EPA and the Corps assert federal jurisdiction and make jurisdictional determinations under the Act. Oversight also will include an examination of federal and state policies and efforts to address the presence of (or reduce or eliminate the discharge of) nutrients and other contaminants in waters under the Act and other federal statutes, the impact of permitted and unpermitted releases on waters that may be used as a source of drinking water, as well as combined and sanitary sewer overflows, stormwater, certain agricultural activities, and nonpoint sources of pollution.

Continued investments in U.S. water-related infrastructure should: (1) prioritize the creation of American jobs and the utilization of American-made products; (2) support a healthy and sustainable economy and environment; and (3) protect public health and safety. In furtherance of these points, 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. The Subcommittee will also examine local affordability concerns, including whether and how existing clean water infrastructure financing authorities are utilized by different types of communities, and whether additional federal resources can and should be targeted to address local affordability concerns. The Subcommittee may also examine how existing and new clean water financing authorities serve to address the water infrastructure needs of small, rural, tribal, and low-income communities.

The Subcommittee will continue to review changes and proposed changes of previous administrations related to their interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of the Clean Water Act, and whether these changes are consistent with the Act, with judicial interpretations of the Act, and with the science of protecting and restoring the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.

Further, the Subcommittee will continue to review the EPA's implementation of integrated approaches to municipal stormwater and wastewater management, the utilization of green infrastructure and nature-based approaches to addressing local water quality concerns and infrastructure resiliency, and providing of technical, financial, and integrated planning assistance to disadvantaged communities for achieving and maintaining clean water compliance, as well as other local quality-of-life benefits. The Subcommittee may investigate whether non-regulatory approaches, such as water quality trading and other market-based approaches, and other innovative approaches undertaken by state and local governments, could result in improvements to the environment.

2. Army Corps of Engineers Water Resources Program. The Subcommittee will review efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the civil works program of the Corps, including the planning, authorization, and implementation of water resources development projects, and the Corps' efforts to improve the afford-

ability, resiliency, and sustainability of civil works projects in the short- and long-term. The Subcommittee will oversee changes made by the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 (P.L. 116–260) related to the financing and maintenance of harbor and inland waterways infrastructure and efforts towards full-utilization of annual harbor maintenance trust fund collections for the maintenance of large, medium, and small (emerging) harbors. The Subcommittee will also ensure the expeditious implementation of other provisions of WRDA 2020 (and other recently enacted WRDAs), including provisions related to use of natural- and nature-based approaches to addressing water resources development projects; implementation of the Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines (PR&G) for the development of future water resources development projects; provisions related to environmental justice and the affordability of future Corps' projects and studies; provisions related to quickly addressing emergency flooding events; and project specific provisions related to several comprehensive, watershed-level studies. The Subcommittee will also continue to oversee the backlog of authorized, but uninitiated Corps construction projects or deferred Corps maintenance projects, and asset management of projects in the Corps' operation and maintenance account, including existing and future levels of service.

Continued investments in U.S. water-related infrastructure should: (1) prioritize the creation of American jobs and the utilization of American-made products; (2) support a healthy and sustainable economy and environment; and (3) protect public health and safety. The Subcommittee will focus on getting projects built efficiently, cost effectively, and in a resilient and sustainable manner, delivering long-term project benefits to the public while also ensuring compliance with existing planning and environmental laws, and examining any disproportionate and adverse health or environmental effects on minority communities, low-income communities, and Indian Tribes.

The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the implementation of various regulatory programs under the Clean Water Act carried out by the Corps (in conjunction with EPA). In addition to the issues related to the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of the Clean Water Act within the Corps' responsibilities (also noted in the EPA-related section), the Subcommittee will continue to oversee the Corps' project-related and programmatic implementation of section 404 of the Act.

3. EPA—Superfund/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and Brownfields. The Superfund program under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA; P.L. 96–510) is aimed at cleaning up land in the U.S. that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and poses a risk to human health and/or the environment. The Brownfields program was authorized under the Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act (title II of P.L. 107–118, which amended CERCLA). The Brownfields program is aimed at enhancing state, local, and private-sector cleanups of properties, the redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a contaminant. Unaddressed brownfields and Superfund sites drive

down property values and tax revenues, pose potential human health concerns, 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.

The Subcommittee will also 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 reviewing implementation of the EPA's brownfields program, including changes to the program enacted in the BUILD Act (P.L. 115–141).

The Subcommittee also will review the role of the states in conducting and financing cleanups, and review the relationships among the states, the EPA, and other federal entities in implementing the Superfund and Brownfields programs.

In addition, the GAO in 2017 added to its high-risk list the U.S. Government's environmental liabilities for cleaning up areas where federal activities have contaminated the environment.[45] Various federal laws, including the Superfund law, agreements with States, and court decisions require the federal government to clean up environmental hazards at federal sites and facilities. According to GAO, in fiscal year 2016, the federal government's estimated environmental liability was $447 billion; however, this estimate does not reflect all of the future cleanup responsibilities federal agencies may face.[46] The Committee will conduct oversight of the federal government's actions to assess, quantify, and address its environmental liabilities as they relate to those federal agencies and laws under the jurisdiction of the Committee.

4. Tennessee Valley Authority. The Subcommittee will review the management of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and its programs, including its energy program, operations in the current marketplace, its long-term management of the TVA assets, properties, and byproducts of energy generation, and the impact of the TVA debt on its long-term goals. The Subcommittee may also examine issues related to its management of the TVA workforce and the TVA's responsibilities in meeting its employee pension and retirement obligations.

5. Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. The Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) is a wholly-owned government enterprise created in 1954 to construct, operate, and develop jointly with

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[45] U.S. Government Accountability Office, Report to Congressional Committees, *High Risk Series: Progress on Many High-Risk Areas, While Substantial Efforts Needed on Others* (GAO–17–317, February 2017), available at https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-317 and https://www.gao.gov/assets/690/682765.pdf.

[46] Id.

Canada a seaway between Montreal and Lake Erie. The SLSDC is operated under the Secretary of Transportation's general direction and supervision. The Subcommittee will review the overall operations of the SLSDC, the management of commercial traffic through the St. Lawrence Seaway in coordination with Canada's Saint Lawrence Seaway Authority, and the progress made by the SLSDC in meeting its 10-year asset renewal effort for U.S.-controlled assets of the Seaway.

6. Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the Department of Agriculture is authorized to give technical and financial help to local organizations planning and carrying out watershed projects for flood protection, agricultural water management, recreation, municipal and industrial water supply, and wildlife enhancement. The Subcommittee will review the overall operations of the NRCS as they relate to implementation of the Watershed and Flood Prevention programs and Watershed Rehabilitation Program, which are under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

7. International Boundary and Water Commission. The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) was established in 1889 with the responsibility for applying the boundary and water treaties between the U.S. and Mexico and settling any disputes over their application. The body is comprised of both U.S. and Mexican sections, headed by an Engineer-Commissioner who is appointed by the President. The U.S. 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 U.S. and Mexico.

The Subcommittee will review the overall operations of the IBWC, including its management and financing of several flood damage reduction and water- and wastewater-related infrastructure projects under the authority of the Commission.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

Pursuant to rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is responsible for determining whether laws and programs within its jurisdiction are being implemented according to congressional intent. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducts its oversight with the help of 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. It is expected that oversight of the issues outlined below will be a shared responsibility of both the full Committee and the subcommittees.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

Compensation and Pension Exams. To assess a veterans' claimed disability and determine the level of disability, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides a medical disability examination for Compensation and Pension (C&P) purposes. During a September 29, 2019, Subcommittee hearing, VBA reported that it requested about 35% of C&P exams from the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Office of Disability and Medical Assessment. Additionally, 65% of disability exams were performed by contract physicians. In previous Congresses, Congress expanded the law authorizing VA to use private contract vendors to provide C&P exams. This authority provided necessary relief to VHA, which struggled to provide timely exams under growing demands. During the September 2019 Subcommittee hearing, the Subcommittee assessed concerns raised in a 2018 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report outlining deficiencies in VA's oversight of the contract vendors, including lack of compliance with its own contract terms for quality and timeliness. VBA also testified that contracted disability exams were intended to supplement the VHA C&P program, not replace it.

At the onset of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic in March 2020, VA decided to suspend all in-person C&P exams. VHA stated all its C&P examiners would either be redirected to clinical care during the crisis, or would provide tele-C&P exams and medical opinions without a physical exam. VBA and VHA jointly decided VHA would not attempt to resume any C&P exams post-pandemic and would phase out all activity. The temporary shutdown of in-person C&P exams left a massive pending exam backlog of more than 350,000, as of January 2021, which has not improved since the summer of 2020 despite resumption of most face-to-face exams. VBA's Medical Disability Exam Office hopes to

have this backlog resolved by summer of 2021 but has not provided specific information or plans. Despite the lingering backlog, VBA insists it will shutter its VHA C&P program and migrate almost entirely to contract examiners, except where legally required. The Committee will closely monitor VBA's progress toward eliminating the backlog and addressing public concerns about VA's near-exclusive reliance on non-VA employees and physicians to conduct C&P exams.

COVID–19 Claims Backlog. Amidst the pandemic, VA's backlog of claims has grown significantly, creating delays in adjudication of benefits decisions. At the beginning of 2020, only 17.3% of claims waited longer than 125 days for a decision. At the beginning of 2021, 44.8% of claims wait more than 125 days for a decision. This increase is partly due to the delays caused by the temporary stoppage of in-person C&P exams, partly due to an influx of Blue Water Navy Vietnam claims that were all added into the inventory when the law became effective in January 2020, and partly due to delays in personnel records requests from the National Archive and Records Administration, which has experienced a large backlog as a result of pandemic-related shut downs. The Committee will continue to monitor VBA's growing backlog.

Deported Veterans. VBA typically processes roughly one-million disability claims a year, including claims from veterans living outside of the United States. While some veterans living abroad are expatriates, some were deported by the U.S. after serving in the armed forces. Regardless of deportation, veterans living abroad are eligible for the same disability compensation benefits as domestic veterans. A 2020 GAO report found that while VBA improved processing times and access for veterans living abroad, it recommended ways for VBA to improve efficiency and quality, as well as how to better compensate veterans for travel costs. The Committee intends to monitor VA's progress toward implementing these recommendations, as well as look for ways VBA can take a larger role in providing information and support for deported veterans.

VBA Training. The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) consistently finds that VA employees have had inadequate guidance and training, particularly claims developers and raters. For instance, a recent OIG report from December 2020 found that a sample of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) claims (unrelated to Military Sexual Trauma) determined between October 1, 2018, and September 30, 2019, showed that roughly 16% were inaccurate because the processors either did not verify an in-service stressor or did not obtain a C&P exam. Additional OIG reports showed improper claims processing for heart diseases and disability ratings and found that the quality review team failed to identify 35% of errors in reviewed decisions. VBA has poorly trained new raters through its Challenge Training, leaving raters unprepared for the job. Further, the VA Adjudication Manual is frequently updated without sufficient guidance to raters on implementation of new procedures or policies. The Committee will conduct oversight of the quality of current VBA training, implementation of new training, and consider potential improvements.

Toxic Exposure. For many decades, Congress has created and expanded coverage of benefits for veterans with illnesses as a result

of toxic exposure. Typically, the law establishes a presumption of service connection which allows a veteran or survivor to easily establish eligibility to service connection. As more veterans come forward publicly to speak about their exposures during deployment, federal and private entities have openly investigated various circumstances of deployment and toxic exposures. Reporting has not always drawn clear conclusions, and research has relied on variable data and methods. With a mounting body of evidence, sometimes anecdotal, suggesting illness and disease in veteran populations and subpopulations, the Committee will examine how to best provide benefits to these veterans. In particular, the Committee will look at ways to establish a consistent standard for assessment, consistent solicitation of research, and transparency in the decision-making process.

Military Sexual Trauma. Concerns raised nearly four years ago in a 2018 VA OIG report are unresolved. The OIG found that nearly half of claims for Military Sexual Trauma (MST) were not processed according to VBA policy, resulting in some erroneous denials. While VA sought to improve its training for VA raters responsible for developing claims for MST, and improved grant rates for MST claims, VA has not implemented all of the OIG's recommendations. Further, VA's rules currently provide relaxed evidentiary standards for veterans with PTSD resulting from MST. These same relaxed standards are not, however, available to veterans with any other mental health diagnosis resulting from MST. In addition, many parts of the MST claims process are unnecessarily retraumatizing to survivors. The process could benefit from bureaucratic changes and incorporation of best practices from VHA. The Committee will review implementation of methods to achieve equitable application of law amongst all veterans who have suffered MST.

National Cemeteries. The Committee will continue oversight of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), and the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), to include each organization's mission, operations, and inquiries into matters of unclaimed remains, access, and the methodology for determining veteran satisfaction. During the COVID–19 pandemic, NCA temporarily suspended interments at some national cemeteries. At cemeteries authorized to conduct burials, VA imposed crowd limitations and social distancing measures, including the suspension of military funeral honors. This caused some families to delay interment until normal operations resumed or opt for a ceremony without military honors. The Committee will continue to monitor NCA's progress conducting burial services during the pandemic. The Committee will also examine implementation of newly created burial benefits. At the end of the 116th Congress, H.R. 7105 was signed into law, greatly expanding veterans' burial benefits and eligibility for state veterans cemeteries. The Committee will oversee VA's implementation of eligibility and these benefit programs.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). The Committee continues to be concerned about the effectiveness of TAP which is intended to prepare servicemembers for their return

to civilian life. The Department of Defense (DoD), VA, and Department of Labor (DoL) jointly manage and provide content to the five-day course that focuses on skills needed to obtain gainful employment as well as an understanding of the benefits that are available to servicemembers from VA and DoL. The Committee will conduct oversight regarding the implementation of the recent changes made to TAP in the *Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act* and the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act*, and discuss how TAP can continue to be enhanced for transitioning servicemembers and their families.

Effectiveness and Outcomes of Education and Training Programs for Returning Veterans. The Post-9/11 GI bill, which is administered by VA, is the most generous education program for veterans since the original World War II GI Bill. Based on the length of service, the program funds up to full tuition and fees at public institutions of higher learning and about $24,476 per year at private institutions as well as a monthly living stipend based on the housing allowance paid to servicemembers at the rank of E–5 (with dependents) and the zip code of the location where the veteran is taking the majority of their classes. The Committee will continue oversight of the implementation of Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, and the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020. Further, as avenues for learning and training continue to evolve and modernize, the Committee will examine these new programs and the effectiveness of institutions of higher learning in providing quality education to servicemembers, veterans, and survivors. In addition, the Committee will examine outcome measures for users of the Post-9/11 GI Bill to ensure the effectiveness of taxpayers' investment in our veterans' education benefits and identify predatory institutions targeting servicemembers, veterans, and survivors. The Committee will continue to examine how the COVID–19 pandemic has impacted student's ability to successfully use their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Vocational Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program. VA's VR&E program provides education and training benefits for service-connected disabled veterans with barriers to employment. The program funds all costs related to long and short-term education and training as well as immediate job placement services. VR&E also manages the Independent Living (IL) program designed to enable the most severely disabled veterans to live as independently as possible and the Veteran Success on Campus program, which currently stations VR&E staff at institutions of higher learning. The Committee will monitor counselor caseloads and outcomes of VR&E programs 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 also conduct oversight over the management and overall effectiveness of the VR&E program as well as the recently introduced "eVA" IT system and how it will affect outcomes for veterans.

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, and often without requiring a down payment. This benefit is highly beneficial to veterans, servicemembers, and their families, and therefore, the Committee plans to continue oversight of the numerous improvements to the home loan program that have been enacted in previous Congresses. The Loan Guaranty Service also administers grants under the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program and the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) program. These grants, provided to eligible veterans with severe service-connected disabilities, provide the funding to adapt their home or construct a new home so they are able to live in a home that is not obstructive to them due to their disabilities. These grants are beneficial for the most severely injured veterans, and the Committee intends to evaluate the improvements made by the Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019 that increased overall grant amounts and the number of times a veteran can use the grant. Finally, the Committee intends to evaluate the impact COVID–19 had on homeowners and prospective home buyers.

Adaptive Sports Program. This VA-administered program provides grants to qualifying organizations who provide adaptive sports activities and opportunities at the local, regional, and national levels, including Paralympic activities, to disabled veterans and servicemembers. This program is authorized at $16 million. The authorization for the Adaptive Sports Program expires on December 31, 2022. The Committee will continue to examine how VA awards grants under this program and the organizations who are receiving funding, as well as how VA is working with local communities and the Paralympic community to promote and enhance adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and servicemembers.

Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). VA's OSDBU is responsible for promoting small business contracting in the Department. OSDBU is also responsible for overseeing the Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) that adjudicates the applications of veteran and service-disabled veteran owned small businesses wanting to participate in the Veterans First Contracting program. The Veterans First Contracting program is designed to increase the amount of procurement dollars spent with veteran and service-connected disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The Committee will review OSDBU's performance and coordinate with the Committee on Small Business for the planned transfer of CVE to the Small Business Administration in two years.

Licensing and Credentialing Issues. DoD spends billions of tax dollars to provide servicemembers with the skills needed to complete DoD's mission. Many of those skills translate well to civilian jobs. Unfortunately, not all states and institutions of higher learning recognize and give credit for military training to qualify for state-licensed positions and therefore, the training provided by DoD is essentially wasted for veterans looking for employment in the same field. The Committee will review efforts by states and other entities to provide appropriate licenses and credentials to qualified veterans whose military training make them eligible for such credentials or licenses, as well as the progress that states are

making to make certain licenses and credentials transferable across state lines.

Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP). HVRP is a program administered by DoL's Veteran Employment and Training Service (VETS), which provides grants to state and local workforce investment boards, local public agencies, and nonprofit organizations, and tribal governments, including faith-based and community organizations. The organizations that compete and receive these grants provide homeless veterans with occupational, classroom and on-the-job training as well as job search and placement assistance. The authorization for HVRP expires on September 30, 2022. The Committee will examine the organizations that are receiving these grants as well as conduct oversight of VETS awarding of these grants, and how the program can be enhanced at the federal and state levels to place more homeless veterans in careers. The Committee's oversight of these programs is especially important to address the economic impact of COVID–19.

VETS Jobs for Veterans State Grant Program—Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPS)/Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER). The DVOPS/LVER program is administered by DoL VETS and funds state employment service staff who are dedicated to placing veterans in well-paying jobs. There are significant issues regarding the inconsistent performance of this program and the outcome measures used to determine performance continue to be inadequate. The Committee will continue to review this program and the performance outcomes of DVOPS and LVERs as well as conduct oversight of the National Veterans' Training Institute (NVTI), which trains DVOPS and LVERs on job placement and training skills for veterans. The performance of these programs will be especially important to veterans who are under employed and unemployed as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic.

Homeless Veterans. The Committee will examine the actions VA has taken to help reduce homelessness among veterans by providing homeless and at-risk veterans with appropriate housing and supportive services. The Committee will examine the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD VASH) programs and VA's progress toward reducing veteran homelessness, as well as addressing the myriad factors that underlie veteran homelessness, rather than just increasing housing opportunities. 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 evaluate temporary measures passed in response to the pandemic to support employment and homelessness programs at VA that are serving more individuals due to COVID–19. This also includes overseeing the National Personnel Records Center recovery from delays caused by COVID–19 which has created a significant backlog of veteran requests.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicide Prevention. The Committee will continue to closely monitor VA's mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention efforts, particularly its new pro-

grams and its involvement with the ongoing work of the White House PREVENTS Task Force. In 2020, two large veterans' mental health and suicide prevention legislative packages became law (the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act and the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act), necessitating rigorous oversight. The Committee will also 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. VA must ensure that such providers and organizations deliver culturally competent, evidence-based treatment. The Committee will also examine how women veterans are impacted by this issue, including access to residential treatment programs, differences in suicide risk, and connections with experiences affecting the women veteran population such as military sexual trauma and intimate partner violence. Given ongoing issues with timely veteran suicide data collection, analysis, and reporting from VA, the Committee also will work with VA and stakeholders to evaluate VA's use and dissemination of best practices in real-time veteran suicide surveillance. The Committee will also examine VA's substance use and addiction treatment capacity and programming, with a focus on the overlapping mental health issues.

VA Medical Research. The Committee will oversee VA's medical and prosthetic research program, including its broad portfolio of veteran-centric research and its partnerships developed in 2020 to include veterans in clinical trials for COVID–19. VA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) was established in 1925 to fulfill VA's mission to "to discover knowledge and create innovations that advance healthcare for veterans and the Nation." The Committee will examine how VA supports research into those areas most likely to enhance the quality and delivery of healthcare to veterans, such as the effects of hazardous exposures on veterans and their families, service-connected infertility among women veterans, and efficacy of medicinal cannabis to treat medical conditions specific and non-specific to the veteran population. In addition, the Committee will review whether ORD has the appropriate infrastructure and technology to support world-class research to include genetic approaches to disease treatment and the ability to utilize the wealth of genetic data presented through the Million Veteran Program. The Committee also will conduct oversight of ORD's new authorities enacted through the Commander John Scott Hannon Veteran Mental Health Care Improvement Act, including a new precision medicine brain research program, the use of commercial institutional review boards, and improved data security requirements.

Community Care. Eligibility for care in the community was significantly expanded through VA regulations designating access standards for the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP), as mandated by the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018. As we have learned from VA's transitions between previous iterations of community care programs, including the Veterans Choice Program, roughly 18 months are needed to fully understand utilization and

costs associated with that care. While VCCP has now been in place for more than 18 months, there are several factors that suggest the program is still maturing, and we still may not have a comprehensive picture of utilization or costs to date. The COVID–19 pandemic affected VA's referral patterns and veterans' utilization of community care. Therefore, it will take additional time for VCCP to stabilize. Aside from the financial implications, the Committee remains broadly focused on oversight regarding VA's increasing reliance on care in the community, which was trending upward year after year, even before the pandemic.

As VA completes the transition from its Veterans Choice Program contracts to the Community Care Network contracts it is using to administer VCCP, concerns have arisen about network adequacy and continuity of care. The Committee will continue to monitor the extent to which veterans' access to care has been affected by the transition to these new contracts. In addition, the Committee will examine VA's processes for monitoring the performance of the third-party administrators it has contracted with to build networks of community providers and process payments to these providers. VA's administratively burdensome appointment scheduling process for VCCP also needs reform, and the Committee will continue to conduct oversight to ensure VA improves its administrative efficiency and adequacy in the U.S. territories, with particular emphasis on the highly remote islands within the Pacific region. Finally, the Committee will monitor VA's efforts to provide veterans greater insight into community care appointment wait times, so veterans can make informed decisions about whether to seek care in the community.

Market Assessments and Asset and Infrastructure Review. Following the wait-time crisis in 2014, it became clear that VA needed to establish a continuous review process to help inform its make-versus-buy decisions related to health care delivery. A subsequent review by the Commission on Care, issued in 2016, found that an independent commission could be a useful mechanism for assessing and making recommendations related to VHA's infrastructure needs. Within the MISSION Act, Congress established mandates to carry out those two objectives, both of which have pending deadlines. The Committee is especially concerned with the status of Section 106 of the MISSION Act, which calls for VA to conduct market assessments. These assessments have largely occurred behind closed doors. The Committee is deeply concerned that the underlying methodology being used may no longer be appropriate, especially given how the COVID–19 pandemic has made lasting changes to the delivery of care and reshaped the healthcare delivery infrastructure across the country. These assessments are meant to feed into the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission required under Title II of the MISSION Act. The Committee will examine VA's assessments and their methodology.

Caregivers. Following the expansion of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) in October 2020 to the first cohort of pre-9/11 veterans and their caregivers, VA has indicated this program may not be adequately funded. The Committee has long been skeptical of VA's budgetary assumptions around expansion of this program and preliminary data regarding

new applicants seem to bear out those concerns. Without proper funding, pre-9/11 veterans and their caregivers may once again face exclusion. Aside from these budgetary concerns, the Committee will also closely monitor VA's implementation of the numerous changes it made to the program through regulation, as VA attempts to standardize the program and expand it to the second cohort of pre-9/11 veterans and their caregivers.

Long-Term Services and Supports. The Committee will 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. Over the years, VA has 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 for non-institutional care among its aging veteran population. The Committee will monitor VA's progress in this area. Moreover, given the impact COVID–19 has had on long-term care facilities nationwide, serious re-evaluations of this industry and the extent to which these facilities offer high-quality, safe care to residents need to occur. While many of these re-evaluations are outside the Committee's immediate jurisdiction, lessons can be learned from VA's CLCs. As of early 2021, there have been no widespread outbreaks of COVID–19 in any of VA's 134 CLCs, largely because of VA's extensive expertise in geriatrics, infection control, and emergency response. The Committee will work to identify VA's best practices and ensure they help inform the discussions had by the committees of jurisdiction as they undertake the much-needed review of the long-term care in America. 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. The COVID–19 pandemic and the comparatively higher incidence of COVID–19 outbreaks at SVHs, as compared to VA's CLCs, suggests the need for the Committee to reexamine the existing scope of VA's oversight authority over these state facilities, and re-evaluate the nature of VA's financial relationship with SVHs.

Provider Clinical Competence. In recent years, VA OIG, GAO, and media reports documented a string of incidents of patient harm within VHA medical facilities. These have called into question whether VHA medical facilities are carrying out all of their credentialing, privileging, and quality management responsibilities. Specifically, the Committee is concerned about whether VHA and its Veterans Integrated Service Networks (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. The Committee will evaluate gaps in VHA policy and processes for continuously monitoring provider clinical competence and consider measures to improve these policies and processes. The Committee is also

concerned about VA's implementation of Section 108 of the *MISSION Act* which would exclude from participation in the VCCP networks those providers who have lost medical licenses in any state due to concerns about poor quality of care, or who were removed or suspended from VA employment for quality of care concerns. The Committee will monitor VA's progress in addressing weaknesses in VCCP credentialing and monitoring policies.

Prescription of Opioids and Treatment for Pain. The Committee will scrutinize VA's medication prescription program, its opioid safety initiative, substance abuse treatment programs, and access to alternative chronic and acute pain treatments. The Committee will continue to monitor access to medication assisted treatment at VA medical facilities, adherence to the opioid safety initiative and best practices for reducing the prescription of opioids, training of clinicians on safe prescribing practices, and monitor agency participation in states' prescription drug monitoring programs. The Committee will also continue its oversight work to prevent drug diversion within medical facilities, including reviewing policies for tracking and managing controlled substances and compliance with inspection requirements.

COVID–19 Response. VHA was able to use its experience in healthcare and emergency management in its response to the pandemic. The Department quickly mobilized to expand inpatient beds and laboratory testing capacity; expanded the delivery of services via telehealth wherever possible; obtained temporary authorities that helped expedite hiring of medical personnel; restricted access to CLCs and spinal cord injury units (which serve medically vulnerable veterans); and established veteran, employee, and visitor screening processes at the entrances of all facilities. However, there were also missteps with acquiring personal protective equipment (PPE), and VA's overall management of telework for non-medical staff was haphazard and may have unnecessarily exposed staff to COVID–19. The response is by no means complete, and as the virus continues to present nationwide challenges, the Committee is monitoring VHA's efforts to ramp up vaccination of veterans, their caregivers, and staff. The Committee will continue to closely monitor VHA's response, including certain vulnerabilities that have been exposed by the pandemic, the long-term health of veterans who were diagnosed with COVID–19, and potential ongoing impacts of delays in care, and mental strain due to the increased stress and isolation caused by the COVID–19 pandemic.

VA's Fourth Mission and Participation in the National Disaster Medical System. VA's Fourth Mission, to assist federal and civilian partners in the event of an emergency, received relatively little attention before the pandemic. This role has proven critical as the American healthcare system endured the catastrophic impact of COVID–19, while at the same time, rural hospitals and clinics continue to close at an alarming rate. The current process for VA to pursue a "Fourth Mission" is overly bureaucratic, requiring the approval of multiple federal agencies. Congress must reconsider the current structure of the disaster response framework to reflect the sheer scale of VHA's potential. The COVID–19 pandemic has made clear the current national response structure will not meet the needs of states, localities, tribes, and territories when the next pub-

lic health emergency or natural disaster occurs. VHA has had to take on a larger role to compensate for DoD's absence by taking on mission assignments from FEMA that DoD has refused. At the same time, the Mission Assignments DoD is accepting are not coordinated with VHA. DoD has refused to coordinate efforts with VHA even in areas with overlapping Mission Assignments. The Committee will review potential measures that will elevate VHA's role to the one DoD is abdicating. This may require the creation of a dedicated response program, budget, and personnel to make up response teams and a potential restructuring of federal disaster medical response systems, which will need to be discussed and coordinated with other committees of jurisdiction. Additionally, the Committee will review potential partnerships with the Indian Health Service and Public Health Service as well as increases of deployable nursing personnel to staff the mobile medical units VHA already possesses.

Reproductive Health. Providing greater access to reproductive services through VA ensures veterans can have a full quality of life that they may otherwise be denied. The Committee will review proposed measures concerning veterans access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare. The Committee will further examine proposed steps to address the needs of women veterans whose conditions prevent a full-term pregnancy as well as increase access to contraception. In addition, the Committee will further examine improving maternal health outcomes, including maternal mental health, and maternal mortality and morbidity.

Health Equity. On almost all available metrics, racial and minority veterans have lower life expectancies and higher prevalence of diseases than white veterans. The impact of COVID–19 on communities of color has exacerbated these existing disparities. In 2020, racial and ethnic minority veterans made up 22% of the total veteran population. VA projects that number to reach 35% by 2040. Furthermore, the lack of data on LGBTQ+ veterans hinders the ability to address their unique health needs. All veterans must have access to culturally competent healthcare from the very system charged with caring for them. The types of services, the competencies VA develops, and the manner of outreach it conducts must meet the unique needs of its patients. This is particularly true as VA works to establish relationships with tribal communities and increase access to care through partnerships with Indian Health Service, Urban Indian Organizations, and Tribal Health Systems. This is crucially important as American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the military at a higher rate than any other cohort yet are the least likely to use VA healthcare. VA should be the leader in American healthcare that can dynamically meet the needs of an increasingly diverse and intersectional patient population. The Committee is also committed to addressing the data and research gaps that make race health inequities among minority veterans so difficult to address. Furthermore, the pandemic has also illustrated the need to ensure VA is implementing language inclusivity in its written materials and educating personnel on the necessary cultural competencies for working with tribal veteran communities and communities whom VA has historically excluded. The Committee will review proposals to improve the health status

of minority veterans. The Committee will examine VA's fulfilling of its role in the federal government's relationships with tribes.

Increasing the Visibility of Women Veterans. The two million women who have served in the U.S. military comprise the fastest growing subpopulation of both the military and veteran populations. In fact, women comprise 10% of the current veteran population and 17% of currently serving military personnel. The women veteran population is also increasingly diverse, and oversight should take an intersectional approach to serve women veterans who are also minority veterans, LGBTQ+ veterans, Native veterans, or otherwise underserved. It is critical that Congress promote inclusivity and equitable access to comprehensive healthcare, benefits, education and economic opportunity, and other federal resources for women veterans, particularly at VA. In 2020, Congress passed the *Deborah Sampson Act*. The bill was the most comprehensive legislation serving women veterans in more than a decade, and its implementation will require close oversight by the Committee. The Committee's examination of issues impacting women veterans includes, but is not limited to, four key policy priorities areas for VA: 1) Ensuring a welcoming and inclusive VA, including eradicating sexual harassment and assault; 2) Providing equitable access to VA healthcare, including gender-specific care, such as mammography, gynecology and obstetrics; 3) Improving economic opportunities for women veterans and their families; and 4) Guaranteeing that women veterans have equal access to VA benefits, including education, disability, and pension benefits.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Veterans. LGBTQ+ people are represented in a higher proportion in the military than in the general population and have been both historically and systematically discriminated against during their services by policies, including "Don't Ask-Don't Tell" and the prior Administration's transgender service ban. Lesbian and bisexual women are overrepresented among women veterans, and transgender veterans frequently use the women's health services either by choice or to meet specific preventative health needs. However, LGBTQ+ veterans are not mentioned in title 38, and VA has no single entity for addressing their needs. The Committee will examine necessary steps to address inequities for LGBQT+ veterans.

Access to Care for Veterans with Toxic Exposure. Veterans, particularly those of Iraq and Afghanistan, are increasingly reporting serious health conditions that they believe were caused by exposure to burn pits and other airborne hazards in the military. The Committee will work to provide a pathway to care in the VA healthcare system for these and future generations of veterans and improve research into the long-term effects of toxic exposure.

Access to Care for Homeless Veterans. The Committee remains concerned about the health and well-being of veterans who are homeless or insecurely housed. The Committee is also concerned that the economic impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic have caused more veterans to be at-risk of homelessness, which could result in a host of negative physical and mental health impacts. The Committee will conduct oversight to ensure that the VA healthcare system is accessible and responsive to the needs of homeless or at-risk

veterans and providing wraparound services and support to address underlying factors that may lead to homelessness.

Telehealth. The VA healthcare system has been a long-time leader with respect to telehealth. That afforded VA a leg up in expanding opportunities for virtual care during the COVID–19 pandemic, which allowed VA to continue providing needed care to veteran patients while reducing exposure concerns and other risks. The Committee will examine the role of telehealth in the VA healthcare system to ensure veterans are given the option to choose the care setting that best meets their needs and that access, outcomes, and satisfaction rates for telehealth services are commensurate with in-person services. The Committee will also work to address connectivity concerns for veterans in rural and remote areas and those who are homebound so that they have the same access to telehealth as other veterans.

Workforce. Ensuring that VA employs a robust workforce of well-qualified and highly trained clinicians and support staff is key to ensuring timely access to high-quality care for veterans. Nevertheless, VA has historically had significant recruitment and retention challenges. Those challenges are exacerbated by multiple, complex hiring authorities that VA uses to staff medical facilities. Despite that, VA has made tremendous progress during the COVID–19 pandemic to shorten the hiring process and on-board needed medical staff. The Committee will evaluate that work to determine how it can be sustained and consider other action to address VA staffing shortages where they may exist.

Emergency Care. In 1999, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act (commonly known as the "Mill Bill") established criteria to govern VA's reimbursement of costs related to emergency care provided to veterans in non-VA facilities for non-service-connected conditions. Those criteria are outdated and increasingly complicated for veterans, VA staff, and emergency care providers outside of the VA healthcare system to understand and administer, which has led to a backlog of emergency care claims and resulted in costly judicial proceedings. The Committee will work to simplify and modernize these criteria to ensure the appropriate provision of care to veterans in crisis and timely and appropriate reimbursements to emergency care providers in the community.

Foreign Medical Program. The Committee will conduct oversight of VA's Foreign Medical Program to ensure that veterans residing outside of the United States continue to receive needed care for service-connected conditions and that the foreign medical providers treating them receive timely, appropriate reimbursement from VA for their services.

Eligibility for Care in the VA Healthcare System. The current VA enrollment priority group system was created in 1996. Veteran eligibility for VA care has been minimally changed since then, despite the fact that military service, the veteran population, the delivery of care, and the VA healthcare system have changed significantly and many of the most pressing issues facing veterans today concern eligibility. The Committee will examine the appropriateness of the current eligibility system for today's veteran population, particularly those with toxic exposure and character of discharge con-

cerns to ensure that all veterans can receive the care that they need.

Construction. The Committee will continue to monitor those construction projects designed or commenced before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) involvement through completion. The Committee will also monitor the relationship between VA and USACE to ensure cooperation and coordination between the agencies and improve VA's activation of newly built hospitals.

Leasing. Leasing land and buildings for new VHA facilities is fraught with delays and challenges. Leasing is carried out through a complicated interplay of VA Central Office, the Government Services Administration, local offices, and real estate broker contractors. Jurisdictional battles within VA, poor management of broker contracts, and previous delays in congressional authorization have contributed to inefficiencies and delays in the system. The Committee will continue to uncover the root causes of these problems and well as explore options that allow for expeditious authorization of new projects.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

GAO High Risk List. VA is responsible for addressing three areas on GAO's High Risk List: federal disability programs (added in 2003), VA health care (added in 2015), and VA acquisition management (added in 2019). Within these three issue areas, GAO has further identified weaknesses that include ambiguous policies and inconsistent processes, inadequate oversight and accountability, severe problems with information technology, inadequate training for VA staff, and shortfalls in effective acquisition of medical and surgical supplies. The Committee is concerned that root causes identified by GAO have yet to be appropriately addressed, action plans to address high risk designations are not sufficiently developed, and VA leadership's professed commitment to addressing all three areas on GAO's High Risk List has not been operationalized. Similarly, the Committee will examine agency plans to address the priority recommendations of the VA OIG.

VA Inspector General Budget and Performance. The VA OIG provides vital oversight. However, there are concerns as to how VA uses the recommendations of the OIG to increase efficiency and effectiveness in providing services to veterans. The Committee will examine the OIG's current workload to confirm that the OIG has the resources to investigate hotline complaints, congressional requests, and conduct routine inspections and audits. The Committee will also closely monitor whether OIG is granted access to VA documents, information, and employees when requested, and act to ensure the OIG has the access and authority to conduct its investigations, inspections, and audits.

Agency Accountability and Transparency. Veterans deserve an accountable agency that functions in a transparent manner. However, the agency has seen shortfalls in this area, such as the continuing backlog in fulfilling requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The Committee will examine VA's adherence to federal laws regarding political appointments and vacancy of confirmed positions, government ethics, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as well as government transparency laws.

Whistleblowers. Whistleblowers continue to be a vital source of information. Protecting an employee's legal right to communicate with Congress and report alleged violations of laws, rules or regulations, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and safety issues is essential for effective oversight. The Committee will examine the implementation of relevant laws and requirements, including the implementation and operations of the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection.

Racial Disparities in the Workforce. VA has not made enough progress toward reducing racial, gender, and other disparities among the Department's management, as well as addressing challenges faced by many classes of employees protected by law. The Department could bolster diversity and inclusion efforts by supporting the development and implementation of a robust Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, as well as taking other steps to address the challenges facing protected employee classes. The Committee will examine these plans and progress toward implementation.

VA Procurement and Acquisition. VA continues to spend tens of billions of dollars annually for the procurement of pharmaceuticals, medical and surgical supplies, prosthetic devices, information technology, construction, and services. However, VA faces long-standing and serious organizational and workforce challenges in acquisition and procurement resulting in inefficiencies and shortages. The consequences of the problems have become stark during the COVID–19 pandemic. The Committee will continue to examine these challenges and the agency's plans for improvement to ensure adequate supplies are available during regional and national emergencies.

Preventing Improper Payments and Ensuring Financial Accountability. Independent assessments by the OIG detail specific shortfalls by VA in complying with federal financial management laws. The Department's financial systems remain antiquated. In addition, billions of dollars of agency spending are classified as improper payments, millions of which constitute overpayments and underpayments. The Committee will examine VA financial management, compliance with relevant laws, and its plans for improvement.

VA Police. The OIG found that governance of the VA police program at medical facilities was inadequate. VA lacks central oversight of its police programs and mechanisms to prevent or address civil rights violations, abuse, or misconduct caused by VA police. The OIG also found significant understaffing and inadequate staffing models at VA medical facilities. The Committee will conduct oversight to determine whether remedies are needed to bring greater accountability to the VA police force, prevent conflicts of interest, and ensure existing avenues of redress are functioning appropriately for those whose rights have been violated by VA police.

Sexual Harassment at VA. VA has one of the highest rates of employees experiencing sexual harassment in the federal government. However, agency leadership has not fully addressed this rampant problem. The Department should take action to prevent and address sexual harassment, facilitate an environment in which victims feel comfortable reporting sexual harassment, empower employees and supervisors to intervene when sexual harassment is

witnessed or reported, and hold VA leaders accountable for non-action. The Committee will continue to oversee VA's actions in this area.

Employee Adverse Actions and Federal Labor Protections. VA's workforce deserves the ability to bring legitimate grievances forward without risk of retaliation, and have the assurance that laws governing federal workers are applied fully and fairly. However, collective bargaining rights for VA employees have been undercut, diminishing these rights. Further, many VA employees, such as registered nurses, physicians, dentists, and physician assistants, fall under an exception to Title 5 collective bargaining rights and therefore do not receive the same workforce protections as other federal employees. The Committee will continue its oversight of the collective bargaining processes that are in place with labor partners. The Committee will also review disciplinary actions taken against VA employees, to ensure they are completed fairly and in accordance with current law. The Committee will also review whether VA employees subject to adverse actions receive due process—including access to representation

Payment of Community Providers. VA continues to struggle with its failure to promptly pay community providers. This is caused in part by a failure to implement updates to its software, reliance on dozens of decentralized claims processing centers, complicated emergency care procedures and regulations, and inefficient manual adjudication processes. The Committee will continue to evaluate VA's payment deficiencies and oversee actions to improve efficiency.

Reform of Bureaucracy. The Committee will analyze the structure and performance of VA offices based on data and outcomes focusing on management functions (human resources, supply chain, IT, finance) and headquarters staff offices (such as general counsel, enterprise integration, veterans' experience, human resources/administration, public affairs) which have largely escaped scrutiny in the past. The Committee will also consider holding hearings with individual offices to assess performance, and sending recurring, uniform letters to all such offices to collect performance data.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION

Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM). VA signed a contract in May 2018 to procure the Cerner Millennium EHR system. The implementation is expected to take at least ten years, cost over $16 billion, and be interoperable with the Department of Defense (DoD) Military Health System (MHS) Genesis system and community providers' systems. VA deployed the first of at least two capability sets at the Initial Operating Capability sites on October 24, 2020. The Committee will continue to monitor all aspects of implementing EHRM, including governance and accountability, cost, schedule, clinical impact, training, testing and evaluation, and interoperability.

IT Infrastructure/Enterprise Investments. VA information technology (IT) has been on GAO's High RiskList since 2015. Many modernization initiatives are underway but appear to be siloed among individual projects (e.g. Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM), Financial Management Business Trans-

formation (FMBT), and Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support (DMLSS)) and not sufficiently coordinated or evaluated on an enterprise-wide level despite dependencies between all programs. The Office of Enterprise Integration is attempting to address these shortcomings but its role is not wholly defined. The Committee will evaluate modernization plans to assess how they address GAO's concerns, as well as gauging whether VA's modernization efforts address enterprise-wide technology deficits. The Committee will also evaluate the presence of "shadow IT," which is the use of systems, devices, software, applications without approval, and VA's plans to address it.

Veteran Health Portal. VA has relied on a veteran-facing health portal, called *My HealtheVet,* to connect veterans with their care. The portal enables veterans who receive care at VA facilities to manage appointments, order prescription refills, and communicate with their care team, among other capabilities. VA's transition to Cerner Millennium has brought the future of *My HealtheVet* into question, as Cerner has its own patient portal, branded *MY VAHealth*. The Committee will monitor VA's decision-making processes to ensure, regardless of which product is ultimately selected, that considerations of cost, clinical impact, opportunities to realize improvements, and efficiencies are included, and that veterans' needs are being met.

Scheduling System Acquisition. A new scheduling solution has been touted as crucial to improve VA's wait times. In January 2019, VA announced a decision to not move forward with its Epic Medical Appointment Scheduling System pilot that was described as very successful, and instead acquired a Cerner scheduling system, which was to be implemented on an accelerated schedule independent of EHRM. In August 2020, VA successfully deployed its new Cerner Centralized Scheduling Solution (CSS) in Columbus, OH. Following that implementation, VA halted future deployments of CSS, presumably due to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic. VA officials have provided little information about any plans for future expedited deployments of CSS. The Committee will assess the VA's decision-making process, plans for CSS implementation across the enterprise, and its impacts on the EHRM program.

Legacy System and VistA Sustainment. VA's significant modernization activities require that it plan for the sustainment and eventual retirement of certain information technology legacy systems, including most elements of the VistAsystem, which is a backbone system that supports many other systems. Because the EHRM implementation is expected to take over a decade to complete, VA will need to sustain modules of the existing VistA system at a projected cost of nearly $20 billion over ten years. VA has yet to produce a comprehensive plan for the management of VistA and other legacy IT systems. The Committee will monitor efforts to create sustainment plans, particularly how VA manages VistA during EHRM implementation.

Financial Management System Modernization. VA continues to move forward with the FMBT project, although significant work remains. The project, estimated to cost $2.3 billion over ten years, will replace VA's legacy financial management, internal accounting, acquisition management, and related systems. FMBT was deployed

at a limited number of NCA sites in 2020. The Committee will continue to monitor the program as it moves through implementation. The Committee prioritizes achieving a successful implementation of the system as quickly as possible to demonstrate its viability.

IT Governance. In 2002, VAIT was centralized under the Chief Information Officer (CIO), and in 2007, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (OIT) was created. This structure has left various administrations within VA without dedicated IT resources and funding and led to internal lobbying for projects being prioritized. The complicated dynamic between OIT, VA' three administrations, and program offices has created some ambiguity regarding "ownership" of certain IT infrastructure updates/upgrades. The Committee will evaluate the efficiency and efficacy of the centralized IT structure and its resourcing. The Committee will also continue oversight of other governance structures, including the Federal Electronic Health Record Management (FEHRM) program office.

*IT Workforce Investments.*VA has lost internal capacity to develop and manage its technology portfolio and has become heavily reliant on contractor support. VA officials have plans to staff up program offices to address some of this deficit. However, it is not clear if there is a comprehensive workforce plan and whether future budget submissions will address this shortfall. The impact of temporary hiring during the COVID–19 pandemic also needs to be assessed. The Committee will monitor VA's efforts to rebuild its technology expertise and assess whether workforce staffing plans will meet technology implementation needs and modernization plans.

Cybersecurity and Privacy. The acquisition of new IT systems by VA, and recent high-profile breaches within the federal government, highlight questions about cybersecurity and data management. VA has also received numerous repeat material weaknesses in Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) audits over the last several years. The implementation of EHRM has implications for the protection of veteran health information and will require further assessment for cyber risks due to the system's interoperable environment. VA has yet to deliver a cybersecurity strategy for EHRM to the Committee. The Committee will monitor and review the development of strategies and governance plans related to cybersecurity, especially as the Department expands its work with third party hardware and software vendors.

Data Management. VA has yet to develop a comprehensive data management strategy that will identify gaps in VA's data and data management infrastructure. VA's strategy should include how data is stored, transferred, and accessed by disparate systems, and by specific user roles (e.g. frontline clinicians. researchers, benefit administrators, etc.). There are also considerations regarding what type of data VA collects, including long-standing gaps in VA's demographic data, specifically related to race, ethnicity, and LGBTQ+ identity. This data is crucial in the care and treatment of veterans in these populations and in the evaluation of possible gaps in healthcare and benefits for those veterans. The Committee will conduct oversight of VA's policies and how they are being applied, especially related to what data is, and is not, collected, and how that data is being used to inform VA's policies.

Technology Equity. The COVID–19 pandemic has highlighted, and exacerbated, the digital divide (the gap between those who have access to technology, especially broadband internet, and those who do not). VA has relied heavily on tele-technologies to facilitate services such as primary/specialty care appointments and scheduling appeals hearings during the pandemic. However, those services are limited when veterans do not have regular and reliable access to appropriate hardware and internet resources, including broadband connectivity. The Committee will evaluate VA's plans to address the digital divide, especially as it pertains to racial minority, low income, tribal, and other underserved veteran populations.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

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, and limits on the public debt.

Matters under the Committee's Tax Jurisdiction

• **Tax Reform.** Hearings and other activities related to reforming the tax code to create a more equitable tax code that provides for appropriate tax relief for low- and moderate-income families.

• **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 117th Congress. Specifically, hearings to discuss and consider legislative and administrative proposals contained in the President's fiscal year 2022 and 2023 budgets.

• **Tax Provisions Contained in COVID-related Public Laws.** Hearings and other activities regarding implementation of and provisions in public laws designed to address the COVID–19 pandemic, including: the 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; and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116 260.

• **Infrastructure.** Hearings and other activities related to robust investment in American infrastructure directed at modernizing how Americans travel, how the American economy grows, and creating good jobs and meaningful economic development at the local, state, and federal levels. Examination of provisions within the Committee's jurisdiction to create jobs in a green economy and invest in underdeveloped areas, including bond-financing programs and tax credit incentives.

• **Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Operations/Administration of Tax Laws.** Oversight of major IRS 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, including implementation of the Taxpayer First Act, Public Law 116 25, and issuance of Economic Impact Payments (EIPs). Consider analyses and reports provided to Congress by the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), and the

Government Accountability Office (GAO). Oversight of IRS funding and staffing levels needed to provide taxpayer assistance, enforce Federal tax laws effectively and efficiently, and modernize IRS information technology systems. Evaluate tax return filing seasons, including returns processing, availability of taxpayer services, and the revision and issuance of forms and guidance. Examine proposals and programs to address the "tax gap" and improve tax law compliance.

- **Tax-Exempt Organizations.** Oversight of Federal tax laws, regulations, and filing requirements that affect tax-exempt organizations. Evaluate overall IRS efforts to assist and 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.
- **Tax Code Simplification.** Oversight of tax code complexity, particularly for individuals, with the goal of legislative or administrative simplification. Review areas where taxpayers and professional return preparers have difficulty, including areas where they make the most errors, and consider solutions. Evaluate simplification of information returns to assist taxpayers in determining taxable income.
- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).** Oversight of the refundable Federal income tax credits designed to assist low- to moderate-income working individuals and families. Evaluate EITC participation rates and administration of the credit.
- **Tax Scams and Improper Payments.** Oversight of the latest tax scams and tax fraud activities with a goal of protecting taxpayers and preventing identity theft, including oversight of resources available to taxpayers that were victims of identity theft involving unemployment compensation. Examine IRS programs designed to identify and remedy identity theft and tax fraud. Consult and review analyses of GAO and TIGTA on this subject.
- **Federal Excise Taxes and Related Trust Funds.** Oversight review of Federal excise taxes, including credits and refunds, and the trust funds financed by these taxes.
- **Pensions and Retirement Security.** Oversight review of the financial condition, operations, and governance of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), including the financial exposure of the PBGC.
- **Reducing Inequities.** Oversight review of the implementation of Federal tax laws by the IRS to address issues of Federal tax inequities based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin.
- **Mandatory Audit Program.** Oversight of legislative proposals and tax law related to Presidential and Vice-Presidential mandatory tax audits.

Matters under the Committee's Health Jurisdiction

- **Health Reform.** Hearings and other activities related to reform of the health care system to reduce costs, lower premiums, expand choices, and ensure access to affordable coverage.
- **Health Provisions Contained in the COVID–19 Response.** Hearings and other activities related to the implementation of the national response to the COVID–19 pandemic. This oversight in-

cludes review of, among other priorities: inequalities in COVID–19 infections and responses; the intended effect of funds provided by the Federal government on helping test, treat, and vaccinate the American people and helping the economy recover and reopen; and the effect of COVID–19 in health care settings, including nursing homes.

• **Health Inequities.** Oversight of inequities in geography, physical environments, clinical care resources and networks, and health behaviors—along with social, political, cultural, and economic factors—that influence health and inequities in health.

• **Priorities of the Department of Health and Human Services.** Oversight hearings with the Health and Human Services Secretary to discuss priorities for the 117th Congress and concerns related to the delivery of health services and payment under Medicare. Specifically, hearings to discuss and consider legislative and administrative proposals contained in the President's fiscal year 2022 budget.

• **Health Provisions Contained in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).** Hearings and other activities regarding various health provisions contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111–148, and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Public Law 111–152, known collectively as the ACA. Oversight and other activities relating to ACA health provisions, including its changes to the annual updates to Medicare Fee-For-Service payment rates, changes to Medicare Advantage's payment rates, benefit changes to fee-for-service and Medicare Advantage, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.

• **Medicare Part A and Part B (Fee-for-Service Providers).** Oversight of Medicare to ensure efficient use of resources, quality of care, and access to providers for Medicare beneficiaries. Specific topics include: adequacy and appropriateness of provider payments, including incentive payments and implementation of reforms to physician payment systems; ownership trends; program benefits; patient out-of-pocket costs; workforce supply; treatment of specific populations, such as people with disabilities and low-income beneficiaries; social determinants of health and health disparities; prescription drug costs; quality improvement efforts; and waste, fraud, and abuse activities.

• **Medicare Advantage.** Oversight of Medicare Advantage health plans, including: enrollment; benefit packages; quality; beneficiary choice; risk adjustment coding and payment accuracy; and submission of Encounter Data and health risk assessments.

• **Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Plans).** Oversight of the Medicare prescription drug program, including: costs of and access to prescription drugs; beneficiary premiums and cost-sharing; the risk sharing structure and reinsurance; improvements to the low-income subsidy program; impacts of recently enacted legislation and regulations on the Part D program; access to retiree prescription drug coverage; and negotiation in Medicare.

• **Medicare Trust Fund Stewardship.** Oversight of program changes on the Medicare Trust Funds; premium and copay levels; provider payments; benefit design; and improvements to the program's long-term sustainability.

• **CMS Administration.** Oversight of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), including: issuance of regulations and their impact on Medicare beneficiaries and providers; the adequacy and use of CMS' budget and staff; contracting activities; communications with beneficiaries; adherence to the Administrative Procedure Act; and general agency accountability.

• **Private Health Insurance Coverage.** Oversight and review of private health coverage, including: cost, access, and subsidies to purchase insurance; benefit design, coverage options, pooling mechanisms, and employer-sponsored benefits; group health benefits under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA); the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC); health savings accounts, flexible spending arrangements, and qualified small employer health reimbursement arrangements; options to reduce the cost of health coverage, expand coverage, and address the rate of increase in health care costs; the impact of the ACA and related regulations on those with private insurance, the uninsured, employers, the economy, and state budgets; and adherence to the Administrative Procedures Act.

• **Surprise Billing.** Oversight of the surprise billing ban that was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116–260, to ensure consumers are protected from paying more than their appropriate level of cost-sharing based on their insurer's in-network rates for care and to ensure that the arbitration process is implemented fairly and in a timely manner.

• **Prescription Drugs.** Oversight of the landscape of federal policies that can be changed to lower prescription drug prices and improve domestic manufacturing and supply chains including tax incentives, payment incentives, misaligned incentives among various entities in the health system, and ways to directly lower patient costs, overall costs in health care, and costs to taxpayers.

• **Skilled Nursing Facilities.** Oversight of the quality of care delivered to nursing home patients; infection control and reporting (particularly related to COVID–19); patient safety; ownership trends; cost transparency; and equity concerns.

Matters under the Committee's Worker and Family Support Jurisdiction

• **Worker Support.** Review proposals designed to better assist workers with families, including childcare, paid family and medical leave, and other supports to help individuals enter the workforce, retain employment, and move up the economic ladder.

• **Unemployment Compensation.** Provide oversight of the nation's unemployment compensation benefits and financing systems, including the temporary programs enacted during the COVID–19 pandemic and proposals for short- and long-term reform.

• **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 efforts to promote adoption, provide prevention services, decrease the inappropriate use of congregate care settings, strengthen family connections, and successfully address the health and educational needs of foster children.

• **Home Visiting.** Provide oversight of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV) and review proposals to strengthen it and build on its success in improving child and maternal outcomes.

• **At-Risk Children, Adults, and Families.** Review proposals in the Committee's jurisdiction to assist custodial and non-custodial parents, reduce child poverty, and protect at-risk seniors and people with disabilities.

Matters under the Committee's Social Security Jurisdiction

• **Adequacy of Benefits and Options for Strengthening Social Security.** Examine the role of Social Security benefits in ensuring economic security for retirees, persons with career-ending disabilities, and survivors, and in reducing disparities in economic security for disadvantaged groups including people of color, women, and others. Examine how well the program is meeting the needs of current and future beneficiaries and financing challenges facing Social Security. In addition, compare options to strengthen Social Security.

• **Ability of Social Security Administration (SSA) to Serve the Public and Effectively Administer Benefits.** Examine SSA's ability to serve the public, including: the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on SSA services, the safety and accessibility of SSA services during the pandemic; office closures and other barriers to assistance, including barriers created by the COVID–19 pandemic; and the problems of backlogs and service delays, including delays in the disability application and appeals process. Examine SSA's ability to identify, prevent, and reduce inequities in access to services on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, and national origin. Evaluate SSA's ability to prevent errors and detect fraud. Examine the adequacy of SSA's administrative budget.

• **Access to Earned Disability Benefits.** Examine the extent to which SSA's policies and procedures ensure due process and access to benefits for individuals who meet eligibility criteria in the law, including potential racial disparities in disability adjudication.

• **Implementation of Recent Legislation.** Oversee SSA's implementation of recent legislation, including reforms in the collection and distribution of death data, reforms in the representative payee program, and the agency's role in assisting the Treasury Department with implementation of EIPs. Oversee the Congressionally mandated death data report from the National Academy of Public Administration.

• **Information Technology, Cybersecurity, Identity Theft, and Telephone Scams.** Oversee SSA's investments in information technology, including its modernization program, cybersecurity at SSA, and the prevention of identity theft involving Social Security numbers. Monitor robocalls and imposter scams involving SSA.

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 re-

quirements for all trade negotiations, with particular focus on: addressing long-standing structural and competitively consequential challenges with China; the European Union; Asia-Pacific; and other relevant trading partners or topical issues. Oversight of the Administration's approach to negotiations with the United Kingdom and Kenya.

• **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. Oversight of the implementation of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to ensure that the enforcement tools in the bill are being fully utilized, particularly with respect to evasion of trade remedies, forced labor, intellectual property rights violations, currency policy, and violations of trade agreements. Particular oversight of enforcement activities related to China's WTO commitments, as well as the continuing barriers imposed by other countries and economies, including digital services taxes. Oversight of the Administration on compliance with U.S. trade remedy laws, as well as enforcement related to U.S. intellectual property rights, import safety, and illegal transshipment.

• **Implemented Trade Agreements and Agreements in the Process of Implementation.** Oversight of implemented agreements with: Colombia; Panama; Peru; Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua (CAFTA DR); Oman; Bahrain; Singapore; Chile; Australia; Morocco; Jordan; Mexico and Canada (USMCA); and Israel. Oversight of implemented elements of: the agreement with Korea and provisions of the 2018 renegotiation; the U.S.-Japan Phase One Trade Agreement; the U.S.-Japan Digital Trade Agreement; and the U.S.-China Phase One Trade Agreement that trading partners are still in the process of implementing. Continued analysis of the impact of these trade agreements for American workers, manufacturers, businesses, farmers, and ranchers to identify provisions of such trade agreements that should be improved or updated.

• **Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB).** Oversight and review of the procedures set forth in the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016, including ensuring that the U.S. International Trade Commission and the Executive Branch perform their roles within the timeframe set forth in the bill, maintain an open and transparent process, and produce a legislative package of noncontroversial provisions for consideration by the House.

• **Impact of Trade on U.S. Job Creation.** Oversight of the impact of trade on U.S. jobs, wages, communities, and economic growth or displacement, with particular attention to whether trade has a disparate impact on underprivileged groups, including disparities based on economic status, race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin.

• **Equities and Inclusion in Trade.** Oversight of the ways in which all trade policies and programs promote equitable outcomes and inclusive participation from underserved and disadvantaged groups in policymaking processes, data collection and analysis, and

accessing benefits. Oversight of trade disparities based on socio-economic status, race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin.

• **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 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to address trade remedy evasion and ensure CBP's compliance with the law as written. Support of Administration efforts to defend the use of the criteria established by Congress to identify non-market economy countries for the purposes of antidumping cases.

• **China.** Oversight of Administration strategies to respond to or counteract continued high level of government intervention in China's economy. Oversight of systemic problems in U.S.-China trade relations, including issues related to China's compliance with its commitments and adoption of norms reflected in the rules of the WTO; labor and environmental standards; 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 subsidies to advance industrial policies; and currency policies. Oversight of enforcement issues including ensuring that implementation of U.S. trade remedy laws appropriately accounts for China's state intervention in its economy. Oversight of Administrative and legislative efforts to address China's use of forced labor.

• **Preference Programs.** Oversight, reform, and renewal of major U.S. trade preference programs, including the Generalized System of Preferences and the African Growth and Opportunity Act, that incentivize more equitable economic outcomes and benefits for disadvantaged groups.

• **Labor.** Oversight and promotion of Administration efforts to enforce labor obligations that promote more equitable outcomes and benefits for workers in U.S. trade agreements, including the rapid response labor enforcement mechanism in the USMCA, preference programs, and the ban on imports produced as a result of forced labor. Continued oversight of U.S. trade agreements under which a petition has been filed alleging that the country is not complying with the labor obligations in the agreement, including Colombia, Peru, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic.

• **Environment.** Oversight and promotion of Administration efforts to enforce environmental obligations in U.S. trade agreements, including the U.S.-Mexico Environment Cooperation and Customs Verification Agreement. Oversight of efforts to address the impact of climate change through use of trade tools. Continued oversight of the U.S.—Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, which provides for specific, additional obligations to address forestry management and trade in illegally harvested timber.

• **Agriculture.** Oversight of Administration efforts to enforce agriculture-related obligations of U.S. trade agreements and negotiations to remove tariff and unjustified non-tariff barriers to U.S. agricultural exports. Continued analysis and assessment of the benefits of agriculture trade to U.S. farmers, ranchers, workers, rural communities, and businesses, and the need to increase U.S. agri-

cultural exports. Particular attention on trade impacts on small and specialty agriculture producers and those from historically underserved communities.

• **Manufacturing.** Oversight and promotion of Administration efforts to enforce provisions relating to and to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to U.S. manufacturing, with particular focus on effectively addressing global excess production capacity for steel, aluminum, and other commodities. Continued analysis and assessment of the impact of manufacturing exports to U.S. manufacturers and their employees, and the need to increase U.S. manufacturing exports that also promote jobs and economic opportunities for diverse and multiracial communities.

• **Services.** Oversight and promotion of Administration efforts to enforce provisions relating to and to remove barriers to the U.S. services sector. Analysis and assessment of the benefits of services to all sectors of the U.S. economy and the need to increase U.S. exports. Oversight over "covered agreement" insurance negotiations.

• **Digital Trade and E-commerce.** Oversight regarding trade barriers faced by U.S. workers, manufacturers, service providers, and the agriculture sector in the areas of digital trade and e-commerce, particularly with respect to data issues (localization measures and dataflows). Oversight regarding how to address these issues through enforcement and trade negotiations.

• **World Trade Organization (WTO).** Oversight of U.S. goals in the WTO, including: reform proposals; negotiations (including efforts such as the Environmental Goods Agreement, Trade in Services Agreement, fisheries subsidies, and e-commerce); the functioning and reform of the dispute settlement system; and WTO accessions (including consideration of legislation granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations status and graduation from the Jackson-Vanik amendment's requirements). 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, businesses, and consumers, and the cost of non-compliance or lack of compliance by other WTO members with WTO rules. Monitor the progress of WTO members in implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

• **Trade Sanctions.** Oversight concerning import sanctions with, among others, Iran, Russia, Cuba, North Korea, Syria, and Venezuela.

• **Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).** Continued oversight concerning the Trade Adjustment Assistance programs for workers, firms, communities, and farmers, to monitor the effectiveness of these programs in providing training and new jobs for displaced workers and determine the parameters for effective reform and improvement. Oversight concerning whether TAA programs effectively reach disproportionately impacted worker populations or communities where trade-impacted job loss has occurred.

• **Priorities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).** Oversight over USTR to evaluate priorities for the 117th Congress and the trade agenda, and to assure its statutory role with respect to trade policy. Possible consideration of authorization, at the earliest opportunity. Oversight over trade ad-

visory committees, including the role of these committees in advising both the Administration and Congress.

• **Priorities of CBP.** Oversight over CBP and implementation of Customs revenue functions. Oversight of the implementation of the Enforce and Protect Act of 2015 to ensure that the new enforcement tools provided in the bill are being fully utilized by CBP, including provisions relating to evasion of trade remedy laws and forced labor.

• **Priorities of the United States International Trade Commission (Commission).** Oversight over the Commission concerning overall priorities and operations. Possible consideration of authorization, at the earliest opportunity.

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 117th Congress progresses over the coming two years.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

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