

BUSINESS MEETING

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BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MODERNIZATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MARCH 9, 2023

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BUSINESS MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MODERNIZATION,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 3 p.m., in room 1310, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Stephanie Bice [Chair of the Subcommittee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Bice, Carey, Kilmer, and Morelle.

Also present: Representative Steil.

Staff present: Tim Monahan, Staff Director; Caleb Hays, Deputy Staff Director, General Counsel, Acting Parliamentarian; Hillary Lassiter, Chief Clerk; Cade Alcock, Assistant Clerk; Derek Harley, Subcommittee Staff Director; Jamie Fleet, Minority Staff Director; Khalil Abboud, Minority Chief Counsel; Matthew Schlesinger, Minority Oversight Counsel; Owen Reilly, Minority Legislative Assistant; Eddie Flaherty, Minority Chief Clerk; and Andrew Garcia, Minority Staff Assistant.

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRWOMAN STEPHANIE BICE, A U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE FROM OKLAHOMA

Chairwoman BICE. The Subcommittee on Modernization will come to order.

I note that a quorum is present.

Without objection, the Chair may declare a recess at any time.

As a Member who sits on four different committees, I am particularly excited for the work of this subcommittee. Not only do we have the opportunity to make operations more efficient so we can better utilize the time we have when we are here in D.C., but also back in our districts.

I am also excited to have a fresh hearing format compared to other committees. This will include several components: First, by keeping with the tradition of the Select Committee from the last Congress, we will, as you can see, be utilizing a roundtable-style setup, as we have it today; and, second, we will have staggered seating in order not to be divided by party. This is because modernization should not be partisan.

Our goal is to make the House work better for every Member, staffer, and the American people. That starts with making sure this Subcommittee is more of a conversation, where new ideas are welcome. That extends to the discussion with our witnesses as well.

To that end, the resolution before us today adopts more flexible rules for our subcommittee hearings, following the model of the Se-

lect Committee, to encourage discussion and a more open exchange of ideas. Specifically, we will utilize extended questioning to give members and our witnesses more of an opportunity to thoughtfully engage. After all, a good conversation gets you thinking, and I want to make sure we have the flexibility to go back and forth and really talk through some of the issues before us.

Moving forward, I believe that utilizing this alternative format will lead to better dialogue, increased engagement, and tangible results. However, it will only be successful if each of us is committed to engaging in the process. I look forward to working together to make the People's House more effective and efficient for the American people.

I want to say a huge thank you to the CAO for helping create this roundtable format. I know in this particular room it was not easy, so thank you to your team for organizing this format for us today.

I now recognize the Ranking Member, Mr. Kilmer, for 5 minutes for the purpose of offering an opening statement.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER DEREK KILMER,
A U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE FROM WASHINGTON**

Mr. KILMER. Thanks, Madam Chair.

Really excited to be serving with all of you on this subcommittee. Really grateful that the work of the Select Committee on Modernization of Congress continues. Thank you to Ranking Member Morelle for inviting me to participate in this.

I also want to express my gratitude to Chairwoman Bice and to Chairman Steil for continuing the traditions that were established by the Select Committee on Modernization. The idea of actually sitting around a roundtable and actually having a conversation with each other and with our witnesses, rather than 5-minute speechifying, I think is actually really refreshing. I wish we did that more in this place.

Actually allowing Members to jump in and actually pull a thread on a conversation, rather than, again, having it be something that you are trying to throw up on Facebook or on Twitter but not necessarily to have a conversation, I think this subcommittee will benefit from that.

You know, listen, the Modernization Committee that existed in the last two Congresses was dedicated to a pretty simple proposition, and that is: make Congress work better for the American people. In that regard, we passed 202 recommendations. 132 of them have seen some progress; 45 have been fully implemented; 87 have been partially implemented.

I know we are going to hear from one of the folks who have been responsible for the progress that we have made today, the Chief Administrative Officer.

Thank you to you for appearing today and for the work that you and your team have done to help us move forward on some of these priorities.

There is a lot that has already happened over the last few years as a consequence of the CAO's leadership and partnership. There is still a lot of work that we have to do as well.

The Select Committee held more hearings on one topic than on anything else, and that was staff capacity, because this institution and its ability to actually accomplish anything really depends on staff.

The CAO's work to create the House Human Resources Hub, to expand the Staff Academy through the CAO Coach Program, to form the House Digital Service, to improve staff benefits, all of this goes a long way to helping this institution attract and retain diverse talent, and that helps us get things done for the American people. Thank you for that.

I also just want to recognize and thank the CAO for your work to reform the onboarding process and providing additional continuing education opportunities for Members so that we can get better at our jobs too.

I know you are probably going to get asked about the scheduling tool, since I had to bail on some constituents who were testifying on another committee to be here, so this is one of our challenges in this place.

Some of the recommendations focused on helping us engage with our constituents better too.

A lot has been accomplished, and a lot remains, and I think that is why this subcommittee's existence is exciting.

I thank the Chairwoman for her leadership and partnership, and I am excited about the adventure ahead.

With that, I yield back.

Chairwoman BICE. Thank you, Ranking Member Kilmer and Members of the Subcommittee, for meeting today to adopt Subcommittee Resolution 118-01.

This resolution has been distributed to Members in advance, and it adopts a more flexible rule for the Subcommittee on Modernization to encourage discussion and the open exchange of ideas.

Without objection, the resolution is considered as read and open for amendment at any time.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MODERNIZATION

118th CONGRESS

A RESOLUTION

SUBCOMMITTEE RESOLUTION 118-01

Be it resolved, that the Rules of the Subcommittee on Modernization of the Committee on House Administration are hereby adopted, as follows.

Rules of the Subcommittee on Modernization of the Committee on House Administration

Rule 1—General Provisions

- (a) The Rules of the House of Representatives and the Rules of the Committee on House Administration are the Rules of the Subcommittee on Modernization of the Committee on House Administration so far as applicable and are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.
 - (1) Should changes be adopted by the House of Representatives to the Rules of the House of Representatives or by the Committee on House Administration to the Rules of the Committee on House Administration, such new version of the relevant Rules shall be immediately incorporated by reference without intervening Subcommittee action.
- (b) Unless context clearly requires otherwise,
 - (1) “Subcommittee” means the Subcommittee on Modernization of the Committee on House Administration.
 - (2) “Subcommittee Rules” means this document, as may be duly amended.

Rule 2—Questioning of Witnesses

- (a) Pursuant to clause (j)(2)(B) of Rule XI of the House of Representatives, to Paragraph (b) of Rule 17 of the Committee Rules, and to Subparagraph (4) of Paragraph (o) of Rule 1 of the Committee Rules:
 - (1) Members may question witnesses brought before the Subcommittee for a period longer than five minutes.
 - (2) Members of the majority and minority parties shall have equal time for questioning but such time may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

Chairwoman BICE. Does any Member wish to be recognized to discuss the resolution?

Are there any amendments?

Seeing none, I move that Committee Resolution 118–01 be adopted.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the resolution is adopted.

Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

This concludes the order of business for today's meeting, and the subcommittee stands adjourned for the working portion.

[Whereupon, at 3:08 p.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

