

PUTTING AMERICA FIRST BORDER SECURITY POLICIES BACK IN PLACE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona was recognized for 30 minutes.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of West Virginia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to be here tonight with my colleagues who are also members of the Border Security Caucus.

For 4 years, we have stood here and exposed the open-border policies of the Biden-Harris administration. For 4 years, we have seen what happens when the America First border security policies that President Trump had put in place were thrown out.

In just over 1 month, we have seen what happens when those policies are put back in place. Since President Trump took office, ICE agents have arrested more than 20,000 illegal aliens. That is just in 1 month. By comparison, Joe Biden only had 33,000 at-large arrests for the entire year of 2024.

When Joe Biden was in charge, over 300,000 illegal aliens crossed the border in just 1 month. In President Trump's first month, illegal crossings did not even reach 10,000. The actual number was 8,400.

Whereas Biden let all those people into the country without proper vetting, some of which were known criminals and terrorists that we are now trying to find, under President Trump, people who illegally crossed the border are stopped and immediately detained or removed.

Due to President Biden's catch and release policies, every State had the pathologies of a border State. Immediately after taking office, President Trump charged ICE officers with cleaning up streets across the country by detaining the illegal aliens that Joe Biden had released into the country.

While they were attempting to prosecute President Trump for bogus charges in multiple jurisdictions, the Biden regime was releasing actual criminals into every city in America.

Tonight, we are going to be exposing the Biden-Harris administration's open-border policies and President Trump's work to remove them. We will highlight the tireless work of ICE agents tasked with arresting some of the worst individuals who have invaded our country.

Despite being demonized by the mainstream media and organized campaigns to interfere with and prevent arrests, including by exposing personal information of agents, in just 1 month,

those agents have taken thousands of violent and malevolent offenders off of our streets. In just 1 month, President Trump has put an end to the endless invasion of our communities by illegal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), my co-chairman of the Border Security Caucus.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), my good friend and co-chair. I really appreciate him having tonight's very important Special Order.

The truth is simple. The Biden administration threw open the floodgates, allowing murderers, rapists, and chaos to pour into our communities, all in pursuit of political power. They knew exactly what they were doing.

Securing the border was never an impossibility, as they let the Nation and us believe. It was always a choice.

For the last 4 years, the wrong choice was deliberately made. We were told that enforcement wouldn't work, that the crisis was simply too big to fix, but those were lies meant to cover up the fact that an open border was exactly what they wanted to do.

They dismantled every tool that worked, inviting criminals to walk right in. We saw the consequences play out in the most destructive ways imaginable. Mr. Speaker, 15 million illegals entered under the Biden administration's watch.

Tonight, you will hear about the evils that were unleashed on our neighborhoods by the Biden administration, resulting in death and destruction of innocent American lives.

How many more lives must be lost? How many more families must grieve before they admit their open-border agenda is destroying this country? There are 100,000 Americans dying per year from deadly Mexican cartel and Chinese drugs that have come in over our open border.

There have been hundreds of thousands of lost children from the child sex trade and human trafficking. There have been murders, rapes, and pillaging from illegal alien gangs and swamped public schools, hospitals, and public services.

Here is the good news, though. The days of lawlessness are over because, on day one of the Donald Trump administration, we finally have a strong leader in the White House. Just like that, the border was shut down. All it took was that leadership and the will to enforce the law. The message was sent loud and clear: America is not open for lawbreakers anymore.

Illegal crossings have plummeted. Deportations are back in full force. As co-chair of the Border Security Caucus, I am committed to keeping these dangerous criminals off of our streets.

Working hand in hand with President Trump, Vice President VANCE, and leaders like Tom Homan, we are making sure that child traffickers, drug smugglers, and gang members are rounded up and sent packing back to

where they belong. We are kicking them out by the thousands, just like we should have been doing all along these last 4 years.

This is how you put America first: You don't make excuses; you act. You don't let criminals run free; you lock them up or send them home. You don't leave the border wide open; you shut it down and take control.

The American people deserve safety, not suffering. They deserve law and order, not chaos. They deserve leadership that protects them, not one that absolutely betrays them.

That is what Donald Trump and Tom Homan are delivering to us right now, and they are just getting started.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman who has seen in his own district time and time again the abuse caused by these out-of-control illegal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), my friend who is also on the Border Security Caucus.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank the gentlemen who have led the Border Security Caucus, Mr. BABIN and Mr. BIGGS. I thank them for their leadership on this issue. It is as a result of their efforts that they continue to deliver this message to the American people of what a disaster this was going on at our southern border that caused this to be the number one issue in the past election before the American people.

In particular, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS). The first trip I did after being sworn in, in May 2020, was to go down to the southern border on a trip that he led with many of us, as he did so many times with so many Members. I don't know if there are hardly any Members on the Republican side that he didn't lead to the southern border to deliver the message.

It is there that I got to meet people like Sheriff Mark Lamb from Pinal County in Arizona and Sheriff Mark Dannels down in Cochise County, who back in 2020 talked about how the border was becoming secure, that at the end of the Trump administration's first term, the border was becoming more secure. We visited them a year later, and they told us that it was all deteriorating simply because there was a change in the Presidency. I thank them for their leadership in regard to this. They have done a service to the American people. Hopefully, we can fix this for the future.

We just had a hearing this morning with a sheriff from one of the counties in Texas, a border county there, as well as one of the leaders of the Border Patrol union. They told us that it is night and day since January 20. Thank God we have new leadership in the White House because the border is once again secured.

I would just say, remember when the media and Democrats told us that President Biden needed a bill to fix the border? That was a lie. As President

Trump said last week in his joint address, all we really needed was a new President.

If there is one thing that has been proven over the last month, it is that the Democrats' border invasion was intentional.

□ 1930

Mr. Speaker, President Trump announced illegal border crossings in February were the lowest in decades: February 2024, under Biden, nearly 190,000; 2025, under Trump, a little over 8,000.

That is a 96 percent decrease without a single new law from Congress. The difference is real leadership. It is truly a shame that Democrats willingly let the killers of Laken Riley, Jocelyn Nungaray and Rachel Morin into this country. It is also a shame that they did not deport criminals like the one in my congressional district who killed Steven Nasholm, a father of three daughters.

Thankfully, President Trump didn't wait for excuses. He took action by putting remain in Mexico back in place. He declared an emergency at our southern border, sent troops to help the border patrol, put a stop to illegal crossings, and signed the Laken Riley Act into law to deport dangerous criminals.

Gone are the days of catch and release, which have a completely different meaning where I come from in the lakes in northern Wisconsin. President Biden had turned it into an illegal alien term where illegals who were caught at our southern border were released into the U.S.

To be clear, the last administration chose to let America be invaded. President Trump chose to stop it.

American strength is back and stronger than ever, but we cannot stop here. Congress must act now to ensure these gains are not undone by the next weak President in the White House. We must codify things like stopping birthright citizenship, ending catch and release, ensuring that ICE has the tools needed to carry out mass deportations, and preventing parole abuse permanently.

President Trump is doing his job. Now it is time for Congress to do ours. There are no more excuses. It is time to stand up for America.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate his willingness. We have been to the border together. As has everyone else speaking tonight, I think we have all been except for Mr. GILL who I have got to get down there. It is always fun.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BIGGS for holding tonight's Special Order and leading on this critical border issue.

Since day one, President Trump has taken incredible steps to secure our border and protect the American people. These measures include ending

catch and release, reinstating remain in Mexico, restarting construction of the border wall, and cracking down on sanctuary cities.

Recently, the Trump administration ended the taxpayer subsidization of open borders, meaning Americans' hard-earned tax dollars will no longer be used to support or incentivize illegal immigration. Additionally, the Trump administration has made great progress in carrying out its mass deportation operation.

What used to be called the CBP One app to allow illegals to more easily come into the country is now the CBP Home app. Why is it called the CBP Home app? It is good for a one-way ticket home for illegal aliens so they can self-deport. President Trump is emptying our country of illegal aliens. Promises made; promises kept.

Border Czar Tom Homan and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem are tirelessly working to detain and deport illegal aliens. ICE agents, along with key assistance from local, State, and Federal law enforcement partners, have already arrested and issued detainers for thousands of criminal illegal aliens including murderers, drug traffickers, suspected terrorists, and MS-13 gang members.

For example, ICE recently arrested an illegal alien in Atlanta, in my home State of Georgia, whose criminal history includes a conviction of four counts of indecent liberty with a child. This heinous criminal illegal has no place in the Peach State or anywhere else in our great country for that matter. I am deeply appreciative of the Trump administration for taking criminal illegals off of our streets.

My northeast Georgia district has seen the devastating impact of criminal illegal alien crime up close and personal. Last year, Maria Gomez Perez, a 12-year-old girl, was abducted in Gainesville, Georgia, by an illegal alien. Thankfully, she was rescued and found in Ohio.

Days before the 2024 election, Mimi Rodriguez-Ramirez, a 25-year-old mother, was murdered by an illegal alien from Mexico. That happened in Habersham County.

Just outside my district, Laken Riley, the 22-year-old nursing student, was brutally murdered by an illegal alien in Athens, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, President Trump is working to prevent these tragedies from devastating additional families and communities across our country. I applaud his work to make America secure, safe, and great once again.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. Speaker, I will always remember him going off with Art Del Cueto and leaving the rest of us in a car, stuck in the dirt and with a bad tire, as we were down on the border. It is good to see that he made it.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Arizona for this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, under the Biden administration, our borders were wide open with record numbers of illegal immigrants and deadly drugs flooding across our border.

Under President Biden, every single State became a border State including Indiana. These include dangerous criminals with ties to gangs such as the Tren de Aragua and MS-13, who have committed horrific crimes and vicious attacks against innocent Americans.

Last year, an illegal immigrant with ties to MS-13 stabbed a teenage girl in the hand at a baseball game in Lowell, Indiana. After an extensive search, the culprit was found and arrested. I thank law enforcement officers for their hard work to find and arrest this criminal.

Under President Trump, we have swiftly returned to commonsense border policies, and illegal border crossings have plunged to a record low. In January 2025, there were 61,465 illegal border crossings, down from 176,000 in January '24. Just last month, illegal crossings at our southern border plummeted to the lowest level on record.

President Trump has sent a message loud and clear that the border is closed, and his strong border security policies are working. House Republicans are working with the President to implement his agenda to secure our border and keep Americans safe.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, who is also a member of the Border Security Caucus, for being with us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL). Texas is another border State, and Mr. GILL is a newcomer who is setting the world on fire.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting this Special Order.

Over the past 4 years, Joe Biden and the Democrats have inundated American communities with massive numbers of violent, illegal aliens who are murdering, raping, torturing, and pillaging our people on our soil.

They did it the entire time, not by accident but as a deliberate policy decision, to open up our borders and flood our country with people that they believed would be future Democrat voters for life.

We have to remember it was also a part of a policy that was done with the approbation of a cheap labor lobby who wanted to import millions of people who would act as a virtual, new serf class of laborers to reduce American working-class wages in this country.

The consequences of this were absolutely catastrophic for the American people. Almost 15 million illegal aliens, perhaps more, depending on what estimates we use, have come into this country.

Thankfully, this nightmare is finally over because we have a President who

actually cares about the American people. We have a President who doesn't make excuses. We have a President who doesn't tell us lies, like the executive needs to rely on new laws to enforce our border. We have a President who actually just gets the job done.

His border enforcement efforts have caused known got-aways to fall by 93 percent with an average of just 132 a day right now. Even as this nightmare in this country is finally coming to a close, we have colleagues on the other side of the aisle right now who are facilitating this invasion as best they can and going back to their districts and helping protect illegal aliens who have no business being here in the first place. They are teaching them how to evade ICE detection.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely disgusting. We have got to codify President Trump's border policies into law so that we don't let the other side of the aisle unleash the same kind of hell on our country that they did over the past 4 years. We have got to codify every single executive order including his remain in Mexico policy. I have got a bill, the REMAIN in Mexico Act, which would do precisely that. We have got over 100 cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to bring this bill to the floor. This is what the American people want. This is what the President wants. I think we need to act fast.

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his passion. He is right. We do need to codify President Trump's policies because we cannot go back to the period of time like we just experienced under the Biden regime.

Mr. Speaker, the Trump policies are a product of understanding what needs to happen. The mere fact that Donald Trump was elected almost immediately terminated the onslaught of people crossing our border.

Let me give an example. When I was meeting with the new border patrol chief, Chief Banks, I asked him what is going on. He said: Andy, three caravans turned back yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, that is what happens when you enforce the law. People were going to break the law. They stopped breaking the law. When I was down at the border just a few weeks back, I wanted to compare. I went to a place where I knew we had a regular flow of illegal aliens crossing the border. It was eerily quiet when I was there. The only thing that we saw and noticed on the southern side of the border were the watchers and the scouts. All of a sudden, they saw us. They came out. They were watching and observing us.

Let's talk about some of the people that have come in under the Biden administration's terrible and dangerous anti-American policy. First is Eduardo Domingo Renoj-Matul; some call him Turko. In the sanctuary city of Los Angeles, Federal agents arrested Eduardo Domingo Renoj-Matul, also known as Turko, who is charged with running

one of the largest human smuggling organizations in the country. It spanned 5 years, and he smuggled in around 20,000 illegal aliens, largely between Los Angeles and Phoenix. Just so you know, the last number was about \$10,000 per person that he was smuggling.

A codefendant of his was also charged with threatening to behead a Homeland Security Investigations agent and his family while authorities were conducting a search of his home.

Charges against him and his codefendant include hostage taking, transporting aliens into the U.S., and transporting aliens for private financial gain, resulting in death.

Illegal aliens were charged in some instances more than \$15,000 for transportation. If they couldn't make the payment, they were held as hostages in stash houses in Los Angeles and Phoenix.

□ 1945

Let's take a look at someone else. Let's see if we can find Wilmer Yovani Fuentes-Benitez. On February 2, ICE officers in Philadelphia arrested Honduran national Wilmer Yovani Fuentes-Benitez who was previously deported three times. This time he was also arrested for resisting arrest and battery of a police officer.

These are the people that my friends across the aisle say should be allowed to remain here in these sanctuary cities.

ICE agents in Omaha arrested a member of Tren de Aragua who had spent 7 years in a Venezuelan prison for robbery, resisting arrest, and unlawfully discharging a firearm.

ICE agents arrested Fernando Hernandez-Martinez for two counts of child molestation.

We have another poster. This is Jose Roberto Rodriguez-Urbina. On January 22, ICE agents arrested El Salvadoran national Jose Roberto Rodriguez-Urbina who was wanted in his home country on extortion charges. This is what happens when an administration does not properly vet people they let into the country.

Criminal fugitives see the U.S. as a safe haven from justice, and they abuse the parole statute. They literally granted parole to millions of people when the very purpose of parole never saw more than 25 or so people admitted into the country under parole but not under the Biden administration.

In Saint Paul, Minnesota, another individual was arrested by ICE agents, Victor Covarrubias-Ozuna, for sexually assaulting a child.

Here is another one. In San Francisco, California, ICE agents arrested Erwin Davila-Galvan for lewd acts with a minor.

We have another poster. On January 27, ICE agents in San Diego arrested an Afghani who had an existing removal order and was a known or suspected terrorist. Despite having a removal order, the Biden-Harris administration

and Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas could not be bothered to deport this suspected terrorist. He was roaming our streets and had to be captured by ICE agents.

We have another individual. On February 5, ICE officers in Harris County, Texas, arrested Mexican national David Gonzalez-Martinez for aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury. Gonzalez has illegally entered the country at least four times and was removed from the U.S. in 2001, 2008, and 2015. He was previously convicted of voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault with a weapon, drug possession, and illegal reentry.

On January 27, ICE agents in Brockton, Massachusetts, arrested Guatemalan national Edilio Agustin-Orellana. Agustin is charged with five counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, three counts of kidnapping, and armed home invasion. He has a record with ICE going back as far as 2002 when he was first arrested for illegally entering the United States.

These are the types of individuals that are currently being arrested by ICE under the leadership of Tom Homan. These are the types of individuals that are being protected by sanctuary cities.

When we recently had a hearing, we had the mayors of four of these sanctuary cities come in. All of them said: We cooperate with ICE. We don't keep people from being deported or we don't stop handing them over. But they do; they release them in the parking lot.

Let me read you the statutes that they are violating. Here is one. 8 U.S.C. 1373(a) states: "Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal, state, or local law, a Federal, State, or local government entity or official may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, the Immigration and Naturalization Service information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual." You cannot do it. There is not even a culpable mental state required. You simply can't restrict it.

The sanctuary cities are preventing ICE and the immigration officials from getting this information. There is this one. This is 8 U.S.C. 1324(c). It states: "In conducting investigations and hearings . . . immigration officers and administrative law judges shall have reasonable access to examine evidence of any person or entity being investigated . . ."

When the sanctuary city mayors say you can't cooperate with ICE, they are violating this statute. They have criminal culpability. Also you will see again there is no culpable mental state. There is no requirement that they intentionally or willfully knowingly do it. It is a per se statute. They are violating this. They have criminal culpability.

The sanctuary cities also have culpability on this. "Any person who knowing"—now you have a culpable mental

state—that a “Any person who knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that an alien has come to, entered, or remains in the United States in violation of law, conceals, harbors, or shields from detection, or attempts to conceal, harbor, or shield from detection such alien in any place. . . . shall for each alien in respect to whom such a violation occurs, be fined, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.”

You have to understand something. What you have here is you have mayors telling their police chiefs and their officers don’t hand these people over. Don’t hand them over. There is no distinction between civil or criminal. When they do that they know that they are concealing. That is a criminal sentence up to 10 years. They are violating the law. They need to be prosecuted.

I am calling on Pam Bondi, the new Attorney General, and I am also calling on Mr. Homan to make that happen.

Mr. Speaker, I tip my hat to President Trump. What he has done just by enforcing the law has actually secured most of our border.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, March 11, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of rule XI of the House of Representatives, the rules of procedure for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the 119th Congress are transmitted herewith. They were adopted on February 7, 2025 by voice vote.

Sincerely,

ERIC A. “RICK” CRAWFORD,
Chairman.

RULES OF THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

RULE 1.—GENERAL PROVISIONS

(A) *Applicability of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.* The Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives (the “House”) are the rules of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (the “Committee”) and its subcommittees insofar as applicable.

(B) *Applicability to Subcommittees.* Except when the terms “Full Committee” and “Subcommittee” are specifically mentioned, the following rules shall apply to the Committee’s subcommittees and their respective Chairs and Ranking Minority Members to the same extent as they apply to the full Committee and its Chair and Ranking Minority Member.

(C) *Changes in Rules.* These rules may be modified, amended, waived, or repealed by a vote of the full Committee. A notice, in writing, of the proposed change or waiver shall be given to each member at least 48 hours prior to any meeting at which action on the proposed rule change or waiver is to be taken.

(D) *Committee Website.* The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purposes of furthering the Committee’s

legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee’s activities to the Committee Members, other Members, and the public at large. The Ranking Minority Member may maintain a similar website for the same purposes. The official Committee website shall display a link on its homepage to the website maintained by the Ranking Minority Member.

RULE 2.—LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(A) *Legislative Calendar.*

(1) *Generally.* The Chief Clerk or other Committee staff designated by the Chair, under the direction of the Staff Director, shall maintain a calendar that lists:

- (a) The legislative measures introduced and referred to the Committee;
- (b) The status of such measures; and
- (c) Such other matters that the Committee may require.

(2) *Revisions to the Calendar.* The calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes. A copy of such revision shall be furnished to each Member of the Committee upon request.

(3) *Consultation with Appropriate Government Entities.* Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, legislative measures referred to the Committee may be referred by the Chief Clerk to the appropriate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

(B) *Full Committee Regular Meeting.* The regular meeting day of the Committee for the transaction of Committee business shall be the first Thursday on which the House of Representatives is in session of each month, unless otherwise directed by the Chair. The Chair of the Committee is authorized to dispense with a regular meeting or to change the date thereof when circumstances warrant.

(C) *Additional and Special Meetings.* The Chair of the Committee may call and convene additional meetings when circumstances warrant. A special meeting of the Committee may be requested by Members of the Committee pursuant to the provisions of clause 2(c)(2) and clause 2(m)(1) of House Rule XI.

(D) *Subcommittee Meetings.* Except as otherwise directed by the Chair of the full Committee, each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the full Committee on all matters within its jurisdiction and/or referred to it. Insofar as possible, meetings of the subcommittees shall not conflict with meetings of the full Committee. A subcommittee Chair shall set meeting dates only after consultation with and approval of the Chair of the full Committee.

(E) *Subcommittee Field Hearings.* The Chair of the Committee, at the request of a subcommittee Chair, may make a temporary assignment of any Member of the Committee to such subcommittee for the purpose of constituting a quorum at and participating in any public hearing by such subcommittee to be held outside of Washington, D.C. A Member appointed to such temporary position shall not be a voting member. The Chair of the Committee shall give reasonable notice of such temporary assignment to the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee and of the respective subcommittee.

(F) *Notice of Meetings.*

(1) *Generally.* In the case of any meeting of the Committee, the Chief Clerk shall provide reasonable notice to every Member of the Committee. Such notice shall provide the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting, and shall be made consistent with the provisions of clause 2(g)(3) of House Rule XI.

(2) *Hearings.* Except as provided in subsection (F)(4), a Committee hearing may not commence earlier than one week after such notice.

(3) *Business Meetings.* Except as provided in subsection (F)(4), a Committee business meeting may not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays when the House is not in session).

(4) *Exception.* A hearing or business meeting may begin sooner than otherwise specified in either of the following circumstances (in which case the Chair shall provide the notice at the earliest possible time):

(a) the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is good cause; or

(b) the Committee determines by majority vote in the presence of the number of Members required under the rules of the Committee for the transaction of business.

(5) *Definition.* For purposes of this rule, “notice” means:

- (a) Written notification; or
- (b) Notification delivered by facsimile transmission, regular mail, or electronic mail.

(G) *Open Meetings.*

(1) *Generally.* Pursuant to House Rule XI, but subject to the limitations of subsections (G)(2) and (G)(3) of this rule, Committee meetings held for the transaction of business and Committee hearings shall be open to the public.

(2) *Meetings.* Any meeting or portion thereof for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or any hearing or portion thereof, shall be closed to the public if the Committee determines by record vote in open session, with a majority of the Committee present, that disclosure of the matters to be discussed may:

- (a) Endanger national security;
- (b) Compromise sensitive law enforcement information;
- (c) Tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person; or
- (d) Otherwise violate any law or Rule of the House.

(3) *Hearings.* The Committee may vote to close a Committee hearing pursuant to clause 11(d)(2) of House Rule X, regardless of whether a majority is present, so long as at least two Members of the Committee are present, one of whom is a Member of the Minority and votes upon the motion.

(4) *Briefings.* Committee briefings shall be closed to the public.

(H) *Broadcasting Meetings.* Whenever a hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, a majority of the Committee may permit that hearing or meeting to be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any such methods of coverage, subject to the provisions and in accordance with the spirit of the purposes enumerated in the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(I) *Quorum.*

(1) *Hearings.* For purposes of taking testimony, or receiving evidence, a quorum shall consist of two Committee Members, at least one of whom is a Member of the Majority.

(2) *Reporting Measures and Recommendations.* For purposes of reporting a measure or recommendation, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the Committee’s Members.

(3) *Other Committee Proceedings.* For purposes of the transaction of all other Committee business, other than the consideration of a motion to close a hearing as described in section (G)(3), a quorum shall consist of one-third of the Committee’s Members.