

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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July 13, 2018

The Honorable Pete Sessions
Chairman, Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On June 28, 2018, the Committee on Appropriations ordered reported H.R. 2658, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for FY 2019.

This legislation includes a provision within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. In title V — Independent Agencies, United States Postal Service — Payment to the Postal Service Fund (page 251, lines 5–8 of Rules Committee Print 115-81), language was added to the bill via an amendment stating “Provided further, That the Postal Service shall maintain and comply with service standards for First Class Mail and periodicals effective on July 1, 2012.”

This provision violates clause 2 of House Rule XXI. If the Committee on Rules considers a special rule providing for the consideration of this bill, then I respectfully request that this provision not be protected from Rule XXI points of order. By striking the provision on the floor, the Committee believes there would be no budgetary effect. The Chair sustained a point of order against a similar provision in H.R. 5485 (114th Cong.), the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for FY 2017, which ruling was sustained on appeal.

I have discussed this matter with the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget and they are aware of my concerns with this provision.

Sincerely,



Trey Gowdy

cc: The Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Tom Graves, Chairman, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Steve Womack, Chairman, Committee on the Budget

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Thomas J. Wickham, Parliamentarian