

The image shows the interior of a grand, ornate dome, likely the U.S. Capitol. The ceiling is covered in a complex, repeating pattern of octagonal and square decorative elements. In the center, a large fresco depicts a group of figures in classical attire, possibly representing a historical or allegorical scene. The lighting is warm, highlighting the intricate details of the architecture.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RULES FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES | CHAIRMAN JAMES P. MCCOVERN

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FROM THE DAIS: CHAIRMAN JAMES P. MCGOVERN



WE STARTED THE 116TH CONGRESS INHERITING A REPUBLICAN-LED GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN; the first time a shutdown began in one Congress and was passed to the next. We ended in the midst of a global pandemic the likes of which our nation hasn't seen in more than 100 years.

Despite these challenges, we delivered on behalf of the American people.

Our Democratic Majority delivered on the promises we made. We passed legislation to lower prescription drug costs, confront the climate crisis, combat gun violence, reform our criminal

justice system, protect coverage for pre-existing conditions, promote equality, and clean up our politics. Rather than shrink in the face of the challenges posed by COVID-19, the Rules Committee spearheaded a temporary rules change permitting remote voting and virtual committee proceedings. We successfully balanced public health concerns with the imperative to carry out the people's work.

As Chairman, I am incredibly proud of the role that the Rules Committee played in making our success possible. We could not have done this without Ranking Member Tom Cole, whose dedication to working together despite policy disagreements is an example for all.

In the 116th Congress, we had many late-night meetings and early mornings on the House Floor. As you'll read in this report, the committee processed more than 7,500 amendments, and made in order for debate on the House floor more amendments than in any other Congress in history. We also held committee and subcommittee meetings on everything from Medicare for All and human trafficking to climate resiliency and Congress' Article I powers.

We did it all in a collaborative spirit that reached across the aisle. Even our impeachment hearing was praised by observers as a "masterclass in what civility and respectful disagreement should look like in Congress."

Throughout, we were guided by the rules package that passed on the opening day of the Congress – the first such package in a decade to pass with bipartisan support. I'm proud of what it allowed us to create: the Consensus Calendar to expedite consideration of ideas with broad bipartisan support; the Diversity Office to make Congress look more like America; and the Select Committee on Modernization, to advance good ideas from both sides that get this House to function better. We also mandated Member Day hearings so that all Members had a chance to be heard across Congress.

We are now preparing for the next rules package as the 117th Congress soon gets underway. The ideas included here, which came from both Democrats and Republicans, will build on our successes and make the next Congress even stronger.

We should all be proud to have debated big ideas, even in the face of monumental challenges, in a way that brought integrity back to this institution.

RESTORING CONGRESS: IMPACTS OF OUR RULES CHANGES IN THE 116TH CONGRESS

THE RULES COMMITTEE ASKED EVERY MEMBER FOR THEIR IDEAS,

from the longest serving to the newly elected. We spoke to every House committee, and Members from groups including the Progressive Caucus and the Black Caucus to the Hispanic Caucus and the Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Blue Dogs and the Problem Solvers. We also worked with offices of the parliamentarian and the general counsel, and gathered feedback from many outside groups who work on these issues.

The rules package was the first to be adopted by a bipartisan vote in over a decade – and through the work not only of the Rules Committee, but all Members, its reforms made the House more accountable to the American people.

The Rules Committee developed a rules package that reflected all corners of the Democratic Majority and the Congress. It modernized the House of Representatives in five key ways.



LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

Aligned Congress' agenda with the priorities of the American people. This rules package empowered the House to defend the Affordable Care Act's pre-existing conditions coverage, and set up consideration of H.R. 1, a historic set of reforms to reduce money in politics, and created the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.



RETURNING TO REGULAR ORDER

Returned to regular order and followed the principle that good ideas should be debated and voted on. This package implemented a real 72-hour rule so Members of Congress have time to actually read the major bills they're voting on; required bills to have a hearing and a markup before they go through the Rules Committee and to the House Floor; and created a truly bipartisan Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.



STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT AND ETHICS

Cleaned up Washington and provided real oversight of the Trump administration. These changes prohibited Members and staff from serving on boards of publicly traded companies; provided assistance and training to help congressional offices properly protect whistleblowers; and set a policy that Members indicted for serious crimes should resign from leadership roles and committee assignments.



BOLSTERING BUDGET RULES

Prevented Members from using the debt ceiling as a political weapon. This rules package also ended the sham budgetary policy of CUT-GO that pretends that tax cuts somehow pay for themselves, and prevented our Federal lands from being given away for free.



FIGHTING FOR INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Facilitated an inclusive Congress to better reflect the diversity of the American people. This included banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and creating a first-ever Diversity Office. This also clarified the rules so that Members and staff are officially allowed to wear religious headwear on the House Floor, and required Members to reimburse taxpayers for discrimination settlements.

116TH CONGRESS TOP PRIORITIES

- ✓ Returning to Regular Order
- ✓ Developing a More Accommodating Legislative Process
- ✓ Providing Oversight of the Trump Administration
- ✓ Keeping Congress Working for the American People

A LOOK BACK AT THE 116TH CONGRESS

RULES COMMITTEE BY THE NUMBERS

MORE THAN
7,500
AMENDMENTS PROCESSED DURING THE 116TH CONGRESS

NEARLY
3,000
AMENDMENTS WERE ELECTRONICALLY RECEIVED AND PROCESSED SINCE THE START OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

61%
OF FRESHMAN AMENDMENTS WERE SENT TO THE FLOOR

THAT'S MORE THAN
750

441 AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER ON FY2020 NDAA THE MOST EVER ON A SINGLE BILL

MORE THAN
2,700
AMENDMENTS WERE SENT TO THE HOUSE FLOOR DURING THE 116TH CONGRESS

Despite the challenges, this Congress opened doors to a more accommodating process and tackled issues that directly impacted the American people's lives.

UNDER THE PRIOR CONGRESS, THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY BROKE THEIR OWN RECORD FOR THE MOST CLOSED CONGRESS IN HISTORY.

This restrictive process had a devastating impact on this institution and the work this House accomplished, or, in many cases, failed to accomplish. Through restrictive rules, bipartisan ideas like preventing the shipping of jobs overseas, helping disabled veterans, protecting students, allowing common-sense gun safety research, defending DREAMers,

preserving our clean air and water, ensuring presidential ethics, and much more were prevented from even getting a vote on the House Floor.

When we began the 116th Congress, our Democratic Majority promised the American people a clean break from the past – and we delivered.

Through a more accommodating legislative process, this Democratic Majority acted on legislation to lower prescription drug costs, confront the climate crisis, combat

gun violence, reform our criminal justice system, protect coverage for pre-existing conditions, promote equality, clean up our politics, and more.

The Rules Committee played an important role in making this success possible, processing more than 7,500 amendments during the 116th Congress and making a historic number in order for debate on the House Floor. Even in the face of unprecedented challenges, the committee helped get the world's greatest deliberative body debating again.

TACKLING THE BIG ISSUES

CREATED NEW FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVERSITY SUBCOMMITTEE

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHAIRWOMAN MAXINE WATERS (D-CA), Chair of the Financial Services Committee, the Rules Committee paved the way for the creation of the Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion. The subcommittee, led by Chair Joyce Beatty (D-OH) and Ranking Member Ann Wagner (R-MO) highlights diversity and inclusion issues across the financial services industry.

The subcommittee convened nine hearings and considered 18 bills. As a result of the subcommittee's work, two bills passed the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress: H.R. 281, the Ensuring Diverse Leadership Act, and H.R. 5084, the Improving Corporate Governance through Diversity Act.

The Committee on Financial Services invited three times the number of women and six times the number of people of color as witnesses to its hearings during the first session of the 116th Congress compared to the 113th Congress for the same time period.

Chairs Waters and Beatty also released a comprehensive report on diversity and inclusion practices at the nation's largest banks, held hearings, and issued recommendations on better diversity and inclusion practices at big banks.



Chairwoman Beatty (D-OH) and Ranking Member Wagner (R-MO) chair a subcommittee meeting.

CREATED AN OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

THE 116TH CONGRESS WAS THE MOST DIVERSE CONGRESS IN AMERICAN HISTORY. That's why our rules package established the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

To identify the scope of this institution's diversity deficit, the House administered a compensation and diversity survey to 10,356 employees of the House, with 51 percent participating (5,290 people).

The Diversity Office submitted a diversity plan to direct and guide House employing offices to recruit, train, develop, promote, and retain a diverse workforce to reflect the growing diversity of our nation.

STRENGTHENED REPRESENTATION

THE 116TH RULES PACKAGE ALSO STRENGTHENED REPRESENTATION BY RETURNING VOTING RIGHTS to Delegates and the Resident Commissioner, which a prior Republican-led Congress had stripped away. The five Delegates representing the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico represent over 4.5 million citizens who deserve a voice on the House Floor.

In June of 2020, the House also took historic action to establish the District of Columbia as the nation's 51st state with passage of H.R. 51. This marked the first time that either chamber agreed to give the nation's capital representation in Congress.

FORMED NEW SELECT CLIMATE COMMITTEE

THE RULES PACKAGE CREATED A SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS TASKED WITH DEVELOPING CLIMATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS.

The select committee held over two dozen hearings and roundtables on climate policy, taking testimony from dozens of experts.

In June of 2020, the select committee unveiled its Congressional Action Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis, a 538-page science-based report laying out policy recommendations to create a clean energy economy and a healthy, resilient, and just America. More than 50 of the recommendations were incorporated in legislation that passed the House in the 116th Congress.

RETURNING TO REGULAR ORDER

THE RULES PACKAGE REQUIRED bills have a hearing and a markup before they go to the Rules Committee for consideration.

During consideration of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held nearly 20 hearings, heard from almost 150 witnesses, filed more than 330 amendments, and debated the legislation for over 20 hours.

The new rules also implemented a rule that required text to be available for 72 hours before the bill could proceed to the House Floor for a vote. This was followed nearly 90 percent of the time, even amid a Republican-led government shutdown and the coronavirus pandemic.

DEBATING BIG IDEAS ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

CHAIRMAN MCGOVERN PROMISED REFORMS TO GET COMMITTEES BACK TO WORK and get Members debating important policy issues. And he did just that. Following the 115th Congress when Republicans shut out debate a stunning and record-breaking 103 times, Chairman McGovern's Rules Committee made in order more amendments than any other Congress, sending over 2,700 amendments to the House Floor – 441 on the National Defense bill alone. Of these amendments, more than 700 – nearly 30 percent of all amendments – came from the Freshman class alone.

CREATING A MORE MODERN CONGRESS

THE RULES PACKAGE CREATED THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS. This bipartisan committee held dozens of hearings and roundtables with Members and outside experts to examine innovative ways to move Congress into the 21st Century. The Select Committee developed concrete solutions to make Congress work better for the American people and for Members of Congress. With nearly 100 recommendations in its final report, the Select Committee worked with the Committee on House Administration to pass two key resolutions that pushed many of these recommendations into practice across the House.

MOVING BIPARTISAN IDEAS FORWARD

CHAIRMAN MCGOVERN MADE GOOD ON A PROMISE to move more bipartisan bills to the House Floor. With the new Consensus Calendar, bills with broad bipartisan support were fast-tracked for a vote. Some examples include bills to:

- Help reduce the visa backlog for high-skilled immigrants (H.R. 1044)
- Eliminate the "Widow's Tax" to help the surviving spouses of our servicemembers (H.R. 553)
- Assist veterans with service dog training therapy (H.R. 4305)



GIVING ALL MEMBERS A VOICE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

MEMBER DAY HEARINGS

The rules package for the 116th Congress required all committees to host a Member Day hearing, giving any Member an opportunity to promote their legislative priorities before the committee. Members from both parties testified more than 500 times on key policies and issues impacting their constituents. Many of their ideas were included in legislation that passed the House, with some becoming law.

- ▶ At Ways and Means, Freshman Rep. TJ Cox (D-CA) testified about asthma and COPD patients, leading to bipartisan legislation to make inhalers more affordable and accessible.
- ▶ Nearly 20% of the House participated in the Transportation Committee's Member Day Hearing. The Committee included bipartisan priorities from over 65 Members in H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, which passed the House in July.
- ▶ Natural Resources moved seven pieces of legislation proposed at their Member Day hearing through the legislative process, including 4 Republican-led bills.
- ▶ Four proposals at the Armed Service Committee were signed into law as part of the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act.
- ▶ The Education and Labor Committee heard testimony from several Members that shaped the College Affordability Act, which was marked-up and reported favorably to the full House.

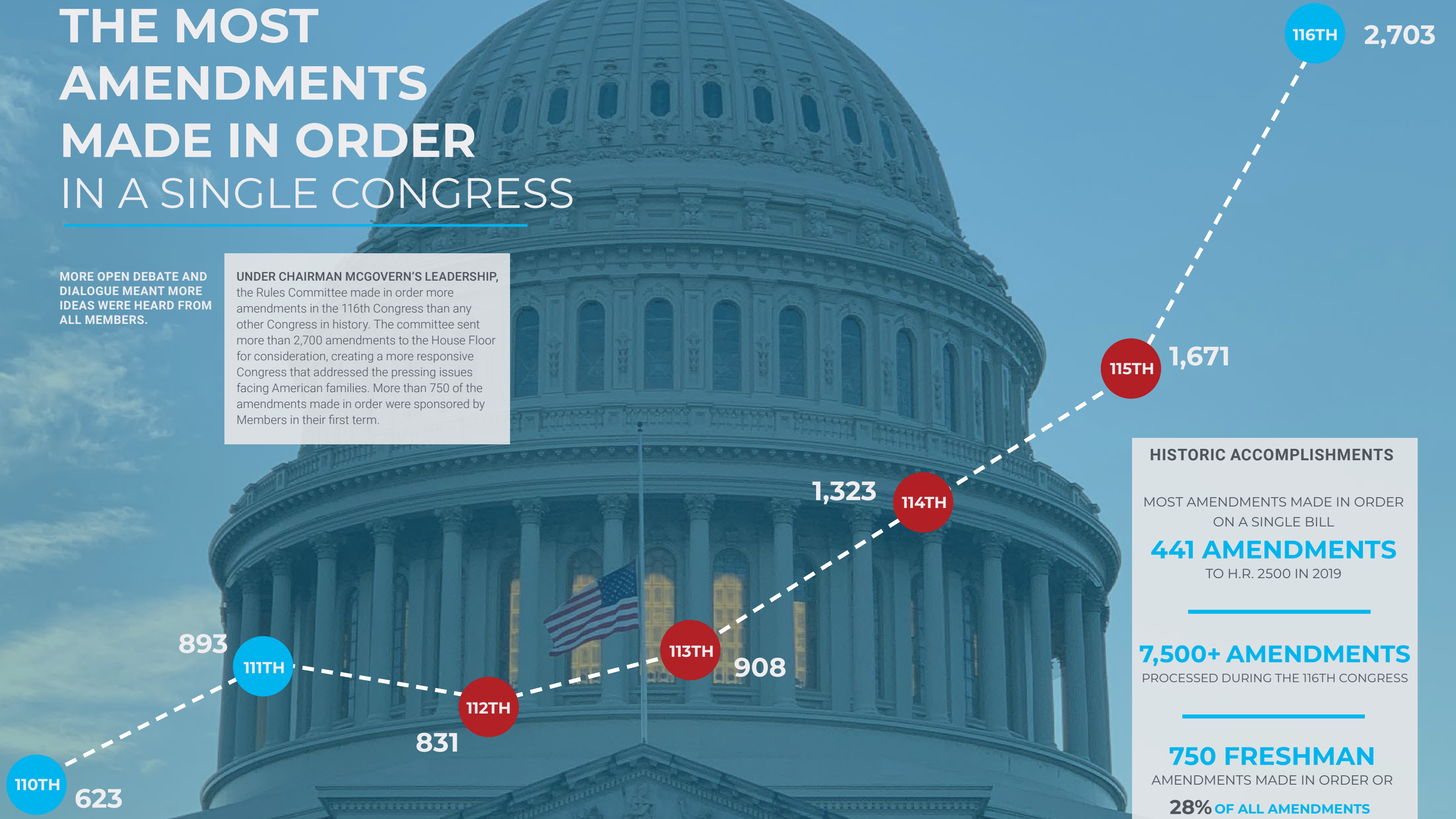
The 116th Congress' rules package empowered Members to have a voice across all House committees - not just the ones they sit on - to ensure that the people they represent have a voice in Congress on every issue impacting their lives.



THE MOST AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER IN A SINGLE CONGRESS

MORE OPEN DEBATE AND DIALOGUE MEANT MORE IDEAS WERE HEARD FROM ALL MEMBERS.

UNDER CHAIRMAN MCGOVERN'S LEADERSHIP, the Rules Committee made in order more amendments in the 116th Congress than any other Congress in history. The committee sent more than 2,700 amendments to the House Floor for consideration, creating a more responsive Congress that addressed the pressing issues facing American families. More than 750 of the amendments made in order were sponsored by Members in their first term.



HISTORIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MOST AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER ON A SINGLE BILL

441 AMENDMENTS
TO H.R. 2500 IN 2019

7,500+ AMENDMENTS
PROCESSED DURING THE 116TH CONGRESS

750 FRESHMAN
AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER OR
28% OF ALL AMENDMENTS



RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FROM THE RULES PACKAGE TO SUBPOENAS, the 116th Congress used every tool to fulfill its constitutional duty to hold the Trump administration accountable to the American people.

Obstructing oversight impairs the ability of Congress to legislate effectively. When the administration refused to comply with subpoenas issued by the Judiciary Committee to former White House Counsel Donald F. McGahn II, and Attorney General William Barr, the Rules Committee defended Congress' power as an independent branch of government.

Chairman McGovern authored, and the House passed, House Resolution 430, which authorized the Judiciary Committee to initiate judicial proceedings in Federal court to seek enforcement of these important subpoenas.

H RES	430	YEA	NAY	PRES	NV
DEMOCRATIC		229			6
REPUBLICAN			191		7
INDEPENDENT					
TOTALS		229	191		13



KEEPING CONGRESS WORKING DURING A PANDEMIC

WORKING TOGETHER WHILE SAFELY APART

BY THE CLOSING DAYS OF THE 116TH CONGRESS, OUR NATION LOST MORE THAN 343,000 OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS TO THE CORONAVIRUS, with countless more families suffering economically. Chairman McGovern led the historic effort to ensure this institution could fully function safely during this extraordinary time.

Chairman McGovern authored House Resolution 965, which allowed the 116th Congress to join legislatures across the country and around the world in adapting to remote work. This resolution implemented temporary remote voting on the House Floor and virtual committee proceedings during this pandemic. It also directed the Chair of the Committee on House Administration, in consultation with the Ranking Member, to study the feasibility of using technology to vote remotely in the House in the future.

As Chairman McGovern made clear, Congress works best when it works together, face-to-face and side-by-side. This temporary resolution, however, allowed Congress to adapt during the coronavirus pandemic and continue its work for the American people.

KEEPING CONGRESS WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

THE RULES COMMITTEE HELD 14 partially or fully remote hearings and reported 27 measures to the House Floor, including critical legislation such as COVID-19 stimulus packages, the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, and necessary government funding bills.

SINCE THE ADOPTION OF H. RES. 965:

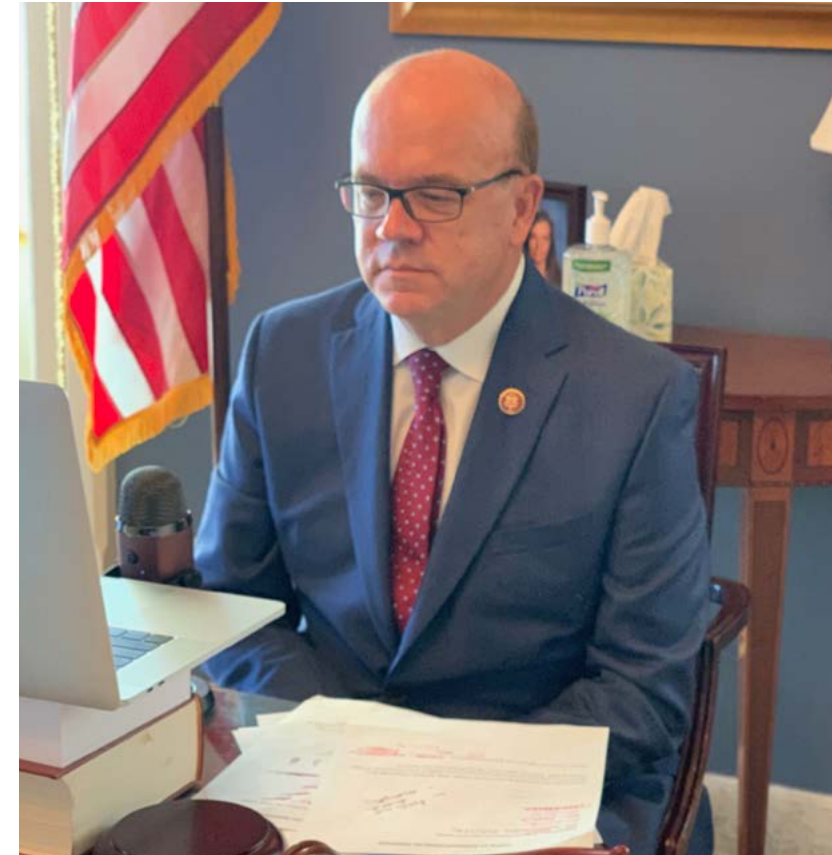
2,994 amendments electronically received and processed by the committee

1,176 amendments sent by the Rules Committee to the House Floor for a vote

180 Members have utilized remote voting on the House Floor

6,714 votes cast remotely by Members on the House Floor

127.8 million Americans have had their voices heard thanks to remote voting



Chairman McGovern remotely chairs a Rules Committee meeting September 30, 2020.

A HISTORIC HEARING: MEDICARE FOR ALL



1

1. Invited witnesses deliver opening remarks. This meeting was held on the Medicare for All Act, which over 100 Members supported and would expand the overwhelmingly successful and popular Medicare program. 2. Dr. Dean Baker addresses Members on the dais. 3. The late Congressman John Lewis (D- GA) spends time with witness Ady Barkan.

“
NEVER BEFORE HAVE I GIVEN A SPEECH WITHOUT MY NATURAL VOICE.

NEVER BEFORE HAVE I HAD TO RELY ON A SYNTHETIC VOICE TO LAY OUT MY ARGUMENTS, CONVEY MY MOST PASSIONATELY HELD BELIEFS, TELL THE DETAILS OF MY PERSONAL STORY.

”
-ADY BARKAN



2



3

THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE

THE RULES COMMITTEE HELD THE FIRST-EVER HEARING ON MEDICARE FOR ALL April 30, 2019, centered around a bill sponsored by Representatives Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI), and cosponsored by 118 Members. This landmark hearing highlighted the important improvements gained by the Affordable Care Act while underscoring the real work Congress must do to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable health care. The committee called health policy and economic experts, medical professionals, and a patient advocate to explain the ways our health care system leaves too many behind, detail the real-life impacts of medical bills on families, and explore ways that a single-payer model could save lives.

WITNESSES

- Dr. Dean Baker** • Senior Economist, Center for Economic and Policy Research
- Ady Barkan** • Founder, Be a Hero Organization
- Dr. Charles Blahous** • J. Fish and Lillian F. Smith Chair and Senior Research Strategist, Mercatus Center
- Dr. Doris Browne** • Immediate Past-President, National Medical Association
- Dr. Sara Collins** • Vice President for Health Care Coverage and Access, The Commonwealth Fund
- Dr. Farzon Nahvi** • Emergency Room Physician
- Grace-Marie Turner** • President, Galen Institute

A HISTORIC HEARING: CONGRESS' ARTICLE I POWERS



1. Chairman McGovern (D-MA) passes his gavel to Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK) as a display of bipartisanship. 2. Deborah Pearlstein presents an opening statement. 3. Saikrishna Prakash speaks on Article I powers. 4. Dr. Laura Belmonte speaks on the separation of powers.

THE **FIRST** BRANCH

THE FIRST BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT, the Congress, was entrusted by the Founders to be the voice of the people and to oversee the other branches. On March 2, 2020, the Rules Committee held a bipartisan hearing to outline the responsibilities of the Legislative Branch, understand how Congress ceded some of those responsibilities to the Executive Branch, and discuss ways to bolster Congress' constitutional authority. Here, Member discussion and witness recommendations focused on War Powers, the power of the purse, rulemaking, the National Emergencies Act, and the Arms Export Control Act.

WITNESSES

Dr. Laura Belmonte • Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and Professor of History at Virginia Tech

Matthew Spalding • Vice President of Washington Operations and Dean of the Van Andel Graduate School of Government at Hillsdale College's DC Campus

Deborah Pearlstein • Professor of Law and Co-Director, Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy

Saikrishna Prakash • James Monroe Distinguished Professor of Law



A HISTORIC HEARING: BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

WEATHERPROOFING AMERICA

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ARE INCREASING IN FREQUENCY AND AFFECTING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. States like Florida, South Carolina, and Texas are still recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricanes Maria, Irma, and Harvey.

While post-disaster supplemental appropriations bills are critical to helping communities recover in the absence of proper pre-disaster planning, Congress must return to the work of developing and implementing a national resiliency plan that empowers all communities to build smarter and stronger for the future.

To identify ways to help communities prepare for natural disasters, help prevent future damage, and to aid in recovery efforts, the Rules Committee's Subcommittee on the Legislative and Budget Process held a hearing entitled, *Building Resilient Communities for America's Future*, on September 24, 2019.

Following the hearing, Chairman Hastings and other Rules Members joined with appropriators to direct the Department of Education to study the impact of recent natural disasters on educational attainment and economic outcomes.



As the Subcommittee Chair of Legislative and Budget Process, Congressman Alcee Hastings (D-FL) led a hearing on the national resiliency effort. As once-in-a-generation hurricanes, wildfires, and superstorms become routine occurrences nationwide, the hearing called for the federal government to take a more proactive approach in helping states prepare for extreme weather without waiting for the next natural disaster to hit. "The fact of the matter is that we need a National Resiliency Address. It's better to do something after having the hearing and it will benefit my constituency if we can move legislation," said Hastings after the hearing.

WITNESSES

Bill Johnson • Director of Emergency Management, Palm Beach County

Heather McTeer Toney • National Field Director, Moms Clean Air Force and Former Mayor, Greenville, Mississippi

John Piotti • President and CEO, American Farmland Trust

Katherine Hamilton • Executive Director, Advanced Energy Management Alliance

Marvin Phaup • Research Scholar and Lecturer, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, George Washington University

"The time to think about building more resilient communities is not in the aftermath of a devastating weather event, it's before the next storm hits."

- Subcommittee Chair Alcee Hastings





1. JoNell Potter, Clinical Professor, University of Miami & Vice Chair for Research, THRIVE Clinic presents her opening statement. 2. State Attorney of Miami-Dade County, Katherine Fernandez Rundle, answers Member questions on the need for funding. 3. Congresswoman Donna Shalala (D-FL) led a hearing on the human trafficking epidemic in the United States. "Congress has the power to provide real solutions to this problem, but we need to understand how to best address the challenges that human trafficking presents," said Shalala.

A HISTORIC HEARING: COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

THE 2020 SUPER BOWL IN MIAMI gave the Rules Committee's two Florida Members, Representatives Shalala and Hastings, an opportunity to renew the national conversation on human trafficking.

On December 11, 2019, the Rules Committee's Subcommittee on the Legislative and Budget Process met to discuss some of the jurisdictional barriers across federal, state, and local agencies, and identify areas of agreement between law enforcement, health care providers, nonprofits, and faith-based communities to combat human trafficking.

WITNESSES

Jean Bruggeman • Executive Director, Freedom Network USA

Katherine Fernandez Rundle • State Attorney, Miami-Dade County

JoNell Potter • Clinical Professor, University of Miami & Vice Chair for Research, THRIVE Clinic

Bill Woolf • Executive Director, Just Ask Prevention & Director, National Human Trafficking Intelligence Center

Bob Rodgers • President and CEO, Street Grace



A HISTORIC HEARING: OVERSIGHT OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

IMPEACHMENT IS A POWERFUL, AND THEREFORE RARELY USED TOOL. The House had undertaken impeachment proceedings against only three presidents, while only voting to impeach two of those presidents.

In 2019, President Donald John Trump became the fourth president in history to face formal impeachment proceedings, and ultimately became the third president to be impeached by the House of Representatives. The Rules Committee played a vital role in exercising this duty with the professionalism, seriousness, and solemnity that was required.

As the inquiry into President Trump's personal and politically advantageous quid pro quo dealing with Ukraine moved from the closed-door investigation phase to the public-facing stage, the Rules Committee put in place a framework with H. Res. 660. Authored by Chairman McGovern, this resolution guaranteed both transparency for the American people and due process rights for the president.

These procedures, grounded in the precedent set by the Republican-controlled House during the impeachment of President Clinton, required the House

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to hold public hearings on the matter and then report those findings to the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee considered these findings and reported articles of impeachment to the House.

The Judiciary Committee recommended two articles of impeachment against President Trump and, for the first time in our nation's history, these articles of impeachment were considered pursuant to a special rule, H. Res. 767, reported by the Rules Committee.

Throughout the impeachment process, the Rules Committee heard more than ten hours of testimony, provided six hours of Floor debate on the articles of impeachment, put in place numerous transparency safeguards, guaranteed that the process would be open and accountable to the American people, and implemented the due process rights and constitutional protections that this solemn moment our nation's history required.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 2, CLAUSE 5 OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES "SHALL HAVE THE SOLE POWER OF IMPEACHMENT."



PROPOSED RULES CHANGES FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE 117TH CONGRESS, CHAIRMAN MCGOVERN IS CRAFTING A RULES PACKAGE THAT BUILDS ON OUR EFFORTS TO CREATE A MORE ACCOMMODATING AND RESPONSIVE CONGRESS. Included in these reforms are new ideas that emphasize our commitment to accountability, transparency, and ethics; embrace technology; and help make this House of Representatives the most inclusive in our nation's history.

It makes permanent groundbreaking reforms included in our prior rules package, including historic efforts to return to regular order and build a more inclusive workforce. This rules package also allows the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis and the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress to continue their urgent work for the American people. It also creates a new Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth.

By continuing the temporary changes made in response to the coronavirus emergency, our rules package respects the advice of the medical community by ensuring the House continues its work for the people as safely as possible during this pandemic.

This rules package is the result of extensive conversations with Members, as well as feedback from the staffs of all House committees, the Office of the Parliamentarian, the Clerk of the House, the Sergeant at Arms, the Office of General Counsel, the Congressional Research Service, Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds, and the Congressional Budget Office. It also incorporates ideas from outside groups that study these issues.



CREATES A SELECT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DISPARITY AND FAIRNESS IN GROWTH

Establishes a select committee to prioritize our commitment to empowering American economic growth while ensuring that no one is left behind in the 21st Century Economy.



CONTINUES DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Allows the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis to continue its work developing ambitious solutions to confront the climate crisis, the defining challenge of our generation.



PRESERVES AND REFORMS THE MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Prevents a tool meant to improve bills from being used to hijack the legislative process for political gamesmanship. By eliminating specific instructions, this rules package retains the motion while preventing its abuse.



PROTECTS FEDERAL WHISTLEBLOWERS

Makes it a violation of the Code of Official Conduct for a Member, officer, or employee of the House to disclose the identity of a whistleblower.



CODIFIES OUR RETURN TO REGULAR ORDER

Codifies into the standing House rules our requirement that bills going through the Rules Committee are to have a hearing and a markup before they go to the House Floor. This gives committee members the chance to hear from experts as legislation is developed and provides all Members with the opportunity to draft the strongest possible bill.



STRENGTHENS WITNESS DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Strengthens Truth in Testimony disclosures to provide Members and the public with more information on the witnesses appearing before committees. This change requires witnesses to disclose whether they are a fiduciary of an entity with interest in the subject matter of a hearing; adds grants to the reporting requirement for foreign payments; expands the lookback period for reporting to 36 months; and encourages committees to publicly post disclosures 24 hours prior to a hearing.



PROMOTES INCLUSION

Codifies the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in the standing rules, making permanent this historic effort to facilitate a diverse workforce that is reflective of our Members and the districts they represent.



HIGHLIGHTS COMMITTEES' WORK COMBATING INEQUITIES

Requires standing committees to include in their oversight plans a discussion of how committee work over the forthcoming Congress will address issues of inequities on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or national origin.



HONORS ALL GENDER IDENTITIES

Changes pronouns and familial relationships in the House rules to be gender neutral or removes references to gender, as appropriate, to ensure we are inclusive of all Members, Delegates, Resident Commissioners and their families - including those who are nonbinary.



CONTINUES ONGOING OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS



Allows the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis to continue its vital efforts to ensure that federal dollars meant to confront the coronavirus pandemic are well spent: without waste, fraud, profiteering, or price gouging.

PROTECTS CONGRESSIONAL WHISTLEBLOWERS



Protects individual House whistleblowers from being retaliated against for providing truthful information to the Ethics Committee, Office Of Congressional Ethics, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, or any law enforcement official, and states that Members or employees cannot prevent individuals from providing that information.

ALLOWS CONGRESS TO SAFELY CONTINUE ITS WORK DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Continues the temporary changes made to enable remote voting by proxy during the coronavirus pandemic and continues the temporary changes made to enable virtual committee proceedings during the coronavirus pandemic.

ALLOWS FOR BOLD ACTION TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING PANDEMIC AND CLIMATE CRISIS



Ensures Congress can respond to the dual threats of the climate crisis and the COVID pandemic by exempting those bills from budget rules, while overall continuing to adhere to fiscal responsibility.

SUPPORTS INCREASING WITNESS DIVERSITY



Requires the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to develop a system, which the House will implement, to ensure that the House tracks the diversity of witnesses as a next step in the effort to increase witness diversity.

EMBRACES TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY



Includes several changes designed to make Member offices, committees, and the House Floor run as efficiently as possible. This includes continuing to broaden the availability of legislative documents in machine-readable formats, encouraging the development of an improved Committee Repository, and making permanent the option to electronically submit committee reports.



CODIFIES THE OFFICE OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER OMBUDS



Makes permanent this office dedicated to providing assistance and training to congressional staff in order to properly and securely handle whistleblowers who reach out to congressional offices and changes the office name to the gender-neutral "Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds."

INCREASES COMMITTEE TRANSPARENCY



Increases transparency by requiring committees to post amendments offered in markups but not adopted on their websites within 48 hours, building on the existing requirement to post adopted amendments.

BANS FORMER MEMBERS CONVICTED OF CORRUPTION FROM THE FLOOR



Removes Floor privileges from former Members convicted of crimes related to their House service or election, ensuring the people's work gets done without undue influence from lawbreakers.

CRACKS DOWN ON DEEPPAKES



Directs the bipartisan Committee on Ethics to develop recommendations over the next year to address the dissemination of images, videos, or audio files that have been distorted or manipulated with the intent to mislead the public.

CONTINUES CONGRESS' OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY



Allows Congress to continue investigations into urgent issues without interruption by authorizing critical subpoenas on the census and coronavirus response to be reissued before committees organize.

CREATES A PATHWAY FOR HOUSE MEMBERS TO REGISTER SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILLS



Requires the Clerk to implement a system that allows House Members to register their support for Senate bills received by the House. House supporters of Senate bills will be listed on Congress.gov.



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Chairman James P. McGovern



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