

**Statement of**  
**Chairman Silvestre Reyes**  
**House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence**  
**on the**  
**Committee Budget Request for 111<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**before the**  
**Committee on House Administration**  
**Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Chairman Brady and Ranking Minority Member Lungren, I thank you for providing me with this opportunity to update you on the use of the Committee's budget authority in the First Session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

I thank you both for your efforts toward greater accountability and transparency where committee funding is concerned. I believe these interim reports are an important step in shedding light on a committee's financial decisions. These reports are also an excellent opportunity for a Chairman to evaluate the allocation of committee resources and ask important questions about its operating expenses and priorities.

Before I begin my statement, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that my complete statement be entered into the record.

As I noted in my February 2009 testimony before this Committee, I exercised great fiscal restraint in my budget request for the Committee's operations in the 111<sup>th</sup>

Congress. I stand by that request today, and I continue to make a concerted effort to fulfill the Committee's obligation to conduct appropriate oversight over the Intelligence Community in a fiscally responsible manner.

I have reviewed the Committee's expenditures for Legislative Year 2009, along with the estimated outlays for Legislative Year 2010, and I am confident that no increase in budget authority will be necessary for HPSCI to complete its oversight mission and provide the Intelligence Community with the resources and capabilities it needs to carry out its critical mission.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee was authorized \$5,387,500 for the first session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. These funds enabled the Committee to hold 99 briefings and hearings at the full Committee and subcommittee levels, as well as two full Committee markups. In 2009, the Committee also conducted 74 foreign and domestic oversight trips.

According to the figures provided by the House Finance Office, I estimate that the Committee will return approximately \$900,000 of its authorized budget to U.S taxpayers. The unused funds for 2009 can be attributed to several factors: 1) numerous equipment upgrades and purchases that came in under vendor estimates, or were found to be unnecessary by the Committee's security and IT staff; 2) a modification in Committee travel reimbursement policy from "actual expenses" to "actual expenses within government *per diem* guidelines;" 3) an increase in foreign oversight travel under the

financial auspices of the State Department and the military; and 4) the loss of several of our most highly-compensated staff members.

In fact, the lion's share of unused funds fall within the budget category for personnel compensation funds. As you know, Committee Rules require all Committee staff – from the Staff Director to the Staff Assistant – to have a security clearance. The process of conducting the necessary clearance investigation is often a lengthy one. As a result, turnover on the Committee can result in long vacancies, during which personnel compensation funds are not spent. The Committee also suffered from the temporary loss of one employee to a military deployment.

I would also add that when I appeared before this Committee last year, the Intelligence Committee had yet to meet and approve the Oversight Plan for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. Since then, the Committee adopted and has adhered to the legislative and oversight activities as they were laid out in the draft plan, with the notable addition of an expansion of lines of inquiry by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

To that end, recent world events – like the shooting at Ft. Hood, the attempted attack on Northwest Flight 253, and the December 30<sup>th</sup> attack in Khost, Afghanistan – continue to illustrate the challenges facing the nation and the Intelligence Community. These challenges require rigorous and vigilant oversight on the part of the Committee. The Committee views the responsibility to conduct oversight not only in terms of the

threats posed to our Nation, but also in terms of our Nation's ability to disrupt these activities and to respond to threats.

The funds requested are the funds required for the Committee to conduct our oversight properly and responsibly. As the primary overseer of the Intelligence Community for the U.S. House of Representatives, I give my commitment that the Committee will continue to act as guardian of the taxpayer monies used to finance our intelligence programs, and to account for the programs intended to safeguard the Nation's security and protect individual freedoms.

I thank you for the chance to update the Committee on the fiscal health of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and I welcome your questions.