

Testimony of Rep. John Kline (R-MN)
Senior Republican, U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor
Committee on House Administration Hearing on the "Review of the
Use of Committee Funds in the First Session of the 111th Congress"
January 27, 2010

Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Lungren, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today as part of your review of Education and Labor Committee funding for the first session of the 111th Congress. As you know, in June of last year I became the Senior Republican member on the committee, and I am grateful to serve in that capacity and to work with my colleagues on the committee including our Chairman, Mr. Miller.

Chairman Miller has continued to provide the Minority staff with autonomy over our allotted share of committee funding. As is standard procedure, we are allocated one-third of the committee's annual funding.

In 2009, the Minority received \$2,734,363.00. According to our records, we have spent \$2,519,503.73 with additional 2009 obligations totaling \$117,666.09. These expenditures will leave us with a year-end balance of \$97,193.18. Our balance reflects the work of the committee throughout the first session of this Congress.

One concern I would like to raise before the Committee today is in regards to the Minority's ability to properly track our funding outlays and obligations in real time. Currently, the Majority has sole access to the financial report software that provides up-to-the-minute information about the committee's funding balance.

To expand our ability to track the most current data, we would like to work with Chairman Miller and his staff to gain access to this type of real time financial data software. We would be requesting access solely to the Minority's account information in order to monitor our expenses and obligations. This data would be an important asset to the Minority staff.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today. I appreciate your time and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.