

# APPENDIX IV

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana  
*Chairwoman*  
Theodore E. Deutch, Florida  
*Ranking Member*



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Yvette D. Clarke, New York  
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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

## **U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**March 23, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE DUNCAN HUNTER**

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on March 23, 2017, to release the following statement:

On August 31, 2016, the Committee on Ethics received a referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding Representative Duncan Hunter. Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A) and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A), 17A(c)(1) and 17A(j), the Chairman and Ranking Member jointly decided on December 15, 2016 to extend the Committee's review of the matter.

The Department of Justice has asked the Committee to defer consideration of this matter and the Committee, following precedent, unanimously voted on March 22, 2017, to defer consideration of this matter at this time. Pursuant to Committee Rule 17A(h)(1), the Committee is making the OCE's Report in this matter public. Under that rule, when the Committee votes to defer in this manner, it must release the Report, but not the Findings, along with a public statement announcing its deferral. At least annually, the Committee will make a public statement if it continues to defer taking action on the matter. The Committee notes that the mere fact of its decision to defer action on this matter, and any mandatory disclosure of that decision and the OCE's Report, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**April 6, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE DEVIN NUNES**

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

The Committee is aware of public allegations that Representative Devin Nunes may have made unauthorized disclosures of classified information, in violation of House Rules, law, regulations, or other standards of conduct. The Committee, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), is investigating and gathering more information regarding these allegations.

The Committee has determined to investigate these allegations in order to fulfill its institutional obligation, under House Rule X, clause 11(g)(4), to investigate certain allegations of unauthorized disclosures of classified information, and to determine if there has been any violation of the Code of Official Conduct under House Rule XXIII, clause 13. The Committee notes that the mere fact that it is investigating these allegations, and publicly disclosing its review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**June 26, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Representative John Conyers, Jr. which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on May 11, 2017.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter on or before Wednesday, August 9, 2017.



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**June 26, 2017**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE BEN RAY LUJÁN

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Representative Ben Ray Luján, which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on May 11, 2017.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter on or before Wednesday, August 9, 2017.

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**June 26, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING MICHAEL COLLINS**

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Michael Collins, which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on May 11, 2017.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter on or before Wednesday, August 9, 2017.

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**July 27, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING DELEGATE MADELEINE BORDALLO**

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on June 12, 2017.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter on or before Monday, September 11, 2017.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**August 1, 2017**

## STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE BEN RAY LUJÁN

On August 1, 2017, the Committee released the attached Report regarding allegations relating to Representative Ben Ray Luján.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**August 1, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE ROGER WILLIAMS**

On August 1, 2017, the Committee released the attached Report regarding allegations relating to Representative Roger Williams.

###



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**August 9, 2017**

#### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on August 9, 2017, to release the following statement:

On May 11, 2017, the Committee on Ethics received a referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding Representative John Conyers, Jr. Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A) and Committee Rules 17 A(b)(1)(A) and 17 A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member jointly decided on June 26, 2017, to extend the Committee's review of the matter. In order to gather additional information necessary to complete its review, the Committee will review the matter pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). The Committee notes that the mere fact of conducting further review of a referral, and any mandatory disclosure of such further review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 17A, the Committee hereby publishes OCE's Report and Findings relating to allegations against Representative Conyers, and Representative Conyers' response to OCE's Report and Findings.

###

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**August 9, 2017**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING MICHAEL COLLINS

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on August 9, 2017, to release the following statement:

On May 11, 2017, the Committee on Ethics received a referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding Mr. Michael Collins. Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A) and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member jointly decided on June 26, 2017, to extend the Committee's review of the matter. In order to gather additional information necessary to complete its review, the Committee will review the matter pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). The Committee notes that the mere fact of conducting further review of a referral, and any mandatory disclosure of such further review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 17A, the Committee hereby publishes OCE's Report and Findings relating to allegations against Mr. Collins, and Mr. Collins' response to OCE's Report and Findings.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**August 28, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS COLLINS**

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Representative Chris Collins, which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on July 14, 2017.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter on or before Thursday, October 12, 2017.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**September 11, 2017**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING DELEGATE MADELEINE BORDALLO

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on September 11, 2017, to release the following statement:

On June 12, 2017, the Committee on Ethics received a referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding Delegate Madeleine Bordallo. Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A) and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member jointly decided on July 27, 2017, to extend the Committee's review of the matter. In order to gather additional information necessary to complete its review, the Committee will review the matter pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). The Committee notes that the mere fact of conducting further review of a referral, and any mandatory disclosure of such further review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 17A, the Committee hereby publishes OCE's Report and Findings relating to allegations against Delegate Bordallo, and Delegate Bordallo's response to OCE's Report and Findings.

###



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**September 14, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

On September 14, 2017, the Committee released a Report regarding allegations relating to Representative Luis V. Gutiérrez. The Report can be found on the Committee's web site: [www.ethics.house.gov](http://www.ethics.house.gov).

###



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**October 12, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS COLLINS**

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on October 12, 2017, to release the following statement:

On July 14, 2017, the Committee received a referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding Representative Chris Collins. Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A) and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member jointly decided on August 28, 2017, to extend the Committee's review of the matter. In order to gather additional information necessary to complete its review, the Committee will review the matter pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). The Committee notes that the mere fact of conducting further review of a referral, and any mandatory disclosure of such further review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 17A, the Committee hereby publishes OCE's Report and Findings relating to allegations against Representative Collins, and Representative Collins's response to OCE's Report and Findings.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**November 21, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

The Committee is aware of public allegations that Representative John Conyers, Jr. may have engaged in sexual harassment of members of his staff, discriminated against certain staff on the basis of age, and used official resources for impermissible personal purposes. The Committee, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), has begun an investigation and will gather additional information regarding these allegations.

The Committee notes that the mere fact that it is investigating these allegations, and publicly disclosing its review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 1, 2017**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

Today the Committee sent the attached letter to the Office of Compliance requesting information from that office.

###

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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

## **U.S. House of Representatives**

### **COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**

Thomas A. Rust  
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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 7, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE DEVIN NUNES**

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

On April 6, 2017, the Committee announced that it was aware of public allegations that Representative Devin Nunes may have made unauthorized disclosures of classified information, in violation of House Rules, law, regulations, or other standards of conduct, and that the Committee, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), was investigating and gathering more information regarding these allegations. The Committee does not determine whether information is or is not classified. In the course of this investigation, the Committee sought the analysis of Representative Nunes's statements by classification experts in the intelligence community. Based solely on the conclusion of these classification experts that the information that Representative Nunes disclosed was not classified, the Committee will take no further action and considers this matter closed.

###

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana  
*Chairwoman*  
Theodore E. Deutch, Florida  
*Ranking Member*



Patrick Meehan, Pennsylvania  
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## **U.S. House of Representatives**

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 7, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE BLAKE FARENTHOLD**

In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 3, and Committee Rules 10(a)(2) and 18, the Committee on Ethics (Committee) unanimously voted on December 7, 2017, to establish an Investigative Subcommittee. Pursuant to the Committee's action, the Investigative Subcommittee shall have jurisdiction to determine whether Representative Blake Farenthold violated the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other applicable standard of conduct in the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities, with respect to allegations that he, or any person acting on his behalf, sexually harassed a former member of his staff, discriminated against her on the basis of her gender, and retaliated against her for complaining of discriminatory conduct, and allegations that Representative Farenthold made inappropriate statements to other members of his official staff.

The Committee has determined to take this action based upon a discretionary review of the allegations, as well as evidence obtained pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). On September 28, 2015, the Committee publicly announced that it was beginning a review of this matter, which was also the subject of a lawsuit brought by a Complainant under the Congressional Accountability Act. That lawsuit was subsequently dismissed on November 18, 2015, after the parties entered a confidential settlement.

During the Committee's investigation to date, the Committee has issued requests for information, reviewed over 200,000 pages of materials, and interviewed multiple witnesses. Although Representative Farenthold has cooperated with the Committee's investigation to date, the resolution of this matter has been significantly delayed by difficulties in obtaining live testimony from key witnesses other than Representative Farenthold and in accessing confidential documents the parties to the federal litigation exchanged in discovery.

Over the last two weeks, more information has been disclosed about the nature of the settlement between the parties. In addition, both Representative Farenthold and the Complainant have publicly expressed an interest in increased transparency in this matter. In light of these developments, the Committee has determined that it is appropriate to establish an Investigative Subcommittee to continue its investigation.



The Committee notes that the mere fact of establishing an Investigative Subcommittee does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred.

The Committee will announce the Members who will serve on the Investigative Subcommittee in the next week. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

###

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## U.S. House of Representatives

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 7, 2017**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE TRENT FRANKS

In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 3, and Committee Rules 10(a)(2), 16(e)(2), and 18, the Committee on Ethics (Committee) unanimously voted on December 7, 2017, to establish an Investigative Subcommittee. Pursuant to the Committee's action, the Investigative Subcommittee shall have jurisdiction to determine whether Representative Trent Franks engaged in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment and/or retaliation for opposing sexual harassment, in violation of House Rules, law, regulations, or other standards of conduct.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of establishing an Investigative Subcommittee does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred.

The Committee will announce the Members who will serve on the Investigative Subcommittee in the next week. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

###

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## **U.S. House of Representatives**

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 13, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE BLAKE FARENTHOLD**

The Committee on Ethics (Committee) previously issued a statement indicating that it unanimously voted on December 7, 2017, to establish an Investigative Subcommittee in the Matter of Representative Blake Farenthold. The Committee's statement noted that the Committee would announce the Members who will serve on the Investigative Subcommittee in the next week.

The Committee has now named the Members of the Investigative Subcommittee. The Honorable Leonard Lance will serve as the Chairman of the Investigative Subcommittee, and the Honorable Anthony G. Brown will serve as the Ranking Member. The other two members of the Investigative Subcommittee are the Honorable Ann Wagner and the Honorable Suzanne Bonamici. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

###

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana  
*Chairwoman*  
Theodore E. Deutch, Florida  
*Ranking Member*



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 15, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE RUBEN KIHUEN**

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

The Committee is aware of public allegations that Representative Ruben Kihuen may have engaged in sexual harassment. The Committee, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), has begun an investigation and will gather additional information regarding the allegations.

The Committee notes that the mere fact that it is investigating these allegations, and publicly disclosing its review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

###

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana  
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*Ranking Member*



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 21, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING THE ARRESTS OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE DURING A PROTEST OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ON DECEMBER 6, 2017**

On December 21, 2017, the Committee released a Report regarding the arrests of Members of the House during a protest outside the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. on December 6, 2017. The Report can be found on the Committee's web site: [www.ethics.house.gov](http://www.ethics.house.gov).

###



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 21, 2017**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE BLAKE FARENTHOLD

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on December 21, 2017, to release the following statement:

On December 7, 2017, the Committee announced it had voted to establish an Investigative Subcommittee (ISC) with jurisdiction to determine whether Representative Blake Farenthold violated the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other applicable standard of conduct in the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities, with respect to allegations that he, or any person acting on his behalf, sexually harassed a former member of his staff, discriminated against her on the basis of her gender, and retaliated against her for complaining of discriminatory conduct, and allegations that Representative Farenthold made inappropriate statements to other members of his official staff.

On December 21, 2017, in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 3(o)(2), and Committee Rule 19(d), the Committee voted unanimously to expand the jurisdiction of the ISC's inquiry regarding Representative Blake Farenthold to include:

Whether Representative Farenthold violated the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities, with respect to: (1) allegations of sexual harassment, discrimination, or retaliation by Representative Farenthold, or any person acting on his behalf, toward any member of his congressional staff while they were employed in his congressional office; (2) allegations that Representative Farenthold's congressional staff may have used House resources, including staff time, to benefit his congressional campaigns; (3) allegations that Representative Farenthold, or any person acting on his behalf, may have required members of his congressional staff to work on his congressional campaigns; and (4) allegations that Representative Farenthold may have made false statements or omissions in testimony to the Committee.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of an investigation into these allegations does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

###

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## **U.S. House of Representatives**

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**December 21, 2017**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE RUBEN KIHUEN**

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 3, and Committee Rules 10(a)(2) and 18, the Committee unanimously voted on December 21, 2017, to establish an Investigative Subcommittee. Pursuant to the Committee's action, the Investigative Subcommittee shall have jurisdiction to determine whether Representative Ruben Kihuen engaged in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment, in violation of House Rules, law, regulations, or other standards of conduct.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of establishing an Investigative Subcommittee does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred.

The Committee will announce the Members who will serve on the Investigative Subcommittee in the next week. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

###

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## **U.S. House of Representatives**

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**January 2, 2018**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE RUBEN KIHUEN**

The Committee on Ethics (Committee) previously issued a statement indicating that it unanimously voted on December 21, 2017, to establish an Investigative Subcommittee in the Matter of Representative Ruben Kihuen. The Committee's statement noted the Committee would announce the Members who will serve on the Investigative Subcommittee at a later date.

The Committee has now named the Members of the Investigative Subcommittee. The Honorable Kenny Marchant will serve as the Chairman of the Investigative Subcommittee, and the Honorable Yvette D. Clarke will serve as the Ranking Member. The other two members of the Investigative Subcommittee are the Honorable Jackie Walorski and the Honorable Brian Higgins. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

###



# U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515

FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt

January 22, 2018

## STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK MEEHAN

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

The Committee is aware of public allegations that Representative Patrick Meehan may have engaged in sexual harassment and misused official resources, namely his Member's Representational Allowance. In addition, Representative Meehan submitted a written request to the Committee that it review these allegations. The Committee, pursuant to Committee Rules 18(a) and 18(c), has begun an investigation and will gather additional information regarding the allegations.

The Committee notes that the mere fact that it is investigating these allegations, and publicly disclosing its review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee. Further, the Committee notes that Committee Rule 3(k) bars the Committee from taking adverse action against a Member in regard to conduct that has been undertaken in reliance on a written opinion if the conduct conforms to the specific facts addressed in the opinion. Representative Meehan is no longer a Member of the House Committee on Ethics. Representative John Ratcliffe was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

###

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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**February 6, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

The Committee on Ethics takes allegations of sexual harassment and discrimination and other violations of workplace rights extremely seriously. Today, the House of Representatives passed important legislation to reform the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA), which provides workplace rights and protections to employees in the legislative branch. We have worked with our colleagues on the Committee on House Administration and other Members on this bipartisan proposal to ensure that the House and Senate ethics committees have the tools and information they need to investigate alleged violations of workplace rights and other misconduct.

In particular, the proposal would require the Office of Compliance (OOC), to be renamed Office of Workplace Rights, to refer certain matters to the House and Senate ethics committees. The proposal would also expressly mandate that when OOC refers a matter, it must also provide access to the records of any investigations, hearings, or decisions of the hearing officers and its Board, including any information relating to a settlement or award relating to a claim. In light of our recent experience seeking information from OOC, we believe these changes are necessary to clarify interactions between the ethics committees and OOC.

We have discussed this issue with the full Committee on Ethics. We believe it is clear that under the existing CAA, the House and Senate ethics committees retain jurisdiction over sexual harassment and discrimination and other violations of workplace rights. However, it is our view that it would be in the best interests of the House and public accountability to clarify when and how OOC must provide information to the Committee about allegations of misconduct. Today's action in the House is an important step toward that goal and we commend the House for passing this important legislation.

###



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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

## **U.S. House of Representatives**

### **COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**February 20, 2018**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DUNCAN, JR.**

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Representative John Duncan, Jr., which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on January 4, 2018.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter on or before Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

## **U.S. House of Representatives**

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**February 27, 2018**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK MEEHAN**

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 3, and Committee Rules 10(a)(2) and 18, the Committee unanimously voted on February 27, 2018, to establish an Investigative Subcommittee. Pursuant to the Committee's action, the Investigative Subcommittee shall have jurisdiction to determine whether Representative Patrick Meehan and/or his former Chief of Staff, Mr. Brian Schubert, who is currently employed by another House office, engaged in conduct that constitutes sexual harassment, retaliation, or misuse of official resources, in violation of House Rules, law, regulations, or other standards of conduct.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of establishing an Investigative Subcommittee does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred.

The Committee will announce the Members who will serve on the Investigative Subcommittee in the next week. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

###

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## **U.S. House of Representatives**

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**March 8, 2018**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK MEEHAN**

The Committee on Ethics (Committee) previously issued a statement indicating that it unanimously voted on February 27, 2018, to establish an Investigative Subcommittee in the Matter of Representative Patrick Meehan. The Committee's statement noted the Committee would announce the Members who will serve on the Investigative Subcommittee at a later date.

The Committee has now named the Members of the Investigative Subcommittee. The Honorable Mimi Walters will serve as the Chairwoman of the Investigative Subcommittee, and the Honorable Steve Cohen will serve as the Ranking Member. The other two members of the Investigative Subcommittee are the Honorable David Young and the Honorable Pramila Jayapal. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

###

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana  
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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**March 22, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

On March 22, 2018, the Committee released the attached Report regarding allegations relating to Representative Luis V. Gutiérrez.

###



Susan W. Brooks, Indiana  
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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**March 22, 2018**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE BOBBY L. RUSH**

On March 22, 2018, the Committee released the attached Report regarding allegations relating to Representative Bobby L. Rush.

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Theodore E. Deutch, Florida  
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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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Donna Herbert  
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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**March 23, 2018**

#### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE DUNCAN HUNTER

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(C)(ii) and Committee Rule 17A(h)(2), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on March 23, 2018, to release the following statement:

On August 31, 2016, the Committee received a referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding whether Representative Duncan Hunter converted campaign funds to personal use to pay expenses that were not legitimate and verifiable campaign expenditures attributable to bona fide campaign or political purposes. In response to a request from the Department of Justice, the Committee unanimously voted to defer consideration of this matter, and announced that deferral in a public statement dated March 23, 2017.

The Committee continues to defer consideration of this matter at this time. At least annually, the Committee will make a public statement if it continues to defer taking action on the matter. The Committee notes that the mere fact of its decision to defer action on this matter, and any mandatory disclosure of that decision, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**April 4, 2018**

#### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DUNCAN, JR.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on April 4, 2018, to release the following statement:

On January 4, 2018, the Committee received a referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding Representative John Duncan, Jr. Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A) and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member jointly decided on February 20, 2018, to extend the Committee's review of the matter. In order to gather additional information necessary to complete its review, the Committee will review the matter pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). The Committee notes that the mere fact of conducting further review of a referral, and any mandatory disclosure of such further review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 17A, the Committee hereby publishes OCE's Report and Findings relating to allegations against Representative Duncan, and Representative Duncan's response to OCE's Report and Findings.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**April 12, 2018**

### STATEMENT REGARDING THE INVESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE IN THE MATTER OF REPRESENTATIVE BLAKE FARENTHOLD

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the below statement, in consultation and with the unanimous agreement of the full Committee:

Because Representative Blake Farenthold has resigned from Congress, the Investigative Subcommittee (ISC) established to investigate allegations involving him no longer has jurisdiction over him. We thank ISC Chairman Leonard Lance, Ranking Member Anthony Brown, and Members Ann Wagner and Suzanne Bonamici for their diligent work in moving this matter forward expeditiously.

Sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace are serious matters and such conduct should have no place in the halls of Congress. Members' offices should serve as an example for the modern American workplace, and accordingly those offices should be professional and fair environments for all who work within them. Members should act in a manner that avoids even the appearance of impropriety.

We note Representative Farenthold publicly promised to reimburse the U.S. Treasury for \$84,000 in funds paid to settle the lawsuit brought against him for claims of sexual harassment, gender discrimination and retaliation. We encourage him in the strongest possible terms to uphold that promise.

#### Investigation Background

On June 29, 2015, the Committee received a referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding whether Representative Farenthold sexually harassed a former member of his staff, discriminated against her on the basis of her gender, and retaliated against her for complaining about the alleged unlawful treatment. In its referral, OCE unanimously recommended that the Committee dismiss the matter. Due to the seriousness of the allegations referred by OCE, on September 28, 2015, the Committee announced it would continue to review the allegations.



Pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), the Committee reviewed more than 200,000 pages of documents and interviewed witnesses. The Committee's investigation was delayed by difficulties obtaining testimony from key witnesses and in accessing confidential documents exchanged during federal litigation discovery.

On December 7, 2017, the Committee announced it voted to establish an ISC with jurisdiction to investigate the allegations referred by OCE, as well as allegations that Representative Farenthold made inappropriate statements to other members of his official staff. The Committee determined to take that action based upon a discretionary review of the allegations, as well as the evidence obtained pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a).

On December 21, 2017, the Committee voted unanimously to expand the jurisdiction of the ISC's inquiry to include:

Whether Representative Farenthold violated the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities, with respect to: (1) allegations of sexual harassment, discrimination, or retaliation by Representative Farenthold, or any person acting on his behalf, toward any member of his congressional staff while they were employed in his congressional office; (2) allegations that Representative Farenthold's congressional staff may have used House resources, including staff time, to benefit his congressional campaigns; (3) allegations that Representative Farenthold, or any person acting on his behalf, may have required members of his congressional staff to work on his congressional campaigns; and (4) allegations that Representative Farenthold may have made false statements or omissions in testimony to the Committee.

The ISC expeditiously investigated the allegations within its jurisdiction. In addition to reviewing the evidence obtained pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), the ISC issued and received responses to seven requests for information, reviewed approximately 12,000 pages of documents, and interviewed six witnesses. The ISC provided an opportunity for Representative Farenthold to appear for a voluntary interview, but he declined to do so in the time frame offered by the ISC; he did present a written statement regarding the allegations.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 26(c), on March 30, 2018, the ISC informed Representative Farenthold it had scheduled a vote on a Statement of Alleged Violation in this matter, to occur on April 11, 2018. Representative Farenthold resigned from Congress on April 6, 2018, before the scheduled vote on a Statement of Alleged Violation, at which time the ISC lost jurisdiction over him.

This statement constitutes the Committee's final action regarding this matter.

We also call upon the Senate to pass the legislation reforming the Congressional Accountability Act, which has already passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**May 24, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the below statement:

In this Congress we have worked closely with our colleagues on the Committee on House Administration and other Members on a bipartisan proposal to reform the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA) and strengthen workplace rights and protections for employees in the legislative branch. We explained previously how the bill includes specific features to ensure that the House and Senate ethics committees have the tools and information they need to investigate alleged violations of workplace rights and other misconduct. Recent events highlight in particular the need for the bill's provisions to make Members personally liable for their own conduct.

The Committee on Ethics takes allegations of sexual harassment and discrimination and other violations of workplace rights extremely seriously. In this Congress, among other investigations begun by the Committee, the Committee empaneled four Investigative Subcommittees to investigate allegations regarding Members' conduct.

However, as the Committee previously noted, its investigative jurisdiction includes current Members, officers, and employees. For example, when Representative Blake Farenthold resigned from the House on April 6, 2018, before an ISC investigating allegations against him was scheduled to vote on a Statement of Alleged Violation, the Committee and ISC lost jurisdiction over him. Similarly, on April 27, 2018, Representative Patrick Meehan announced his immediate resignation from the House, at which time the Committee and an ISC investigating allegations against him lost jurisdiction over him. In each of those matters, public funds were used to resolve allegations of misconduct by the Member while they were still serving in the House.

In his official statement announcing his resignation, Representative Patrick Meehan stated he would reimburse the U.S. Treasury approximately \$39,000, within 30 days of his resignation, for the severance payment made from his office account. We understand he sent that reimbursement payment to the Treasury. We welcome that action.



Prior to his resignation, Representative Blake Farenthold publicly promised to reimburse the U.S. Treasury for \$84,000 in funds paid to settle the lawsuit brought against him for claims of sexual harassment, gender discrimination and retaliation. After Representative Farenthold resigned, the Committee encouraged him in the strongest possible terms to uphold that promise. Last week, he announced that he would not do so.

There is overwhelming bipartisan consensus in the House that Members should be personally accountable for settlements paid with public funds to resolve claims against them alleging sexual harassment. The CAA Reform Act would require Members of Congress to reimburse the Treasury within 90 days if an employee receives an award or settlement for the Member's alleged act of discrimination or retaliation. In addition, the bill would ensure that a Member would still remain personally liable even if he or she leaves Congress. If a former Member fails to follow through, the bill provides for garnishment of retirement annuities to ensure the amount is repaid. Recent matters before the Committee illustrate the need for these provisions.

Under the House bill, a Member would be personally liable for a settlement or award related to their own conduct upon the settlement or award being made. The House bill also provides for mandatory referrals to the congressional ethics committees, but does not condition the imposition of personal liability upon the outcome of any such investigations. Because the ethics committees have jurisdiction over current Members of Congress, this approach ensures that personal liability is established.

It has been more than three months since the House passed the CAA Reform Act. The Senate has now introduced and may soon act on similar legislation intended to reform the CAA. We believe that any proposal to reform the CAA should include provisions to ensure that Members remain personally liable for their own conduct with respect to discrimination and retaliation, and that they remain liable even if they leave Congress.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**May 31, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING RICHARD OLIVER SCHWAB

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Richard Oliver Schwab, which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on April 16, 2018.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**May 31, 2018**

#### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE DAVID SCHWEIKERT

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A), 17A(c)(1) and 17A(j), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Representative David Schweikert, which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on April 16, 2018.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter on or before November 14, 2018.

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**June 28, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE DAVID SCHWEIKERT AND RICHARD OLIVER SCHWAB

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 3, and Committee Rules 10(a)(2) and 18, the Committee unanimously voted on June 14, 2018, to establish an Investigative Subcommittee. Pursuant to the Committee's action, the Investigative Subcommittee shall have jurisdiction to determine whether Representative David Schweikert and/or Richard Oliver Schwab may have used or authorized expenditures from Representative Schweikert's Members' Representational Allowance for impermissible purposes; Representative Schweikert's campaign committees may have received improper campaign contributions from Mr. Schwab and other individuals employed in his congressional office; Mr. Schwab may have received income in excess of the outside earned income limit for senior staff; and Mr. Schwab may have failed to file full and complete financial disclosure statements in violation of House Rules, law, regulations, or other standards of conduct.

The Committee has determined to take this action based upon a review of referrals from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding these same matters. As provided by House Rule X, clause 1(g) and Committee Rule 17A, the Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over the interpretation, administration, and enforcement of the Code of Official Conduct. Consistent with the Committee's rules, it reviews OCE's reports and findings without prejudice or presumptions as to the merit of the allegations.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of establishing an Investigative Subcommittee does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred.

The Honorable John Ratcliffe will serve as Chairman of the Investigative Subcommittee, and the Honorable Steve Cohen will serve as the Ranking Member. The other two members of the Investigative Subcommittee are the Honorable Rodney Davis and the Honorable Hakeem Jeffries.

No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules. Pursuant to House Rule XI, Clause 3(b)(8)(B)(iii), and Committee Rule 17A(f)(1), no documents will be released at this time.

###



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**July 26, 2018**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE PRAMILA JAYAPAL**

On July 26, 2018, the Committee released a Report regarding allegations relating to Representative Pramila Jayapal. The Report can be found on the Committee's web site: [www.ethics.house.gov](http://www.ethics.house.gov).

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**August 10, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE MARKWAYNE MULLIN

On August 10, 2018, the Committee released the attached Report regarding allegations relating to Representative Markwayne Mullin.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**September 4, 2018**

#### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE ROD BLUM**

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A), 17A(c)(1) and 17A(j), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Representative Rod Blum, which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on July 19, 2018.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter on or before December 17, 2018.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**September 6, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER COLLINS

On October 12, 2017, the Committee on Ethics ("Committee") announced that it was reviewing allegations referred by the Office of Congressional Ethics ("OCE") regarding Representative Christopher Collins. The Committee published OCE's referral at that time. Subsequently, on August 8, 2018, Representative Collins was indicted on federal charges of conspiracy to commit securities fraud, securities fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and false statements stemming from allegations separate from those already under review by the Committee. Pursuant to Committee Rule 18(e)(2), within 30 days of a Member being indicted or otherwise formally charged with criminal conduct, the Committee shall either establish an Investigative Subcommittee ("ISC") or report to the House describing its reasons for not establishing an ISC.

In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 3, and Committee Rules 10(a)(2) and 18(e)(2), and following Committee precedent, the Committee unanimously voted on September 6, 2018, to establish an ISC. Pursuant to the Committee's action, the ISC shall have jurisdiction to determine whether Representative Collins violated the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other applicable standard of conduct in the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities, with respect to allegations that he engaged in unlawful conspiracy, securities fraud, and wire fraud; purchased discount stock that was not available to the public; took official actions on behalf of a company in which he had a significant financial interest; and made false statements to, withheld information from, or otherwise misled federal investigators.

The Honorable Mimi Walters will serve as the Chairwoman of the ISC, and the Honorable Theodore E. Deutch will serve as the Ranking Member. The other two members of the ISC are the Honorable Randy Hultgren and the Honorable Jared Polis.

The Department of Justice has requested that the Committee defer consideration of the matters in the ISC's jurisdiction. The Committee, again following precedent, unanimously recommended to the ISC that it defer action on its investigation at this time. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

###



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**September 6, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE DUNCAN HUNTER

On March 23, 2017, the Committee on Ethics ("Committee") announced that it was reviewing allegations referred by the Office of Congressional Ethics ("OCE") regarding Representative Duncan Hunter. The Committee also announced that because the Department of Justice ("DOJ") had asked the Committee to defer its consideration of the matter, the Committee had followed precedent and voted unanimously to defer its review at that time. Accordingly, pursuant to Committee Rule 17A(h)(1), the Committee made OCE's Report, but not its Findings, public at that time. On March 23, 2018, the Committee announced that it was continuing to defer its consideration of the matter at the request of DOJ.

Subsequently, on August 21, 2018, Representative Hunter was indicted on federal charges of conspiracy, wire fraud, falsifying campaign finance records, prohibited use of campaign contributions, and false statements. Pursuant to Committee Rule 18(e)(2), within 30 days of a Member being indicted or otherwise formally charged with criminal conduct, the Committee shall either establish an Investigative Subcommittee ("ISC") or report to the House describing its reasons for not establishing an ISC.

In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 3, and Committee Rules 10(a)(2) and 18(e)(2), and following Committee precedent, the Committee unanimously voted on September 6, 2018, to establish an ISC. Pursuant to the Committee's action, the ISC shall have jurisdiction to determine whether Representative Duncan Hunter violated the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other applicable standard of conduct in the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities, with respect to allegations that he engaged in unlawful conspiracy, fraud, falsification of campaign finance records, and prohibited use of campaign contributions.

The Honorable Leonard Lance will serve as the Chairman of the ISC, and the Honorable Anthony Brown will serve as the Ranking Member. The other two members of the ISC are the Honorable John Katko and the Honorable Joaquin Castro.

DOJ has requested that the Committee defer consideration of the matters in the ISC's jurisdiction. The Committee, again following precedent, unanimously recommended to the ISC

that it defer action on its investigation at this time. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

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### COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**September 28, 2018**

#### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS GARRETT

On June 8, 2018, the Committee began reviewing allegations related to Representative Thomas Garrett pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). On June 14, 2018, the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) notified the Committee that it had commenced a preliminary review of related allegations regarding Representative Garrett. OCE transmitted a referral regarding Representative Garrett to the Committee on September 5, 2018.

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Representative Garrett.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee will announce its course of action in this matter on or before December 4, 2018.

###

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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**November 16, 2018**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE RUBEN KIHUEN**

On November 16, 2018, the Committee released the attached Report regarding allegations relating to Representative Ruben Kihuen.

###



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**November 16, 2018**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE MARK MEADOWS**

On November 16, 2018, the Committee released the attached Report regarding allegations relating to Representative Mark Meadows.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**November 20, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

Today the Committee sent the attached letter to leaders in the House of Representatives and Senate urging passage of legislation to reform the Congressional Accountability Act.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**November 26, 2018**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE JIM RENACCI**

Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A), 17A(c)(1) and 17A(j), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics have jointly decided to extend the matter regarding Representative Jim Renacci, which was transmitted to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics on August 9, 2018.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of a referral or an extension, and the mandatory disclosure of such an extension and the name of the subject of the matter, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

###

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana  
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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 4, 2018**

#### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS GARRETT

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on December 4, 2018, to release the following statement:

On June 8, 2018, the Committee began reviewing allegations related to Representative Thomas Garrett pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). On June 9, 2018, the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) commenced a preliminary review of related allegations regarding Representative Garrett. OCE transmitted a referral regarding Representative Garrett to the Committee on September 5, 2018. Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A), and Committee Rules 17A(b)(1)(A) and 17A(c)(1), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics jointly decided on September 28, 2018 to extend the Committee's review of the matter. In order to gather additional information necessary to complete its review, the Committee will further review the matter pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). The Committee notes that the mere fact of conducting further review of a referral, and any mandatory disclosure of such further review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 17A, the Committee hereby publishes OCE's Report and Findings relating to allegations against Representative Garrett, and Representative Garrett's response to OCE's report and findings.

###



Susan W. Brooks, Indiana  
*Chairwoman*  
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*Ranking Member*



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 17, 2018**

### **STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE ROD BLUM**

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on December 17, 2018, to release the following statement:

On July 19, 2018, the Committee received a referral from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding Representative Rod Blum. Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 3(b)(8)(A) and Committee Rule 17A(b)(1)(A), 17A(c)(1), and 17A(j), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member jointly decided on September 4, 2018, to extend the Committee's review of the matter. In order to gather additional information necessary to complete its review, the Committee will further review the matter pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a). The Committee notes that the mere fact of conducting further review of a referral, and any mandatory disclosure of such further review, does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee.

In order to comply with Committee Rule 7 regarding confidentiality, out of fairness to all respondents, and to assure the integrity of its work, the Committee will refrain from making further public statements on this matter pending completion of its initial review.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 17A, the Committee hereby publishes OCE's Report and Findings relating to allegations against Representative Blum, and Representative Blum's submission to the Committee.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 20, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE ELIZABETH ESTY

On December 20, 2018, the Committee released the attached Report regarding allegations relating to Representative Elizabeth Esty.

###

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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**December 20, 2018**

### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE DAVID SCHWEIKERT

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined on December 20, 2018, to release the following statement:

On June 28, 2018, the Committee announced it had voted to establish an Investigative Subcommittee (ISC) with jurisdiction to determine whether Representative David Schweikert and/or Richard Oliver Schwab may have used or authorized expenditures from Representative Schweikert's Members' Representational Allowance for impermissible purposes; Representative Schweikert's campaign committees may have received improper campaign contributions from Mr. Schwab and other individuals employed in his congressional office; Mr. Schwab may have received income in excess of the outside earned income limit for senior staff; and Mr. Schwab may have failed to file full and complete financial disclosure statements in violation of House Rules, law, regulations, or other standards of conduct. In its June 28, 2018, announcement, the Committee explained it had determined to take this action based upon a review of referrals from the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) regarding these same matters. On September 5, 2018, OCE transmitted an additional referral to the Committee regarding allegations involving Representative Schweikert.

On December 20, 2018, in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 3(o)(2), and Committee Rule 19(d), the Committee voted unanimously to expand the jurisdiction of the ISC's inquiry regarding Representative Schweikert to include additional allegations based upon a review of OCE's additional referral. Specifically, the ISC's inquiry was expanded to include: Whether Representative Schweikert violated the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of his duties or the discharge of his responsibilities, with respect to allegations that: (1) Representative Schweikert may have used official resources to benefit his campaign or pressured congressional staff to perform political activity; (2) Representative Schweikert may have authorized compensation to an employee who did not perform duties commensurate with his House employment; (3) Representative Schweikert or his campaign committee may have received loans or gifts from a congressional employee; and (4) Representative Schweikert may have omitted required information from his annual House financial disclosure statements and Federal Election Commission candidate committee reports.

The Committee notes that the mere fact of an investigation into these allegations does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred. No other public comment will be made on this matter except in accordance with Committee rules.

###



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**FOR RELEASE: Upon Receipt**

**January 2, 2019**

#### STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRWOMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS REGARDING REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS GARRETT

Pursuant to Committee Rule 7(g), the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ethics (Committee) determined to release the following statement:

On June 8, 2018, the Committee authorized an investigation, pursuant to Committee Rule 18(a), into allegations that Representative Thomas Garrett may have improperly required, requested, or allowed members of his official staff to perform unofficial tasks for his and/or his wife's personal benefit. Subsequently, the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) also began an investigation. OCE transmitted a referral regarding similar allegations to the Committee on September 5, 2018, which the Committee published on December 4, 2018, with an announcement that it was already investigating and would continue to review the matter.

Representative Garrett did not seek re-election to the House in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress and the Committee will therefore lose jurisdiction over him on January 3, 2019. Given Representative Garrett's impending departure from the House, the Committee worked expeditiously to investigate the allegations. Over the course of the Committee's investigation, Committee staff interviewed eleven witnesses, including Representative Garrett, and reviewed over 1,500 pages of documents. In addition, the Committee authorized the issuance of four subpoenas. The investigation was slowed by several factors, including lack of full cooperation from Representative Garrett's wife, as well as several current and former members of his congressional staff.

The Committee will lose jurisdiction over this matter before it can issue a Report to the House regarding the allegations involving Representative Garrett. However, we believe the entire House community would benefit from further guidance with respect to these allegations. For that reason we have opted to release this statement and the attached report prepared by the Committee's nonpartisan, professional staff.

As explained in the Staff Report, not all of the allegations discussed in OCE's referral or news reports involved tasks that were improper for Representative Garrett's congressional staff to



perform. There were, however, many tasks that Representative Garrett's staff were required, requested, or allowed to perform that were unambiguously unofficial and therefore impermissible uses of official staff time, or improper gifts if performed on staff's personal time and not compensated. It was apparent from the evidence gathered by the Committee that Representative Garrett did not understand or appreciate the limits on when and how he could call upon his congressional staff to assist him with respect to tasks that were not in direct support of his official representational duties. The Committee has a longstanding practice of requiring that Members reimburse the U.S. Treasury for the impermissible use of official funds and requiring that Members repay the value of impermissible gifts that they receive. If the Committee had not lost jurisdiction here, those requirements could have been imposed as part of the resolution of the matter.

It is our intention that the attached Staff Report serve as a reminder to all House offices that (1) official resources, including congressional staff time, are for official work, and may not be used for personal services beyond incidental use that is negligible in nature, frequency, time consumed, and expense, and (2) congressional staff must be compensated for any personal services provided to their employing Member, even on their own time, because otherwise such services are an impermissible gift to that Member. We also hope that the Staff Report will provide some clarity on the appropriate role of Members' spouses in congressional offices, as well as Members' responsibilities with respect to their spouses' roles.

The issues discussed in the Staff Report are vital to the integrity of the House. Public office is a public trust, and when Members convert their office to personal use it undermines the trust in our institutions. The resources of the House should be used judiciously and with primary regard toward serving the needs of the constituents Members are elected to serve, not the personal needs of Members or their spouses.

###