

Rep. Jackie Speier's (CA-14) Proposals for Rules Changes to the 116th Congress

1) Think Tank Testimony

What problem(s) are you trying to address with your amendment?

Members and the public deserve full transparency about research funding sources for think tank and other experts who testify before Congress.

Please provide a brief summary of your amendment.

Witnesses from think tanks, as defined by the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, centers at institutions of higher education, and other research institutions, provide valuable testimony and expertise to Members, but Members and the public deserve full transparency about the funding that enables experts' research and work. When testifying before Congress, in either their professional or personal capacities, witnesses employed in full or in part by the types institutions referenced above must disclose during their oral testimony and as part of their written testimony/biographies:

- a) Any foreign individuals, organizations, and governments that have funded the individual's primary employing research organization in the last five years;
- b) Any funding from foreign individuals, organizations, and governments that have supported the individual's research projects or base salary in the last two years; and
- c) Any additional, outside (non-think tank) income, including from the individual's work as a contractor, consultant, advisor, or lobbyist for foreign individuals, organizations, and governments in the last two years.

2) HPSCI Reforms

What problem(s) are you trying to address with your amendment?

HPSCI members other than the chair and ranking member lack the staff support to investigate and act on areas of interest related to their committee duties. Empowering individual members and their staffs will enable more thorough oversight of the sprawling intelligence committee. The Legislative Branch should also be able to declassify items of interest rather than rely on restrictive Executive Branch procedures.

Please provide a brief summary of your amendment.

- a) Each Member on HPSCI must be allowed to have a designated personal office staff member who is eligible to receive necessary TS/SCI/SAP security clearances, in accordance with appropriate vetting measures from the Office of House Security, in order to have access to documents, question officials, committee workspaces, engage intelligence community whistleblowers, and otherwise participate in committee business in ways equivalent to HPSCI professional staff members.
- b) The Office of House Security will offer counterintelligence training to cleared personal office staff when said staff receive clearances, and annually thereafter.
- c) No security clearance that is granted to, or non-disclosure agreement signed by, employees of the House of Representatives may be interpreted in a way that prevents employees from

bringing concerns, or reporting sexual harassment or related wrongdoing, to the House Committee on Ethics Committee.

- d) The Chair or Ranking Member of HPSCI, or simple majorities of other committees of jurisdiction, may declassify items deemed in the public interest by referring these matters to the full House for release. The President/Executive Branch will then have 10 days to explain why information should or should not be published, which can be reduced to shorter time frame as determined by the Chair and Ranking Member of HPSCI. The full House shall then debate release, in a closed setting, and proceed to a public vote. A simple majority vote of the full House shall be required for release.

3) House Office of Technology Assessment

What problem(s) are you trying to address with your amendment?

Congress lacks the expertise to act quickly and effectively to address problems surrounding emergent technology and science.

Please provide a brief summary of your amendment.

Reestablish an office to provide Members, committees, and staff with timely, impartial analyses of complicated scientific and technological issues. This expertise would better inform Congressional action on issues related to emergent technology and facilitate effective incorporation of innovations into House business. The organization should be modeled on the Congressional Research Service and Congressional Budget Office, institutionally prioritizing enhancement of Congressional debates and policymaking instead of long-term studies.

4) House Select Committee on Election Integrity

What problem(s) are you trying to address with your amendment?

Congress lacks a consolidated and thorough oversight and investigation capability into foreign election hacking and influence.

Please provide a brief summary of your amendment.

Establish a House Select Committee on Election Integrity to centralize jurisdiction and investigation into election hacking and influence from 2016 to the present. Committee will work to oversee federal agencies with an investigative, regulatory, or intelligence/warning role relating to election security, ensure a thorough review of all types of foreign election hacking and influence that have occurred, and make recommendations on ensuring effective federal protections going forward.

5) House Barber Shop Expertise

What problem(s) are you trying to address with your amendment?

Congress lacks equity and expertise in grooming services for male and female hairstyles. Currently, the House Barber Shop specializes in men's haircuts only.

Please provide a brief summary of your amendment.

Require that the House Barber Shop must have a hairdresser who specializes in male and female haircuts and styling.

6) Climate Surveys of the Congressional Workplace

What problem(s) are you trying to address with your amendment?

Lobbyists and members of the press are integral parts of the Congressional workplace, and often experience harassment and discrimination as part of their jobs. In order to fully address and prevent harassment and discrimination on Capitol Hill, we need to make sure that our climate surveys accurately reflect the entirety of the Congressional workplace.

Please provide a brief summary of your amendment.

Expand the climate survey regarding harassment and discrimination in the Congressional workplace, established by Section 5 of the regulations governing H.Res. 630 adopted by the Committee on House Administration on December 19, 2017, to lobbyists who file an LD-2 Disclosure Form with the Office of the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives and to members of the press who receive their Congressional credentials through the U.S. House of Representatives Periodical Press Gallery.

7) Extension of House Ethics Committee Jurisdiction

What problem(s) are you trying to address with your amendment?

Members of Congress can escape punishment for misconduct by resigning or retiring.

Please provide a brief summary of your amendment.

Extend the jurisdiction of the House Ethics Committee to require the Committee to conclude ongoing investigations into Member misconduct and issue findings, in the case of a Member who retires, resigns, or is expelled, within 1 year of said Member leaving office. Upon conclusion of the investigation and issuance of findings, the Committee must take any of the applicable actions: 1) report to appropriate state and federal authorities about evidence of violations of law, 2) bar access to floor for a period of time determined by the Committee, and 3) issue and collect monetary fines. Any reports issued, with substantiated findings, must be posted publicly on the Committee's website.

8) Committee Hearing Trigger

What problem(s) are you trying to address with your amendment?

Legislation that receives the cosponsorship of a simple majority of Members of the primary committee of jurisdiction deserves to have a hearing on the merits of the legislation.

Please provide a brief summary of your amendment.

Require committees to adopt a committee rule that forces committees to hold a stand-alone hearing on a piece of legislation if a simple majority of the members of the primary committee of jurisdiction requests it, or a simple majority of said committee cosponsors the legislation.

9) Restart the United States House of Representatives Page Program

What problem(s) are you trying to address with your amendment?

The United States House of Representatives Page Program provided a unique and life-changing opportunity to young people interested in the legislative process and public service. We should not deny this important opportunity to the masses.

Please provide a brief summary of your amendment.

Require the House to restart the U.S. House of Representatives Page Program with revamped policies and procedures to ensure the safety of the young people who participate.