

## REGULATIONS FOR THE REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF COMMITTEE WITNESSES

Except as provided by section 3(j) of H. Res. 5, 118th Congress and these regulations, witnesses shall testify before a committee in person. No remote testimony will be accepted from witnesses testifying in a government capacity. In the event the chair of a committee determines that testimony of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity is necessary and such a witness is only available to participate remotely due to extreme hardship or other exceptional circumstances, the chair may allow the witness to participate remotely, with written approval from the Majority Leader.

The official record of the committee proceeding shall include a letter from the chair detailing the necessity of allowing the witness to participate remotely, a description of why the witness could not participate in person, why such testimony was necessary for purposes of fulfilling Congress's Article I responsibility, and a letter from the Majority Leader approving of such remote participation.

The witness must agree to remain on the platform until excused by the chair. The witness should conduct a pre-hearing technology test with staff designated by the chair, to ensure the witness will have sufficient internet connection during the hearing, and to minimize the possibility of any technical issues.

No witness appearing in a governmental capacity may participate remotely. No witness testifying before a committee in response to a subpoena is permitted to testify remotely, unless both the chair of the committee and the Majority Leader authorize such testimony in writing and printed in the Congressional Record.

Any text based or private messaging function in the software platform used to facilitate the participation of a remote witness must be disabled unless it is used to provide technical support to the witness, which may be excluded from the public video stream and will not be considered a committee record.

Only witnesses approved for remote participation may have participatory access on the software platform.

Committees may only utilize a software platform certified by the Chief Administrative Officer. The Chief Administrative Officer should inform committees, including the ranking minority members, each time a software platform is certified.

Witnesses participating remotely should appear before a nonpolitical, professional appropriate background that is minimally distracting to other members and

witnesses, to the greatest extent possible. It remains within the full discretion of the chair to enforce rules of decorum for committee proceedings.

Any committee report of activities submitted pursuant to clause 1(d)(1) of rule XI should include a list of hearings conducted with remote participation.

A witness participating remotely in a committee proceeding shall be visible onscreen within the software platform until excused by the chair. The witness shall disclose to the chair and ranking member any additional individual(s) present off screen.

Witness counsel shall be allowed access on the remote proceeding software platform if they are not in the physical presence of the witness. It is recommended that counsel facilitate a separate secure line of communication with the witness. A witness may not be unmuted by any other individual and should be allowed to use such secure line of communication while testifying to confer with counsel.

A witness may not allow an individual not invited to testify to speak on the platform. The committee chair may only provide an exception when the other individual is necessary to facilitate the witness's participation in the hearing (e.g. translators).

A chair may not authorize remote participation for more than one witness at a committee hearing without the approval of the Majority Leader in writing and printed in the Congressional Record.