

**Statement of Chris Van Hollen**  
**Ranking Democrat, House Budget Committee**  
**March 1, 2011**

Thank you for providing this opportunity to testify about the Budget Committee's funding resolution for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

I am pleased to join Chairman Ryan today in support of his request for the Committee. Although I am new to the Committee, I know there is a long history of bipartisan cooperation and collegiality in requesting and disbursing the Committee budget.

In keeping with past policies, the majority is making one-third of the funding and resources available to the minority for personnel. Chairman Ryan has assured me that the majority budget will continue to cover the equipment for both staffs, providing the same quality and services for both majority and minority.

We do have a very disciplined budget this year. As you may know, our Committee's budget has been frozen for three years in a row now. Across the country, federal, state and local budgets are cutting back in light of deficits. The minority Committee is definitely doing more with less.

The austere total budget this year combined with going into the minority required us to make painful personnel decisions and to impose an across-the-board pay cut to the remaining staff. We are fortunate to have an excellent and productive staff that we want to keep. However, it's important that they receive fair compensation commensurate with their credentials and hard work.