

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE PAUL D. RYAN
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
March 1, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Congressman Brady, for the opportunity to testify concerning the Budget Committee's funding resolution.

For the 112th Congress, all committees have been asked to reduce their budgets by five percent below the levels provided for the 111th Congress. Our funding resolution meets that guidance. We expect that the levels we are requesting for 2011 and 2012 will be sufficient for our needs.

We at the Budget Committee have prided ourselves on careful spending of the funds with which we have been provided. In addition, regardless of which party has been in the Majority, we have always fostered a collegial relationship on the issue of the Committee's budget. We have a bipartisan tradition regarding the allocation of resources between the Majority and Minority. The Majority makes at least one-third of the personnel budget available to the Minority, and this is the largest area of our spending needs. Equipment for both the Majority and Minority then comes out of the common fund, on the same schedule, and with the same quality, for both sides.

This budget continues that tradition. I believe our request is a disciplined budget that treats the Minority fairly, and I believe Mr. Van Hollen's testimony supports both our budget request and our plans for the management of committee funds.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.