

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

117th CONGRESS

A RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 117-14

A Resolution to Amend the *Members' Congressional Handbook*

Be it resolved, that the Committee on House Administration adopt the following regulations, under the authority of and pursuant to clause 1(k)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives and 2 U.S.C. § 5341(d), amending the relevant portions of the prior regulations known collectively as the *Members' Congressional Handbook*.

SECTION 1. COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS.

In the *Members' Congressional Handbook*, the section Office Expenses is amended by adding after the subsection Clipping Services the following new subsection:

“Community Funding Projects

The writing of requests or statements of support for – or opposition to – community funding projects, congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits relates to the legislative process and the authority of Congress under Article I of the Constitution. Such work is related to a Member’s official and representational duties. As such, it is appropriate for a Member and their staff to engage in such work, but official funds may not be used to pay an individual or entity outside the House to perform such work.

However, notwithstanding other limitations, a Member may use MRA funds to procure the temporary services of a professional individual or entity, such as a lawyer, accountant, or financial advisor, for the limited purpose of assisting a Member in reviewing whether the Member has a “financial interest” in a community funding project the Member may wish to request or support. Such an expenditure is permitted if the Member seeks assistance in making a determination of their financial interest that is required as part of a certification process that is required by federal law, House Rules, or the rules of a committee of the House before making such a request or

statement of support. This includes the requirement of House Rule 23, clause 17, that a written certification may be required with respect to a congressional earmark, limited tax benefit, or a limited tariff benefit sought by the Member in any bill or joint resolution (or an accompanying report), in any conference report on a bill or joint resolution (or accompanying joint statement of managers), or as may otherwise be required by federal law, House Rules, or the rules of a committee of the House.

All such expenditures are subject to public disclosure in the same manner as for other expenditures of MRA funds. In addition, if a Member retains an individual or entity for this purpose, when the Member submits required documentation to the Office of Finance, the Member must also provide a copy of a written certification by the individual or entity that assisted the Member in the review and certification process that such individual or entity does not have a financial interest or other conflict of interest in any specific community funding project, congressional earmark, limited tax benefit, or limited tariff benefit which the individual or entity reviewed for the Member.”

SEC. 2. WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM AND HOUSE GOLD STAR FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

In the *Members’ Congressional Handbook*, the subsection Categories of Staff within the section Staff is amended by adding after the paragraph Fellows the following new paragraph:

“Wounded Warrior Program and House Gold Star Family Fellowship Program

Under the sponsorship of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House (CAO), the Wounded Warrior Program and the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program provide paid fellowships for disabled veterans and members of Gold Star Families to work in Members’ congressional offices in either their Washington, D.C., or district locations.

The House-funded positions to participate in the two programs are divided evenly between Members of the majority and minority. Although they are referred to as “fellows” and placed in individual Member offices, participants in the programs are considered employees of the CAO and in general, all expenses are paid for by the CAO. However, participants are eligible for reimbursement from a Member’s MRA for expenses incurred during their fellowship and may also be provided compensation from the MRA of the Member’s office in which they are placed (such as a bonus) in addition to compensation they receive from the CAO.

Additional information about the respective programs, including application information, eligibility, and other details, is available from the CAO.”

Adopted April 26, 2021