

Testimony for the Record before the House Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee

March 18, 2016

Daniel Schuman Biography

Daniel Schuman has long worked at the intersection of law, policy, and technology. He currently serves as policy director with ***Demand Progress***, a civic organization with 2 million affiliated activists that fights for fights for basic rights and freedoms needed for a modern democracy. He most recently served as policy director for ***Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington***, and prior to that as policy counsel with ***the Sunlight Foundation***. In a prior life he was a legislative attorney with the ***Congressional Research Service***.

Daniel chairs the ***Congressional Data Coalition***'s steering committee and founded the ***Advisory Committee on Transparency***, which promoted the work of the Congressional Transparency Caucus. In 2013, Daniel was named among the “top 25 most influential people under 40 in gov and tech” by ***FedScoop***. He is a nationally recognized expert on federal transparency and has testified before Congress and appeared on NPR, C-SPAN. Daniel graduated cum laude from Emory University School of Law.

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Tom Graves
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz:

We, the undersigned organizations, write in support of a request from several members of Congress to appropriate an additional \$125,000 for the Sergeant at Arms to conduct Compartmented Information Security (TS/SCI) Clearance investigations. These funds would address the costs of providing clearance to designated staff who serve in the personal offices of Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) to more fully assist each representative in the thorough execution of their oversight duties.

This appropriation would help provide a measure of parity for HPSCI members with their Senate counterparts with respect to the conduct of national security oversight. Each member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has funds available to hire and clear a staffer to assist with their classified oversight duties. Access to the highest levels of classification is viewed by the Senate as necessary for staff to assist member inquiries into the matters under the committee's jurisdiction. Such staff provide confidential counsel to each member and a second set of hands and eyes that are less constrained by the competing demands on each member's time. Members who serve on HPSCI would benefit from a similar arrangement.

In addition, the nature of intelligence oversight suggests that providing additional resources to members of HPSCI would not be inapt. While members of other committees benefit from the assistance and spotlight brought by public stakeholders, legislative support agencies, academics, and others, the work of HPSCI is sufficiently cloistered as to comparatively diminish the input of non-congressionals. Providing a higher level of clearance to personal office staffers who serve members of HPSCI would help ameliorate this deficiency and support improved functioning of a vital congressional committee.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further. Please contact Daniel Schuman, policy director, Demand Progress, at daniel@demandprogress.org or 202-577-6100.

Sincerely yours,

Constitutional Alliance
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Defending Dissent/Bill of Rights Defense
Committee
EFF
Fight for the Future
Free Press Action Fund
Government Accountability Project
National Security Archive

National Security Counselors
OpenTheGovernment.org
Project on Government Oversight
R Street Institute
RootsAction.org
The Constitution Project
The Niskanen Center
X-Lab

[Insert Subcommittee Name Here]

Witness Disclosure Form

Clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires non-governmental witnesses to disclose to the Committee the following information. A non-governmental witness is any witness appearing on behalf of himself/herself or on behalf of an organization other than a federal agency, or a state, local or tribal government.

Your Name, Business Address, and Telephone Number:

Daniel Schuman, 30 Ritchie Ave., Silver Spring, MD, 202-577-6100.

1. Are you appearing on behalf of yourself or a non-governmental organization?
Please list organization(s) you are representing.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Demand Progress and 15 other organizations, who are listed in the attached document,

2. Have you or any organization you are representing received any Federal grants or contracts (including any subgrants or subcontracts) since October 1, 2012 related to the agencies or programs funded by the Subcommittee?

Yes

☐ No

3. Have you or any organization you are representing received any contracts or payments originating with a foreign government since October 1, 2012 related to the agencies or programs funded by the Subcommittee?

Yes

☐ No

4. If your response to question #2 and/or #3 is "Yes", please list the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof), and/or the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract originating with a foreign government. Please also indicate whether the recipient was you or the organization(s) you are representing.

Signature:

Daniel Schuman

Date:

March 18, 2016