

Full Committee Ranking Member Rep. Norm Dicks

May 31st, 2012

"Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to be here this morning as we consider the Legislative Branch appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013. And I'd like to commend Chairman Crenshaw and Ranking Member Honda on their willingness to work together. This bill's allocation is just slightly below last year and once again, well within the range of what would have been expected if Republicans had stuck to the discretionary number agreed to in the Budget Control Act.

"For the most part this bill has been protected from Ryan budget austerity.

"Many programs and agencies important to the operations of Congress have been spared from harmful cuts. Support agencies such as the Congressional Budget Office, the Congressional Research Service and the Government Accountability Office are all adequately funded, allowing them to continue operating without further reductions in staff or services.

"And thankfully the Wounded Warrior program that provides job opportunities in the House for our veterans is funded at a level that allows us to accommodate the same number of participants next year.

"Unfortunately, not every account has been spared. As anyone who has looked up at the Capitol Dome knows, the Architect of the Capitol is in the middle of an extensive restoration effort. This bill's allocation does NOT provide the funds needed to begin the 2nd and most expensive phase of that effort, but rather cuts the AOC significantly below last year's funding level. As I mentioned at the subcommittee markup—I'd prefer the dome remain a monument to our nation's greatness and not become a symbol for short-sighted austerity.

"Thank you Mr. Chairman, and with that I yield back."

