

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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February 11, 2019

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cummings:

Last Wednesday, the Committee held its first hearing on H.R. 1, the majority's sweeping legislation to change federal election, campaign-finance, and ethics laws. The legislation—a complex, 571-page wish list for liberal special interests—would make radical changes to American democracy, and insert unaccountable Washington bureaucrats into local and state-level decisions. The bill would also restrict fundamental First Amendment freedoms of speech and association. With such core American values at issue, we believe it is imperative that the Committee consider H.R. 1 through regular order.

Last week, Speaker Pelosi reaffirmed her commitment to bring H.R. 1 to the floor in February.¹ However, with only two weeks remaining in which the House is in session in February, the timeline seems unnecessarily rushed for such a large and unvetted bill. We urge you to commit that the Committee will consider H.R. 1 through regular order, including—at the very least—a public business meeting at which Members may debate and amend the legislation.

The Democrat majority promised transparency and a return to regular order.² As your own witness said at last week's hearing, transparency is “the most important tool we have to assure the American people that their leaders are acting in their interest.”³ With respect to H.R. 1, which would have serious repercussions for all our constituents, a transparent and thoughtful process is absolutely necessary.

¹ Lindsey McPherson, *House will advance HR 1 government overhaul package this month, Pelosi says*, ROLL CALL (Feb. 4, 2019), <https://www.rollcall.com/news/congress/house-will-vote-on-h-r-1-government-overhaul-package-this-month-pelosi-says>.

² Press Release, House Rules Committee, Pelosi and McGovern Unveil Details of Rules Package for the 116th Congress (Jan. 1, 2019), <https://rules.house.gov/press-release/pelosi-and-mcgovern-unveil-details-rules-package-116th-congress>.

³ *H.R. 1: Strengthening Ethics Rules for the Executive Branch: Hearing before the H. Comm. on Oversight and Reform*, 116th Cong. (2019) (statement of Walter Shaub, Jr).

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Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Jordan".

Jim Jordan
Ranking Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Meadows".

Mark Meadows
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations