

DAVID N. CICILLINE  
1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

128 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4911  
(202) 225-3290 (FAX)

1070 MAIN STREET, SUITE 300  
PAWTUCKET, RI 02860  
(401) 729-5600  
(401) 729-5608 (FAX)



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS,  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE INTERNET  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY REFORM,  
COMMERCIAL AND ANTITRUST LAW

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST  
AND NORTH AFRICA  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,  
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

September 4, 2014

Chairman Richard B. Nugent  
Subcommittee on Rules and Organization  
H-312 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6269

Ranking Member Jim McGovern  
Subcommittee on Rules and Organization  
1627 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6269

Dear Chairman Nugent and Ranking Member McGovern,

I wish to submit a request to testify before the Subcommittee on Rules and Organization of the House regarding a change to House Rules requiring annual ethics training for all House Members. This issue is crucial to restoring the American people's confidence and trust in Congress. Every Member of the House should be fully and regularly informed of the House ethics rules, and I believe this issue deserves immediate attention.

In 2007, Congress passed the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act (P.L. 110-81) which required all Senators and their staff to complete "ongoing ethics training", but the law did not include House members or staff. While House staff members are required to take annual ethics training under the House Rules, the rules are silent when it comes to members of the House. That is why I recently introduced H.R. 5095, the Ensuring Trust and Honorability in Congressional Standards (ETHICS) Act, on July 14, 2014 with Representative Scott Rigell (R-VA). This common sense, bipartisan legislation would provide a permanent fix to this issue by requiring all House Members to complete annual ethics training offered by the House Ethics Committee. For your convenience, I have included a copy of this legislation with my request.

According to the Washington Post, since the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) was established in 2008 to review allegations of misconduct for referral to the House Ethics Committee, the number of actions taken by the Committee has quadrupled. I believe that a change in House Rules will help increase understanding and reduce confusion of the rules, help decrease the number of future ethics violations by Members, and, most importantly, help restore the public's faith and trust in Congress.

Sincerely,

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

cc: Chairman Pete Sessions  
Ranking Member Louise Slaughter

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5095

To mandate all Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives to complete annual ethics training conducted by the Committee on Ethics.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. RIGELL) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

## A BILL

To mandate all Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives to complete annual ethics training conducted by the Committee on Ethics.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. MANDATORY ANNUAL ETHICS TRAINING FOR**  
4 **MEMBERS.**

5 Title V of the Honest Leadership and Open Govern-  
6 ment Act of 2007 is amended by redesignating sections  
7 555 and 556 as sections 556 and 557 and by inserting  
8 after section 554 the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 555. MANDATORY ANNUAL ETHICS TRAINING FOR**  
2 **MEMBERS.**

3 “(a) **TRAINING PROGRAM.**—The Committee on Eth-  
4 ics of the House of Representatives shall conduct ongoing  
5 ethics training and awareness programs for Members, Del-  
6 egates, and the Resident Commissioner of the House of  
7 Representatives.

8 “(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The ethics training program  
9 conducted by the Committee on Ethics shall be completed  
10 by—

11 “(1) new Members, Delegates, and the Resident  
12 Commissioner not later than 60 days after com-  
13 mencing service; and

14 “(2) Members, Delegates, and the Resident  
15 Commissioner serving on or after noon, January 3,  
16 2015, during each session of a Congress, beginning  
17 with the 1st session of the 114th Congress.

18 “(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take ef-  
19 fect on noon, January 3, 2015.”.

20 **SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

21 The table of contents for title V of the Honest Lead-  
22 ership and Open Government Act of 2007 is amended by  
23 redesignating the items relating to sections 555 and 556

1 as 556 and 557 and by inserting after the item relating  
2 to section 554 the following:

“Sec. 555. Mandatory annual ethics training for Members.”.

○