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September 10, 2014

The Honorable Richard Nugent
Chairman
Subcommittee on Rules and Organization
of House
Committee on Rules
H-313, The Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James P. McGovern
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Rules and Organization
of the House
Committee on Rules
H-152, The Capitol
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nugent and Ranking Member McGovern:

Thank you for holding a hearing next week to ask for input from Members regarding House Rules for the 114th Congress. I am writing to request that I be allowed to testify.

I would like the opportunity to testify about ways we could change House Rules to allow the better use of technology. Specifically, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss a resolution I introduced with Representative Stevan Pearce, H. Res. 287, the *Members Operating to Be Innovative and Link Everyone Resolution* or the *MOBILE Resolution*.

In sum, H. Res. 287 would encourage the greater use of video conferencing and permit remote voting on motions to suspend the rules. Please find attached a copy of the text of this resolution.

Let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to discussing House Rules for the 114th Congress and how we can incorporate H. Res. 287 at next week's hearing.

Sincerely,

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 287

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to permit absent Members to participate in committee hearings using video conferencing and related technologies and to establish a remote voting system under which absent Members may cast votes in the House on motions to suspend the rules.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Mr. PEARCE, and Mrs. LUMMIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to permit absent Members to participate in committee hearings using video conferencing and related technologies and to establish a remote voting system under which absent Members may cast votes in the House on motions to suspend the rules.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Members Oper-
4 ating to Be Innovative and Link Everyone Resolution” or
5 the “MOBILE Resolution”.

1 **SEC. 2. PARTICIPATION OF ABSENT MEMBERS IN COM-**
2 **MITTEE HEARINGS THROUGH VIDEO CON-**
3 **FERENCING AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES.**

4 (a) ENABLING PARTICIPATION OF ABSENT MEM-
5 BERS.—Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representa-
6 tives is amended by adding at the end the following new
7 clause:

8 **“Participation of absent members**

9 “7. Each committee shall permit any member of the
10 committee who is absent from the site of a hearing con-
11 vened by the committee, as well as any other individual
12 who is invited to participate in the hearing and who is
13 absent from the site of the hearing, to use video confer-
14 encing and related technologies in order to participate in
15 the hearing to the same extent as members of the com-
16 mittee and other individuals (as the case may be) who are
17 present at the site of the meeting.”.

18 (b) INCLUSION OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING RE-
19 MOTELY IN DETERMINATION OF QUORUM.—Subpara-
20 graphs (2) and (3) of clause 2(h) of rule XI of the Rules
21 of the House of Representatives are each amended by add-
22 ing at the end the following sentence: “A committee shall
23 adopt a rule under which a member who participates in
24 a hearing remotely pursuant to clause 7 shall be included
25 in determining the number of members constituting a

1 quorum at the hearing for purposes of this subpara-
2 graph.”.

3 **SEC. 3. PERMITTING ABSENT MEMBERS TO VOTE RE-**
4 **MOTELY ON SUSPENSION MOTIONS.**

5 Clause 1 of rule XV of the Rules of the House of
6 Representatives is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new paragraph:

8 “(d) The Clerk, Chief Administrative Officer, and
9 Sergeant at Arms shall work together to develop and im-
10 plement a secure remote voting system under which any
11 member who is absent from the floor shall be permitted
12 to cast a vote remotely on a motion to suspend the rules
13 under this clause if the vote is taken by electronic device.
14 A member who casts such a vote using the remote voting
15 system under this subparagraph shall be treated as
16 present for purposes of determining the existence of a
17 quorum for considering the motion.”.

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