

September 12, 2016

The Honorable Steve Stivers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Rules and Organization of the House
Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, D.C.

Chairman Stivers:

The federal government faces an unsustainable fiscal path. With a national debt over \$19 trillion, Congress must use all tools available to make smart policy decisions that ensure taxpayer funds are not spent on creating new programs that replicate existing programs.

I introduced legislation to change the House rules to ensure lawmakers have necessary information available to identify all similar existing federal programs before creating new initiatives. This proposal would require an analysis be completed by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to identify if a new bill creates any federal program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap an existing federal entity. CRS would then issue a “duplication score,” which would explain if the considered legislation creates new programs duplicative of existing programs. This score would be similar to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost analysis that is required for every bill before congressional consideration.

The process will force the federal government, and Congress, to be more efficient and give the taxpayers a better return on their dollar. Each year the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issues a duplication report, and the findings are startling. Even with hundreds of programs overlapping each other, Congress continues to introduce policies and legislation that add more to federal government duplication and overlap. A duplication score allows Congress and the public to better understand how federal dollars are spent.

As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to the taxpayer to ensure that federal dollars are managed appropriately. I appreciate the Committee’s consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Frank Guinta
Member of Congress

FRANK C. GUINTA
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
1ST DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

326 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5456

33 LOWELL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
(603) 641-9536

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE
ON THE BUDGET

BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE
TO COMBAT THE
HEROIN EPIDEMIC
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2901

September 12, 2016

The Honorable Steve Stivers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Rules and Organization of the House
Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
Washington, D.C.

Chairman Stivers:

The federal government faces an unsustainable fiscal path. With a national debt over \$19 trillion, Congress must use all tools available to make smart policy decisions that ensure taxpayer funds are not spent on creating new programs that replicate existing programs.

I introduced legislation to change the House rules to ensure lawmakers have necessary information available to identify all similar existing federal programs before creating new initiatives. This proposal would require an analysis be completed by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to identify if a new bill creates any federal program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap an existing federal entity. CRS would then issue a "duplication score," which would explain if the considered legislation creates new programs duplicative of existing programs. This score would be similar to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost analysis that is required for every bill before congressional consideration.

The process will force the federal government, and Congress, to be more efficient and give the taxpayers a better return on their dollar. Each year the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issues a duplication report, and the findings are startling. Even with hundreds of programs overlapping each other, Congress continues to introduce policies and legislation that add more to federal government duplication and overlap. A duplication score allows Congress and the public to better understand how federal dollars are spent.

As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to the taxpayer to ensure that federal dollars are managed appropriately. I appreciate the Committee's consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Frank Guinta
Member of Congress

Summary of H.Res. 45

H.Res. 45 is a bipartisan bill to promote government efficiency by requiring the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to provide a “duplication score” on every bill before consideration in the House.

The Problem: Since the founding of our nation, Washington has created thousands of government programs, hundreds of which overlap hundreds more. In 2014, the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) issued its fourth annual report on duplicative federal programs. In it, GAO presents 64 actions that Congress could take to improve efficiency and effectiveness across 26 areas that span a broad range of government missions and functions, *saving tens of billions* of dollars.

The Solution: Given the massive size of the federal government, it can be difficult for lawmakers to ascertain in a timely manner whether a piece of legislation creates a redundant program. This bill make it easier for Members of Congress and the public to make that determination by amending house rules to require CRS to provide a “duplication score” before consideration in the House. **This duplication score would indicate the extent to which the new bill creates any new federal program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap any existing federal program.**

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 45

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require each report of a committee on a public bill or public joint resolution to include an analysis of whether the bill or joint resolution creates a program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap with an existing program, office, or initiative, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2015

Mr. GUINTA (for himself, Ms. GRILAM, Mr. COOK, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARR, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SCHIRADER, Mr. JOLLY, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require each report of a committee on a public bill or public joint resolution to include an analysis of whether the bill or joint resolution creates a program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap with an existing program, office, or initiative, and for other purposes.

- 1 *Resolved*, That clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of
- 2 the House of Representatives is amended by adding at the
- 3 end the following new paragraph:

1 “(i)(1) Each report of a committee on a public bill
2 or public joint resolution shall contain the following:

3 “(A) An analysis by the Congressional Research
4 Service (CRS) to determine if the bill or joint resolution
5 creates any new Federal program, office, or initiative
6 that would duplicate or overlap with any existing
7 Federal entity with similar mission, purpose,
8 goals, or activities, along with a listing of all such
9 instances of duplication or overlapping created by
10 the bill or joint resolution.

11 “(B) If the analysis provided under subdivision
12 (A) indicates that the new program, office, or initiative
13 would create duplication or overlapping, an explanation
14 provided by the committee as to why the
15 creation of the new program, office, or initiative is
16 necessary.

17 “(2) It shall not be in order to consider a public bill
18 or public joint resolution reported by a committee unless
19 the committee has posted on its public website the analysis
20 provided under subparagraph (1)(A) and (if necessary)
21 the explanation provided under subparagraph (1)(B).”.

H.Res. 45 is a bipartisan bill to promote government efficiency by requiring the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to provide a “duplication score” on every bill before consideration in the House.

The Problem: Since the founding of our nation, Washington has created thousands of government programs, hundreds of which overlap hundreds more. In 2014, the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) issued its fourth annual report on duplicative federal programs. In it, GAO presents 64 actions that Congress could take to improve efficiency and effectiveness across 26 areas that span a broad range of government missions and functions, *saving tens of billions* of dollars.

The Solution: Given the massive size of the federal government, it can be difficult for lawmakers to ascertain in a timely manner whether a piece of legislation creates a redundant program. This bill make it easier for Members of Congress and the public to make that determination by amending house rules to require CRS to provide a “duplication score” before consideration in the House. **This duplication score would indicate the extent to which the new bill creates any new federal program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap any existing federal program.**