

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5590

To require an officer or employee of the Federal Government who is required by law to appear on a regular basis to give oral testimony at a hearing of a committee of Congress to remain at the hearing until each member of the committee has been provided with the opportunity to question the officer or employee.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. MACE, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. OGLES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require an officer or employee of the Federal Government who is required by law to appear on a regular basis to give oral testimony at a hearing of a committee of Congress to remain at the hearing until each member of the committee has been provided with the opportunity to question the officer or employee.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “No More Hard Stops
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**
5 **TESTIFYING AT HEARINGS OF COMMITTEES**
6 **OF CONGRESS TO REMAIN UNTIL EACH MEM-**
7 **BER HAS BEEN PROVIDED THE OPPOR-**
8 **TUNITY TO QUESTION.**

9 (a) **REQUIREMENT.**—An officer or employee of the
10 Federal Government who is subject to a requirement
11 under law to appear on a regular basis to give oral testi-
12 mony at a hearing of a committee of Congress shall not
13 be considered to meet such requirement unless the officer
14 or employee remains at the hearing until each member of
15 the committee who is present at the hearing has been pro-
16 vided with the opportunity to question the officer or em-
17 ployee.

18 (b) **ENSURING OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION FOR**
19 **EACH MEMBER.**—

20 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The chair of a committee of
21 Congress who presides at a hearing of the committee
22 at which an officer or employee of the Federal Gov-
23 ernment appears pursuant to a requirement de-
24 scribed in subsection (a) may not provide a member
25 of the committee with a second opportunity to ques-
26 tion the officer or employee at the hearing until each

1 member of the committee who seeks to question the
2 officer or employee has been provided with an oppor-
3 tunity to do so.

4 (2) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWER.—This
5 subsection is enacted by Congress—

6 (A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power
7 of the Senate and House of Representatives, re-
8 spectively, and as such it is deemed a part of
9 the rules of each House, respectively, but appli-
10 cable only with respect to the procedure to be
11 followed in that House in the case of a Commis-
12 sion joint resolution, and it supersedes other
13 rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent
14 with such rules; and

15 (B) with full recognition of the constitu-
16 tional right of either House to change the rules
17 (so far as relating to the procedure of that
18 House) at any time, in the same manner, and
19 to the same extent as in the case of any other
20 rule of that House.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall apply with re-
22 spect to hearings held on or after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act.

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