

03.29.23

Markup Remarks: Ranking Member Paul

For most of the bills we are considering today, there isn't a lot of disagreement about what we are doing. I appreciate that we have been able to make some meaningful changes on a few of the bills and that many will be able to pass quickly by voice vote. I also appreciate the efforts to find a path forward on my Duplication Scoring Act. Unfortunately, for several bills we have not yet been able to reach an agreement on how to accomplish their goals in a responsible manner.

For too long Congress has said yes to every good sounding idea and often made those programs permanent. That is partly why we will spend over \$6 trillion this year and our debt will climb to over \$32 trillion. This excessive spending has led to the inflation families across America are facing every day. We are on an unsustainable path, and the solution is not to pile on more new spending.

In order to let these bills move forward I proposed two simple reforms to bills that will cost new money - add a sunset and pay for them using existing authority.

Last week, Mr. Chairman, we had a good conversation about how to approach this markup and other committee business. I thought we left that meeting in agreement that sunsets were a good idea. They force Congress to make sure programs are delivering value for the taxpayers and doing what they are supposed to. So I proposed adding a two-year sunset to bills where I thought it made sense. We were told that is too short so we proposed making it longer, but still cannot reach an agreement.

Similarly, we have offered several versions of language previously used by Democrat members of this committee to cover the costs of these bills from existing funds. None of those have been agreed to.

I am disappointed that we have not been able to make these common sense changes. If we cannot come to an agreement to address these issues, I will have to oppose the bills here today and continue trying to address these concerns on the floor.