

**Opening Statement of Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA-03)**

Full Committee Hearing

*"Member Day Hearing: Committee on Education and Workforce"*

2261 Rayburn House Office Building

Friday, November 21, 2025 | 9 a.m.

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Today, the Committee is gathered to hear from Members of Congress about their priorities for improving programs within our Committee's jurisdiction.

Committee Democrats believe we should focus on creating a country where everyone earns a living wage in a safe workplace free from discrimination. A country where all children, regardless of their background, can access a quality public education. And a country where families don't fear that a trip to the doctor's office will bankrupt them. Simply put: Committee Democrats want to build an economy that works for everyone –not just the wealthy or well-connected.

To that end, Democrats are ready to advance legislation that achieves these very goals. For example, so far this year we have introduced:

- The *Protecting the Right to Organize Act* which protects workers' right to organize and bargain for higher wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces.
- The *Raise the Wage Act* which gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$17.
- The *Lowering Obstacles to Achievement Now (LOAN) Act* to lower the cost of college for current and future student borrowers and their families.
- The *Child Care for Working Families Act* to comprehensively tackle the child care crisis and ensure families across America can find and afford the high-quality child care.
- The *Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act* to lower prescription drug prices for families and reins in pharmaceutical price gouging.
- And the *Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act* to hold federally funded programs, including schools, accountable for providing students with equal access to education by restoring the private right of action for students and parents to bring disparate impact discrimination claims under Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act*.

Democrats are also ready to reclaim our Article I responsibility and finally hold the Trump Administration accountable for brazenly flouting the law and dismantling the agencies within our Committee's jurisdiction without legal authority. In particular, the mass transfer of education programs is not only extremely inefficient and wasteful, but it will also result in inconsistent enforcement of federal education and civil rights policy.

It is my hope Republicans have returned from their two-month taxpayer-funded vacation, both rested and ready to work.

And so, I want to thank the Members for being with us. We welcome your input and look forward to working together to ensure that America is a country where everyone can succeed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.