

Opening Statement of Ranking Member Scott (VA-03)

Full Committee Organizing Meeting

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.

Thank you, Dr. Foxx, and congratulations on being elected to serve as the Committee's leader.

It is a pleasure to welcome Members on both sides of the aisle to the Committee.

As we formally begin our work in the 118th Congress, I want to take the opportunity to highlight the significant progress we made last Congress on behalf of students, workers, and families. We added millions of jobs, reduced the unemployment to historic low rates, saved over a million workers' pensions, delivered historic funding for education, improved child nutrition, and brought the number of uninsured Americans down to the lowest level ever.

The Committee also passed civil rights legislation, protected against child and family violence, supported child care and early learning, and school construction. Other important legislation for students, workers, and families included the PRO Act and the Raise the Wage Act.

In the 118th Congress, I remain committed to working with every Member of this Committee to achieve the goals we share – ensuring that all people across this nation have access to quality education, good-paying jobs, and affordable health care.

We may not always agree on the path to achieving these goals, but I think we will agree to work in good-faith and follow evidence and research in developing policies that will improve the lives of the people we serve.

This Committee has the authority and responsibility to address many of the issues facing our communities today.

First, we have a duty to ensure every student has access to a high-quality education that allows them to, first, make-up for lost time in the classroom due to the pandemic and to compete in the modern economy.

We also have a duty to build on our historic economic progress and empower workers so we can continue to build the economy from the middle out and the bottom up.

And, importantly, we have a duty to protect and expand access to affordable health care for people across the country.

Regardless of the political differences and challenges that lay ahead, the American people are still counting on us to find common ground and advance policies that put people over politics.