

Rep. Louise M. Slaughter
Ranking Member, House Committee on Rules
Representing New York's 25th District

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Statement by Rules Committee Ranking Member Louise Slaughter on "CROmnibus" Funding Bill

NOTE: Rules Committee will begin hearing on "CROmnibus" at 3:00 p.m. in H-313 in the Capitol. Coverage will be available on one of the C-SPAN channels and online at www.cspan.org

"This bill is 1,600 pages, was released in the middle of the night, and not *on*member of this committee has been able to read all the way through it. There has been no opportunity for public input, no mark ups, no hearings, and no time to adequately consider \$1.1 trillion in spending. Perhaps if the House Majority had spent less time trying to prevent people from getting health care or investigating the non-existent scandal in Benghazi, we would have had time to put together a proper budget.

"This process goes against all of the transparency pledges that House Republicans themselves made. In fact, Speaker Boehner himself said in 2010:

'I do not believe that having 2,000-page bills on the House floor serves anyone's best interest. Not the House, not for the members and certainly not for the American people.' – John Boehner, [New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com), December 17, 2010

"Once again, we see the recalcitrance of the House Majority leading us into another manufactured crisis, angering the American public, and damaging our reputation around the world. We have come to the brink of shutdown again and again, and this CROmnibus is no different.

"This bill not only undercuts the Department of Homeland Security; it includes two classic Washington backroom provisions meant to benefit the wealthy: rolling back regulations on risky behavior by big banks – the same sort of behavior that triggered the Great Recession; and allowing mega donors to donate *ten times* the current limit to political parties, corrupting our system even further.

"This bill also includes significant reforms to pension programs, which would impact thousands of retired workers in my district. For a provision that would impact so many working families, it should have been considered through the regular, transparent, and open legislative process.

"I recognize that this process is tremendously difficult, and I want to note that some harmful riders were removed, which means there is no longer a global gag rule and no conscience clause that would have negatively impacted women's health rights. On another positive note, we were able to include an important ban that prevents processed poultry products imported from China from being served in school meals. In addition, the FDA will now have increased funding to track outbreaks of antibiotic resistant bacteria through the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS).

"But this is not enough. This so-called 'negotiation' is not enough. It does not serve the American people or this institution."