

Long's Short Report – New Congress, same Democrats

By: Rep. Billy Long

January 3 marked the first day of the 116th Congress. Just like every new Congress, members in the House of Representatives vote to establish rules for the new term. This Congress' rules were voted on in three separate packages and consisted of items ranging from changes in the legislative process to tax-related changes. Unlike the Senate, which staggers its terms and is considered a continuing body, all members in the House are up for reelection every two years which is why the frequent, but necessary, change in rules.

The committee responsible for drafting these rules is the House Committee on Rules, also known as the Rules Committee. Established in 1789, the Rules Committee is one of the oldest committees in the House with jurisdiction over House processes and procedures, including the rules of the House.

Due to changes in leadership, the proposed House rules were significantly different than the previous Congresses. Because of these changes, I could not in good conscience vote in favor of rules that hurt the American people. Unlike when Republicans controlled the House, Democrats included rules that are fiscally irresponsible and have the ability to cause great harm to many hard-working taxpayers.

Instead of building upon Republicans' work that reigns in power and increases transparency, Democrats proposed and passed rules on partisan lines that give them a blank check to run up our country's credit and raise the debt limit with zero accountability. In addition to a blank check, Democrats included language that makes it easier to raise taxes, which Republicans have fought to prevent for years.

Although many of these rules passed with very little bipartisan support, my Republican colleagues and I will continue to do our part as elected officials to ensure these rules cause as little harm as possible to the American people.

For more information on my activities in our district and in Washington, I encourage you to follow my Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Rep.Billy.Long> and my Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/USRepLong>. You can also subscribe to my weekly newsletter, "Long's Short Report," by visiting <https://longforms.house.gov/newsletter-and-email-updates-form>.