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The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Co-Chair, Committee on Steering and Policy
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The Honorable Nanette Barragán
Co-Chair, Committee on Steering and Policy
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Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robin Kelly
Co-Chair, Committee on Steering and Policy
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Dear Leader Jeffries and Co-Chairs Wasserman Schultz, Barragán, and Kelly:

As Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), I write to recommend our Member requests for committee assignments for the 119th Congress. In the 118th Congress, the CBC, made up of 60 Members, was a critical voting bloc of our body and vital to pushing our agenda forward, even while we were in the minority. In the 119th Congress, our Caucus will total 62 Members, the largest in our history, and we will continue to build the Democratic agenda and hold the line against any attempts of injustice and unequal treatment under the law. As the “conscience of our Congress,” our Caucus has held steadfast throughout history shedding light where there is none and providing a strong foundation of integrity and direction every Congress. This year, as we face an administration that threatens the very existence of our democracy, we urge the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee to ensure that our Members continue to stand on the front lines of this fight, defending our rights and protecting our people.

Please find the Congressional Black Caucus’s recommendations for committee membership as follows, in addition to Members already permanently approved for standing committees.

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For Judiciary, the Congressional Black Caucus recommends Jasmine Crockett, Maxwell Frost, Sydney Kamlager-Dove, and Summer Lee. Public Safety, Voting Rights, and many other policy areas of jurisdiction on the House Judiciary are central pillars of the CBC's legislative agenda. It is critical that we are represented on this Committee to continue building on much of the hard work we have already accomplished. These Members' wealth of experience in criminal justice reform, civil rights protections, and, in many cases, the administration of justice, will make them invaluable additions to this Committee. We urge the Steering and Policy Committee to further reinforce the power of this Committee by including these Members and building a powerhouse to face the incoming administration.

For Appropriations, the Congressional Black Caucus recommends Ilhan Omar, Shontel Brown, Valerie Foushee, Glenn Ivey, LaMonica McIver, Cleo Fields, and Shomari Figures. Representation on the Appropriations Committee for our Members is essential. In addition to the fact that our Caucus continues to grow in size and representation, these Members have extensive experience in the negotiations that are required to fill this Committee. Congresswoman Omar's experience on the Budget Committee makes her an excellent candidate to work alongside other Members of this committee to push our goals across the finish line. Congresswoman Brown has spent the majority of her time on the House Agriculture Committee negotiating for one of the most nuanced and wealthy agencies in the administration. As the Vice Ranking Member of the Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congresswoman Foushee was able to secure essential funding for public safety and industry priorities. Congressman Ivey's track record for reaching across the aisle and bipartisan efforts throughout his time in Congress would also make him an excellent addition to an often-partisan process. Congresswoman McIver's position on the Newark City Council required her to secure, manage, and appropriate funds for a diverse constituency with an even more diverse set of needs. Congressman Fields' experience as a Member of the Louisiana State Senate Committee has allowed him to play an instrumental role in overseeing budget allocations for his state and advocating for necessary resources. This experience in the Louisiana State Senate will make Congressman Fields a valuable representative of the CBC on the Appropriations Committee. Congressman Figure's position on this committee would allow him to directly shape policies that promote economic opportunity, equitable access to healthcare, and build critical infrastructure as he has done throughout his career.

For Financial Services, the Congressional Black Caucus recommends Janelle Bynum and Cleo Fields. Congresswoman Bynum's experience as a business owner and eight years of legislative experience building a thriving economy in her state of Oregon will make her an exceptional addition to this committee. Congressman Fields's experience from previous Congresses on the Small Business Committee gives him critical experience in managing economic resources that align with the CBC and this committee's responsibilities and goals.

For Education and Workforce, the Congressional Black Caucus recommends Summer Lee. In addition to Congresswoman Lee's district being home to one of the nation's largest trade unions, her experience serving on the Children and Youth Education Committees as a state representative provides ample experience to hit the ground running in this committee.

For Transportation and Infrastructure, the Congressional Black Caucus recommends Maxwell Frost, LaMonica McIver, Wesley Bell, and Shomari Figures. Congressman Frost's district is under continuous threat of inclement weather and would greatly benefit from the critical infrastructure and transportation assistance provided by this committee. Congresswoman McIver's district is home to a national airport that services more than 46 million passengers a day and employs more than 24,000 workers. In addition to the Newark Liberty International Airport, the railroad services in Congresswoman McIver's district are extensive, carrying over a million passengers a day. Her position on this committee would provide critical insight into the transportation needs of the average American. Similarly, Congressman Bell's district is home to an interconnected international airport that serves millions of Americans each year. Missouri's first district has substantial road, water, and public transportation systems that will bring an imperative perspective to this committee. Congressman Shomari's position on this committee would provide him the opportunity to support the much-needed infrastructure development and modernization of Alabama's transportation systems. In particular, finalizing the construction of the Mobile Bay Bridge would be a huge improvement to the state's interstate

commerce. Congressman Figures' placement on this committee will provide necessary support in reaching these goals.

For Energy and Commerce, the Congressional Black Caucus recommends Troy Carter, Don Davis, Jennifer McClellan, and Gabe Amo. Congressman Troy Carter's dedication to exploring alternative fuel sources for the sake of the environmental future of his district and of this nation makes him an asset and essential advocate for this committee. In addition to his passion for environmental justice, Congressman Carter's district relies on many of the industries within this committee's jurisdiction giving him the experience needed to lead in this committee's policy priorities. In eastern North Carolina, broadband accessibility is one of the largest roadblocks to advancement, with 42% of people in the NC-01 district lacking access. Congressman Davis plans to champion the expansion of broadband access in rural areas by advocating for policies on the Energy and Commerce Committee that prioritize closing the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to the digital tools needed for success. Congresswoman McClellan has spent the majority of her career working in Telecommunications law and regulatory work. She would be an incredible asset to lead us into the digital century with critical experience in 5G, broadband deployment, and providing wireless infrastructure in underserved communities. In addition to Congressman Amo's district being home to several institutions of higher education focused on healthcare, seven hospitals and medical centers supplement these institutions creating a need for investment in programs within this committee's jurisdiction that can improve access to healthcare and support providers. Congressman Amo's seat on this committee would allow him to vigorously represent and advocate for these centers in his district.

For Armed Services, the Congressional Black Caucus recommends Wesley Bell and Shomari Figures. Over 168,000 active service members and veterans call the St. Louis region home. Additionally, the Scott Air Force base where many of Congressman Bell's constituents serve and work allot him the experience and insight needed to serve this committee and his constituents successfully. In addition to Congressman Figure's district being home to service members from surrounding military bases, several defense contractors are located within his district as well. Congressman Figures will bring not only the voice of military families to this committee but support for civilian defense personnel.

For Agriculture, the Congressional Black Caucus recommends Janelle Bynum and Shomari Figures. Congresswoman Bynum hails from the state of Oregon, where \$5.01 billion of the state's gross product is in agriculture production and \$2.57 billion in agriculture production. Congress Bynum's position on this committee will allow her to represent the vast agricultural needs of her state. Congressman Figures' district has farmland that historically has been an economic resource to the region and a key nutrition source in Alabama. His position on this committee will bring the necessary perspective of our nation's farmers and the needs of our agricultural sector.

For Small Businesses, the Congressional Black Caucus recommends Janelle Bynum and Wesley Bell. Both Members would be excellent additions to this committee, serving the needs of our nation's small business community while supporting their district's priorities in these policy areas.

For Ways and Means, the Congressional Black Caucus recommends Marilyn Strickland Emilia Sykes. Congresswoman Strickland's current committee assignments and dedication to this Caucus give her the critical tools to be an excellent representative of the needs of her district and the mission of this Caucus. As the minority leader in the Ohio House of Representatives, Congresswoman Sykes led the passage of the largest middle-class tax cut in her state's history. The upcoming 2025 tax debate will require strong leaders like Congresswoman Sykes to protect our middle class and ensure this incoming administration does not decimate the progress we have made thus far.



U.S. Representative Steven Horsford (NV-04)
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

