

Omar Ashmawy
Chief Counsel
Office of Congressional Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
425 3rd Street, S.W. Suite 1110
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Ashmawy,

We respectfully request that the Office of Congressional Ethics (“OCE”) investigate whether Representatives Andy Ogles, Patrick Ryan, Steny Hoyer, and John Rose have failed to file requisite financial disclosures in a timely manner, in contravention of federal law and the standards of the House of Representatives.

I. Background

Representative Andy Ogles represents Tennessee’s 5th Congressional District. On May 9, 2024, Representative Ogles filed a Financial Disclosure Extension Request with the House of Representatives, Office of the Clerk. Under extension, Representative Ogles’ 2023 Financial Disclosure Statement (“FD”) was due August 13, 2024, and Representative Ogles has yet to file his FD.¹

Representative Patrick Ryan represents New York’s 18th Congressional District. On April 30, 2024, Representative Ryan filed a Financial Disclosure Extension Request with the House of Representatives, Office of the Clerk. Under extension, Representative Ryan’s 2023 Financial Disclosure Statement (“FD”) was due August 13, 2024, and Representative Ryan has yet to file his FD.²

Representative Steny Hoyer represents Maryland’s 5th Congressional District. On May 9, 2024, Representative Hoyer filed a Financial Disclosure Extension Request with the House of Representatives, Office of the Clerk. Under extension, Representative Hoyer’s 2023 Financial Disclosure Statement (“FD”) was due August 13, 2024, and Representative Ryan has yet to file his FD.³

Representative John Rose represents Tennessee’s 6th Congressional District. On May 14, 2024, Representative Rose filed a Financial Disclosure Extension Request with the House of Representatives, Office of the Clerk. Under extension, Representative Rose’s 2023 Financial Disclosure Statement (“FD”) was due August 13, 2024, and Representative Rose has yet to file his FD.⁴

II. Law

Pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act, the House Committee on Ethics requires Members to file Financial Disclosure Reports on an annual basis.⁵

¹ Clerk of the House of Representatives, Andy Ogles, [2023 Financial Disclosure Extension Request](#) (May 9, 2024).

² Clerk of the House of Representatives, Patrick Ryan, [2023 Financial Disclosure Extension Request](#) (Apr. 30, 2024).

³ Clerk of the House of Representatives, Steny Hoyer, [2023 Financial Disclosure Extension Request](#) (May 9, 2024).

⁴ Clerk of the House of Representatives, John W. Rose, [2023 Financial Disclosure Extension Request](#) (May 14, 2024).

⁵ Committee on Ethics, Financial Disclosure Forms and Filings, [Financial Disclosure Form A](#); 5 U.S.C. § 13103(d).

Member Financial Disclosure Reports for a given calendar year must be filed no later than May 15th of the succeeding year.⁶

An extension of up to 90 days may be granted to Members who seek extension prior to the May 15th filing due date.⁷

Financial Disclosure Reports must be filed no later than 30 days from the stated due date, at which point a \$200 penalty will be assessed.⁸ In addition, the Attorney General is authorized to bring a civil action against any person who knowingly and willfully fails to file a report, and a court may assess a civil penalty up to \$50,000.⁹

The House Ethics Manual establishes that “[p]ublic disclosure is intended to provide the information necessary to allow Members’ constituencies to judge their official conduct in light of possible financial conflicts with private holdings.”¹⁰

The Code of Official Conduct requires that Members shall behave in a manner which reflects creditably on the House of Representatives and adhere to both the spirit and letter of the law.¹¹

III. Analysis

Pursuant to federal law, the House of Representatives requires that Members of Congress disclose their financial interests in a timely manner.¹² These disclosures serve an important purpose to “inform the public about the financial interests of government officials in order to increase public confidence in the integrity of government and to deter potential conflicts of interest.”¹³ Representatives Ogles, Ryan, Hoyer, and Rose have failed to file their respective Financial Disclosure Statements in a timely manner, thereby avoiding transparency, and depriving their constituents, and the public at-large, of the opportunity to ensure that official actions are not being steered to personally benefit of Members of Congress.

The transparency promoted by these disclosure requirements bolsters public trust, and is an important bellwether in determining, from a House Ethics standpoint, whether Members of Congress are engaging in behavior that reflects creditably on the House and adhering to the spirit and the letter of the law.¹⁴ In this regard, Representatives Ogles, Ryan, Hoyer, and Rose have fallen well short of not only their procedural obligations with their failure to timely file their Financial Disclosure Reports, but have also succeeded in offending every scintilla of public policy promoted by those same obligations.

IV. Request for Action

Representatives Ogles, Ryan, Hoyer, and Rose are most assuredly aware of the requirements of transparency for public officials. Their failure to file the requisite financial disclosures, however – even after a 90-day extension was granted– is an affront to the public trust, and a blatant violation of federal law and House requirements. Elected officials are trusted to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. It is not only reasonable to expect them to adhere to basic standards of transparency, but it is also legally required of them. As such, we respectfully request that the Office of Congressional Ethics undertake an investigation into the

⁶ 5 U.S.C. §13103(d).

⁷ Committee on Ethics, *supra* note 5; 5 U.S.C. § 13103(g)(1).

⁸ Committee on Ethics, *supra* note 5; 5 U.S.C. § 13106(d)(1).

⁹ 5 U.S.C. § 13106(a)(1).

¹⁰ Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, U.S. House of Representatives, [House Ethics Manual](#), 261 (2022).

¹¹ 118th Congress, Rules of the House of Representatives, Rule 23, Cl. 1-2 (2023).

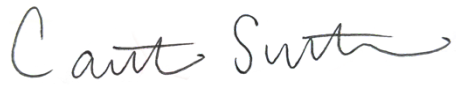
¹² Committee on Ethics, Financial Disclosure Forms and Filings, [Financial Disclosure Form A](#); 5 U.S.C. §§ 13103(d), 13103(g)(1).

¹³ Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, *supra* note 10.

¹⁴ 118th Congress, Rules of the House of Representatives, Rule 23, Cl. 1-2 (2023).

filing delinquencies of Representatives Ogles, Ryan, Hoyer, and Rose enjoin current violations, and deter any future violations by these Members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caitlin Sutherland". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Caitlin Sutherland
Executive Director