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LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

October 29, 2015

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan,

As you take up the speaker's gavel, I applaud your stated intention to restore the American people's trust in Congress and to ensure that their hard-earned tax dollars are spent wisely. As a sign of your commitment to fiscal discipline and respect for the taxpayer's money, I urge you to immediately dismantle both the Select Committee on Benghazi and the Select Investigative Panel on Planned Parenthood. Both of these partisan efforts have wasted taxpayer money to inappropriately investigate pet political causes, undermined the work of the House, and misled the American people.

The Benghazi Select Committee alone has wasted nearly \$5 million on a duplicative investigation into an incident that had already been exhaustively investigated by seven congressional committees, as well as an independent State Department review board. In addition to this staggering price tag, comments made by Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy confirmed that the intention of the committee has all along been to use taxpayer money in order to tear down a candidate running for president of the United States. It is an outrage that taxpayer funds are being used not to conduct the people's business, but rather to interfere inappropriately with a presidential election. Dismantling this committee should be the easiest decision of your speakership, and would send a clear signal that the House is setting aside political distractions and getting back to work on behalf of the American people.

I also urge you to shut down the Select Investigative Panel on Planned Parenthood, which was similarly created to satisfy partisan and political goals. Not only have multiple committees already investigated the discredited claims against Planned Parenthood and turned up nothing, but the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee admitted there is no evidence that Planned Parenthood has broken the law. Instead of doubling-down on abusing taxpayer funds, you should start your speakership on a positive note by ending this political theater for the good of the country.

While your predecessor assumed the speakership with promises of restoring the House "as a place where the people's will is done," he leaves Congress saddled with two partisan committees that waste the taxpayer's money and distract from the true business of running the country. You now have the chance for a fresh start. I urge you to use your new position to show the American people that the House of Representatives is truly worthy of their sacred trust.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise Slaughter".

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress