



## SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPENDENT LEGISLATURES

The House Democracy Partnership (HDP) is a bipartisan, twenty-member commission of the U.S. House of Representatives that works directly with partner countries around the world to support the development of effective, independent, and responsive legislative institutions.

Established by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2005, HDP uses peer-to-peer exchange programs, training seminars for members and staff, and targeted technical assistance to strengthen capacity in key areas such as legislative oversight, budget analysis, committee operations, constituent relations, as well as library and research services.

Its singular focus on the legislative branch of government and its unique ability to bring together the U.S. House of Representatives and their peers from around the world has made the commission a valuable forum for strengthening democratic institutions and deepening bilateral relations.

Central to HDP's work is peer-to-peer cooperation to build legislative technical expertise that enhances accountability, transparency, legislative independence, access to information, and government oversight.

### HISTORY

The House Democracy Partnership is the indirect successor to the Frost-Solomon Task Force, which provided assistance to the emerging legislatures in Central and Eastern Europe from 1990-1996. Inspired by their participation in the Frost-Solomon Task Force's activities, Representatives David Dreier and David Price collaborated to revive and expand its mission. On March 14, 2005, the House of Representatives voted to establish the House Democracy Assistance Commission with a mandate to work with emerging democracies throughout the world (H. Res. 135). It was renamed the House Democracy Partnership in 2011.

At the end of the 112th Congress, Representative Peter Roskam assumed chairmanship of HDP. The commission has been continually reauthorized including in the 115th Congress under the House's Rules Package (H. Res. 5), which passed on January 3, 2017.

## HDP PARTNER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

BURMA

COLOMBIA

GEORGIA

GUATEMALA

HAITI

INDONESIA

IRAQ

KENYA

KOSOVO

KYRGYZSTAN

LEBANON

LIBERIA

MACEDONIA

MONGOLIA

PAKISTAN

PERU

SRI LANKA

TIMOR-LESTE

TUNISIA

UKRAINE

## AREAS OF COOPERATION

**BUDGETARY ISSUES:** House members, staff and Congressional Budget Office experts work with partners to improve the capacity of legislatures to scrutinize the government's budget and amend it to reflect the priorities of the legislature.

**COMMITTEE OPERATIONS:** Members and staff of various House committees advise legislative committee chairs and clerks on structuring staff and activities to ensure effective oversight such as public hearings.

**CONSTITUENT SERVICES:** House members and staff advise members of partner legislatures and their office staff on responding to constituent inquiries and handling casework.

**DEFENSE OVERSIGHT:** Defense is among the most difficult areas for legislatures to exercise effective oversight, as expertise is often hard to acquire. House members and staff work with their counterparts to improve scrutiny of the government's defense plans.

**ETHICS:** House members and staff, including those of the House Ethics Committee, advise partner legislature counterparts on the establishment and implementation of legislative codes of ethics.

**INFORMATION SERVICES:** Congressional information technology (IT) experts advise legislative staff on the use of IT to set up a legislative information service or other systems that disseminate information about the legislature's work and improve legislators' access to information.

**LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE:** Members and staff from the House Rules Committee, legislative counsel, House Parliamentarian's office and Congressional Research Service advise members of parliament and staff of partner legislatures on bill drafting and parliamentary procedure.

**LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH SERVICES:** Specialists from the Congressional Research Service and Library of Congress collaborate to improve or establish legislative libraries and research services.

**MATERIAL ASSISTANCE:** HDP's limited budget for discrete material assistance has been used for projects such as the establishment of a legislative library for the Constituent Assembly of East Timor and the development of an IT server for the Macedonian Assembly.

## HDP MEMBERS

### REPUBLICANS

REP. JEFF FORTENBERRY, NEBRASKA  
REP. VERN BUCHANAN, FLORIDA  
REP. JACKIE WALORSKI, INDIANA  
REP. STEVE KNIGHT, CALIFORNIA  
REP. TOM RICE, SOUTH CAROLINA  
REP. ADRIAN SMITH, NEBRASKA  
REP. STEVE WOMACK, ARKANSAS  
REP. ROB WOODALL, GEORGIA  
REP. BILL FLORES, TEXAS

### DEMOCRATS

REP. KEITH ELLISON, MINNESOTA  
REP. SUSAN DAVIS, CALIFORNIA  
REP. GWEN MOORE, WISCONSIN  
REP. DINA TITUS, NEVADA  
REP. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD,  
CALIFORNIA  
REP. GERALD CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA  
REP. TED LIEU, CALIFORNIA  
REP. NORMA TORRES, CALIFORNIA



**REP. PETER J. ROSKAM, CHAIRMAN**  
**REP. DAVID E. PRICE, RANKING**

In cooperation with:  
The U.S. Agency for International Development,  
The International Republican Institute, and  
The National Democratic Institute

