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## **Levin Center testifies before U.S. House Committee on strengthening congressional oversight**



Elise Bean of the Levin Center testifying in the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress

11/4/2021 - The U.S. House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress held a hearing on Thursday entitled, "Article One: Strengthening Congressional Oversight Capacity." Testimony was shared by oversight experts from Georgetown University Law School, Protect Democracy, and Elise Bean from the Levin Center at Wayne Law.

"Much more can be done to elevate bipartisan, fact-based oversight by Congress," said Bean, which is "a critical function at the center of Congress' constitutional responsibilities."

Bean, who worked for Senator Carl Levin and heads the Levin Center's Washington office, described "the power of oversight to fix problems plaguing our communities, save taxpayer dollars, strengthen federal programs, and carry out Congress' constitutional responsibility to provide checks and balances among the branches of government." She observed: "Oversight can also help bridge political divides by providing legislators with an opportunity to develop a mutual understanding of a problem and reach consensus on the relevant facts. Reaching consensus on the facts can then facilitate bipartisan reforms."

Her full testimony and a link to the committee hearing is available on the Levin Center website at <https://levin-center.org/levin-center-at-work/congressional-state-testimony/>.

The Levin Center at Wayne Law is named in honor of former U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, Michigan's longest-serving U.S. senator who spent 36 years in the Senate conducting fact-based, bipartisan oversight investigations. The center's mission is to promote high quality oversight in Congress and the 50 state legislatures through oversight workshops, research, events, commentary, and other activities. While the Levin Center is affiliated with Wayne State University Law School, its views do not present the institutional views, if any, of Wayne State University or the Law School.

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