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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
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COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

2422 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Nadler & The Honorable Doug Collins  
Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C.

Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins,

Thank you for considering my testimony for Judiciary Committee Member Day. I intended to testify in person, but unfortunately, I injured my knee at practice for the Congressional football game and was forced to return to Arkansas.

I would like to advocate for three pieces of my legislation that have been referred to your committee; H.Res. 150, H.R. 1132, and H.R. 2980.

H.Res. 150 is a resolution recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Elaine Massacre, a little-known historical event that occurred in my district, and the worst incident of mass racial violence in American history. On September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1919, a group of black sharecroppers met at Hoop Spur Church in Elaine, Arkansas, to form a sharecropper union. That attempt at unionization led to backlash, and in the resulting racial riot 100-240 African Americans were murdered. Subsequent sham trials led to the false convictions of other black sharecroppers, and led to the Supreme Court decision of *Moore v. Dempsey*, which set the precedent for Supreme Court review of states' due process in criminal trials. With the impending 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary just weeks away, I would greatly appreciate the Committee's consideration of this H.Res. I greatly appreciate the assistance of my colleague, friend, and Civil Rights Subcommittee Chairman Steve Cohen up to this point.

H.R. 1132, the Divisional Realignment for the Eastern District of Arkansas Act of 2019, would consolidate the five divisions of the Eastern District of Arkansas into three. For more than two years, the Eastern District has been forced to operate under a contradiction between its organizational statue and the availability of Federal facilities, resulting in two of the five divisions not being served by courthouses. This bill will realign the administrative divisions to meet the infrastructure requirements mandated by law. The bill was previously incorporated into a larger bill marked up by the Committee in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, and even passed the House, but was not taken up by the Senate. The bill has the full endorsement of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the Judicial Council of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth District, and the Eastern District of Arkansas.

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Finally, I would like to advocate for my original legislation H.R. 2980, the Entry Adjudication through General Legal Expertise, or EAGLE Corps Act. Today, over 869,000 cases are waiting for trial in our immigration courts – each one dragging on for an average of 736 days before a decision is reached. Our border patrol and immigration courts are understaffed and overworked, legal immigrants face daunting wait times, and American taxpayers are asked to bankroll the inefficiency. My bill would allow individuals who recently graduated law school and passed the Bar to gain real work experience in some of the busiest courts in the country. In exchange for serving in one of our 63 immigration courts, members of the EAGLE Corps would receive some student loan repayment.

The EAGLE Corps is meant to be a starting point from which we can address the crippling backlog at our borders while Congress works on an agreement to solve the larger issues within our immigration system. We all want to keep our country safe and continue our national tradition of welcoming those who share our values and ideals. We cannot expect our courts to properly and efficiently handle the cases before them without giving them the tools they need. Let's set our courts up for success. Together, we can focus on good, sensible reforms to our immigration system.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony, and please let me know if you have any questions regarding my legislation.

Sincerely,



Rick Crawford  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS