

ILHAN OMAR
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEES ON
HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT
WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES ON
AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, AND GLOBAL HUMAN
RIGHTS
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, AND GLOBAL CORPORATE
SOCIAL IMPACT

January 3, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

As a returning member of the 118th Congress, I am honored to have the opportunity to respectfully present my interest in serving on the following House Committees:

1. Appropriations
2. Foreign Affairs
3. Education and the Workforce

If assigned a seat on the Appropriations Committee, I will fight for investments in education, public health, the environment, infrastructure, and other priorities that align with the principles of our party. While I understand that positions on this Committee are often reserved for senior Members, I believe that I offer a bold vision and a unique background that would benefit me as an appropriator, either in the 118th or in future Congresses.

I would also be honored to continue serving on the Foreign Affairs Committee, where I'd be able to continue to offer a unique perspective as a Somali-American, a refugee, and the only Africa-born Member of Congress. If given another opportunity to sit on this Committee, I will fight to prioritize increased funding for refugee resettlement programs and will focus on implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. My professional experience prior to becoming an elected official would also greatly benefit my work on this important Committee. I served as an Oxfam Sisters on the Planet Ambassador, where I worked with Congress to invest in emergency food aid to communities across the world and to raise awareness of the importance of U.S. foreign aid to fight global poverty.

Continuing to serve on the Education and Labor Committee would allow me to build on the policy priorities that I championed in the 117th Congress and as a state legislator. In the Minnesota State House, I served on the Higher Education and Career Readiness Policy and Finance Committee, where I crafted legislation to increase the MN Child Care Grant Program and extend the eligibility period of this program for student parents. This bill was successfully passed as part of the 2016 Higher Education Omnibus bill and I hope to tackle similar priorities at the federal level. Given the quantity of educational institutions in Minnesota's Fifth District and the uniquely high percentage of millennial voters, my constituents are counting on me to continue fighting for better access to public education and less debt dependency for students seeking a college degree. Moreover, as a parent and someone still paying off their own college debt, I have a firsthand understanding of the real-world impacts of the issues within this Committee's jurisdiction.

I am deeply committed to supporting the goals of the Democratic Caucus and hope to make significant progress on those goals as a member of my assigned Committees. I am particularly excited for the opportunity to bring together diverse constituencies to pursue a progressive agenda on issues that will benefit the Midwestern region. Given the ratio of Midwestern Members currently and historically assigned to my requested Committees, I believe these assignments would offer me the greatest opportunity for valuable policy impact.

Again, thank you for considering my request for assignment to the Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, and Education and Labor Committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ilhan Omar', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress