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Hillsdale College’s Matthew Spalding Testifies at House Hearing on Legislative Powers

Dean of Van Andel Graduate School discusses constitutional perspective on congressional, executive roles

Hillsdale, Mich. — On Tuesday, March 3, Matthew Spalding, vice president of Washington operations and dean of the Van Andel Graduate School of Government at Hillsdale College’s campus in Washington, D.C., testified at a hearing held by the House Committee on Rules titled, “Article I: Constitutional Perspectives on the Responsibility and Authority of the Legislative Branch.”

The hearing, led by Chairman James P. McGovern (D-MA) and Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK), examined how the roles of the modern legislative and executive branches of federal government have diverged from the founders’ vision as outlined in the U.S. Constitution.

“If Congress does not act to correct the growing tilt toward executive-bureaucratic power, the structure of our government will be fundamentally, and perhaps permanently, altered,” Spalding stated in his testimony. “This outcome imperils not only the constitutional design but also the great achievement of republican self-government.”

Titled “Congress, Constitutional Authority, and the Problem of Bureaucratic Government,” Spalding’s testimony analyzed the dangers of the expansion of executive power and explored the Constitutional foundation for Congressional authority.

Spalding was one of four witnesses called by the Committee on Rules to address changes in legislative roles and responsibilities with special attention to the powers described by the American founders in Article I of the Constitution. Other witnesses included Laura Belmonte, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and professor of history at Virginia Tech; Deborah Pearlstein, professor of law at Cardozo Law School in New York City; and Saikrishna Prakash, professor of law at the University of Virginia.

For more information and to view the recorded hearing, [click here](#).

About Hillsdale in D.C.

Hillsdale College’s presence in Washington, D.C., extends the College’s educational mission to the nation’s capital by teaching and promoting the principles and practice of American constitutionalism. Hillsdale in D.C. seeks to inspire and form students, citizens, practitioners, and statesmen who will restore America’s principles and revive self-government in the political life of the nation. In order to extend its formal teaching mission, Hillsdale College has launched the Van Andel Graduate School of Government, a new and unique graduate

program in the nation's capital, for the purpose of teaching political thought, American political history, and statecraft to young professionals working in Washington, D.C.

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 5 million. For more information, visit hillsdale.edu.

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