



**SCHOLARS**  
STRATEGY NETWORK

## Transparency is a Weapon that is Ruining Congress

**James G. D'Angelo**, The Congressional Research Institute

Rank-and-file members of Congress are unhappy. In both chambers, leadership cuts them out of the amending process via an array of parliamentary tricks like "closed rules" and "filling the tree."

Frustrated, the members readily direct their anger at the top brass. But this is a mistake. The real culprit is transparency – weaponized transparency that grew out of congressional sunshine reforms a half-century ago.