



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

Full Committee Markup - FY 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill May 20, 2015 Opening Statement As Prepared

I want to commend and thank you both for your work on this bill. The Commerce, Justice, Science bill is near and dear to my heart. It supports a broad range of federal programs that are important to our safety, our economy, and our nation's place as a global leader in research and innovation.

As Chairman Culberson mentioned, the bill totals \$51.4 billion, prioritizing law enforcement, counterterrorism and cyber security, and important science programs.

To highlight some of these priorities –

I'm pleased that this legislation increases funding for federal law enforcement and counter intelligence efforts that help protect families and communities across the nation. The world is a volatile place, and there are unfortunately many threats to overcome. We must utilize every resource within our means to prepare and protect ourselves, and to bring those who wish to do us harm to justice.

To this end, we have increased funding for the Department of Justice – which receives \$852 million more than last year – to help root out and fight back against terrorists, criminals, and other bad actors.

Also, the DEA receives an important increase that will continue efforts to address the scourge of prescription drug abuse – a scourge that I am unfortunately all too familiar with in my home district.

And as the Chairman highlighted, the bill creates a new Community Trust initiative to support police training and research and provide body cameras and data collection capabilities. Investments like these will help increase public safety, and build positive relationships between law enforcement and local communities.

The bill also targets funding to science and space programs that help create jobs and grow our economy. Making investments like these today will help spur American innovation tomorrow and into the future.

However, as with all of our bills, we have gone through each and every line of the budget request, examined closely each and every program and agency, and weeded out the waste and excess. The subcommittee found savings to the tune of \$400 million compared to last year by trimming lower-priority programs, and the bill rescinds \$375 million in unused prior-year funds.

In these tight budgetary times, we simply can't increase the most important programs without scaling back other, less important ones, and I believe the subcommittee picked the right priorities and made responsible decisions in this bill.

By investing in programs with proven results and clear economic and security benefits, we are investing in a better America. So I thank the Chairman, the Ranking Member, the Subcommittee, and the staff for their good work on this bill, and I urge the Committee to support it today.

I will now turn to our Full Committee Ranking Member, Nita Lowey, for her remarks on this fine bill.

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