



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

FY 2017 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill – Full Committee July 13, 2016 Opening Statement

The Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill provides \$161.6 billion in discretionary funding. That's \$569 million below last year's level.

This bill focuses on right-sizing the federal government, blocking unnecessary regulatory overreach, and investing in proven, effective programs.

This includes critical funding for health and disease research and pandemic preparedness. In total, HHS receives \$73.2 billion – an increase of \$2.6 billion above FY16 levels.

NIH receives \$33.3 billion – \$1.2 billion above current levels. Funding is directed to critical research initiatives, focusing on diseases like Alzheimer's and pediatric cancer.

CDC also receives an increase - \$605 million above current levels. The bill includes funding to ensure that we are prepared for a bioterror attack or disease emergency. The bill also creates a new Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund, which will allow the CDC director immediate access to funds to respond to future emergencies like Ebola or Zika.

The bill also includes \$390 million specifically to fight the Zika virus – for vector control, international response, and block grants for states and communities that are at great risk of high levels of Zika transmission.

I'm pleased that this bill also prioritizes funds to fight prescription drug abuse – which is a grave threat to the public health of this nation. Within CDC, \$90 million - \$20 million more than current levels – is directed to expand efforts to combat opioid abuse. And within SAMHSA, \$581 million is provided for opioid and heroin abuse - \$525 million above FY16. This includes funding for a first-ever comprehensive state grant program that will address this epidemic on a nationwide scale.

Other funding priorities within the bill include effective education programs – like GEAR UP and TRIO. Funding for special education state grants is \$12.4 billion - \$500 million above the current enacted level.

Within the Department of Labor, again, programs that have been proven to have national benefit are prioritized. This includes a slight increase in funding for the Job Corps, and \$285.5 million for the Veterans Employment and Training Service.

We have balanced out these investments with reductions to lower-priority or duplicative programs. The bill contains several provisions to stop the spending of taxpayer dollars to implement ObamaCare.

We have also taken the necessary steps to reduce harmful red tape that kills jobs and stifles economic growth. This includes eliminating overly burdensome government regulations, like the “Fiduciary” rule and the “Overtime” rule. The bill also includes several policy provisions to stop the NLRB’s anti-business agenda – including prohibiting enforcement of joint-employer standards.

I commend Chairman Cole and his Subcommittee for their fine work on this legislation – a bill that focuses on effective investments, responsible spending, and a limited federal government.

I urge the Committee to support it today.

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