



# **Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen**

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## *House Committee on Appropriations*

**FY 2018 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill**  
**Full Committee Markup**  
**July 19, 2017**  
**Opening Statement As Prepared**

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The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill for this year reflects Congressional priorities to focus our investments on programs that the American people need the most – like public health and medical research, biodefense, fundamental education, and proven programs that improve job growth and our economy.

As Chairman Cole highlighted, the bill includes an increase of \$1.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health – investing in life-saving research into pediatric cancer and Alzheimer’s, to name a few.

In addition, funding for public health is prioritized. This includes CDC’s Public Health Preparedness and Response programs, which ensure we are ready in the event of a bioterror attack or pandemic emergency.

Opioid abuse has quickly become a large-scale epidemic, killing more people each year than car crashes. The bill includes \$747 million to address this national crisis in opioid and heroin abuse, including \$500 million for state response grants as authorized in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act.

Within the Department of Education, we invest in programs that ensure all students have access to a quality education – like Head Start, Pell Grants, and IDEA special education grants.

At the Department of Labor, funding is targeted to programs with proven national benefit – that will help create jobs and equip people with the tools needed to succeed.

I’m pleased that the bill continues important programs that help our veterans find employment when their military service is complete – such as the Veterans Employment and Training Service and Homeless Veterans Reintegration.

Chairman Cole and his subcommittee conducted careful oversight to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent on programs that will best serve the American people and assist the most vulnerable in our society. To make these investments, funding for lower-priority and

underperforming programs has been scaled back. These are responsible reductions that encourage these agencies to focus on their core missions.

In addition to saving taxpayer dollars, the bill also reduces harmful red tape so that American businesses will be able to create more jobs and grow our economy.

I would like to thank Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, and the members of the Subcommittee for their work on this bill. I would also like to thank the staff for putting in countless hours to bring this bill before the Committee today.

I urge the Committee to support this bill.

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# **Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen**

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## *House Committee on Appropriations*

**FY 2018 State, Foreign Operations Bill  
Full Committee Markup  
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Opening Statement As Prepared**

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In the face of growing international threats and a changing global landscape, with new challenges arising every day, now, more than ever, the United States must assert its worldwide leadership and influence.

The FY 2018 State and Foreign Operations bill provides the resources needed to maintain this leadership – because, simply put, the world is a better place when the United States leads

There are many important programs funded in bill that support our national security and our ability to influence events in the world. The State Department, USAID, and various development agencies are critical to preventing conflict and reducing the need to put our men and women in uniform in harm's way. This “soft power” of diplomacy and engagement supplements and augments the “hard power” provided by the Department of Defense and our Intelligence Community.

The bill provides funding for critical antiterrorism programs, and fully funds efforts to fight international organized crime.

The bill also upholds our commitments to key partners and allies that advance our interests, including our Memorandum of Understanding with Israel.

Embassy security, global health security and humanitarian assistance continue to be priorities. U.S. dollars will be put to good use to expand democracy and peace, and provide critical humanitarian assistance in war-torn, disaster-affected, and impoverished areas around the world.

While making these important investments, it remains critical that every taxpayer dollar is spent responsibly. The bill streamlines funding and includes policy provisions that ensure strong oversight, effective action, and accountability to the American people.

This includes eliminating low-priority or duplicative programs, fully funding Inspectors General at or above current levels, and other stringent requirements, like conditions on funding, that increase oversight, improve management, and tighten the reins on taxpayer dollars.

I would like to thank Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey for overseeing this important bill, as well as the entire Subcommittee and the hard-working staff for bringing this bill before the Committee today. This bill reflects both our duty to our constituents and to the world – to take the lead in global engagement within our budgetary limits.

I urge the Committee to support the bill today.

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