



Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

House Committee on Appropriations

FY 2019 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill

Full Committee Markup

July 11, 2018

Opening Statement (as prepared)

Thank you all for being here as we mark up the Fiscal Year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education bill.

I would like to thank our hosts, the Education and Workforce Committee, for allowing us to use their room for our 11th markup of the year.

Thank you to both the Chairman and the Ranking Member for their work on this bill.

The Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill is often called “the people’s bill,” and that’s a fitting title. This bill historically funds critical programs that provide for the health and wellbeing of all Americans, young and old.

The “Caps” deal made earlier this year recognizes the need to increase domestic spending on programs that reflect American values. In fact, the increase in funding for this bill is \$16 billion above the FY 2017 level.

One such priority is the National Institutes of Health, which receives a \$1.25 billion boost in funding to support its life-saving research.

There are specific increases for research into antibiotic resistant bacteria, Alzheimer’s disease, and cancers of all types

The bill also supports public health in numerous ways – including funding for protections against biothreats, and to establish a new Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund that will prepare our nation for pandemics. I commend Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro in their work on these life-saving programs.

And their bill recognizes the devastation that the opioid crisis is causing the nation by increasing funding for programs that address opioid and heroin abuse.

The bill also addresses another issue of national importance – keeping our children safe in their schools. Through state grant programs, the bill targets robust funding for student mental health services, bullying prevention, crisis management, and other school safety activities.

The legislation also includes funding that will help prepare the next generation of Americans to be a productive part of the workforce. This includes funding for important education programs like TRIO, and early childhood education that start our children off on the right foot.

I'm also pleased that Chairman Cole and the Subcommittee prioritized funding for career and technical education and other job training programs that will help our nation train and support a 21st Century workforce.

Lastly, this bill makes important investments in programs that will improve the lives of the most vulnerable Americans – including the elderly, children, especially those with special education needs, and veterans.

Further, the bill rejects the Administration's proposal to eliminate or cut vital programs, like the Community Services Block Grant and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, instead increasing and boosting funding for these lifelines for those in greatest need.

Importantly, the bill also continues funding for services to ensure that unaccompanied immigrant children have proper housing and care, and that eligible refugee families have the resources needed to settle in communities across the country and achieve self-sufficiency. We will continue our oversight responsibilities to ensure that separated families are reunited as quickly as possible, and that adequate resources are provided to do so.

The bill achieves all this – and more – within a responsible budgetary framework.

I would like to thank Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, the Subcommittee, and the professional staff for bringing this important bill before the Committee today. Making these investments today sets us on a course for a healthier and more productive future.

I urge the Committee to support this bill.

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