



Chairman Tom Cole

*Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations*

FY 2016 Budget Hearing - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention March 25, 2015 Opening Statement As Prepared

Good Morning. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education to discuss the fiscal year 2016 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget request. We are looking forward to hearing the testimony of Dr. Frieden.

I would like to publicly thank Dr. Frieden and the staff at CDC for hosting me and Dr. Harris for a briefing and tour at the CDC campus a few weeks ago. I think it's safe to say we all left CDC with a deeper appreciation of the exciting work your staff do every day to improve public health.

CDC is the leading public health agency, monitoring, investigating, and taking action to resolve complex health problems in the United States.

Your budget assumes many areas of enhanced focus for antibiotic resistance, global health, prescription drug abuse, and continuation of eradication of polio.

Of course CDC is still actively engaged in Ebola fight; in fact, we expect to have an oversight hearing on Ebola in the near future.

Public health is an important federal role and certainly something that we all generally support. Unfortunately, however, right now sequester is the law of the land and, given the reality of the likely funding allocations, we won't be able to do everything the Administration is proposing. I look forward to having a discussion with you this morning on your top priorities for this year, given our funding constraints.

I also look forward to discussing in greater detail priorities I know we all share, such as reducing opioid abuse and antibiotic resistance in our country.

There are many public health threats facing our Nation, and we want to give you the resources you need to combat them. I want to caution you however, that we also want to ensure that precious taxpayer dollars are not wasted on politically-motivated activities outside the mission of the CDC -- such as promoting gun control or lobbying local communities to ban the consumption of certain products.

Today we welcome Dr. Thomas Frieden, the CDC Director, to the Subcommittee. Dr. Frieden is accompanied by two of his Center Directors who can assist in answering specific Member questions. They are:

- Dr. Beth Bell, Director, CDC's National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases and

- Dr. Anne Schuchat, (RADM, USPHS),
Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service;
CDC's Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

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