



Chairman Tom Cole

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

**FY 2017 Budget Hearing of the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
March 23, 2016
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 2017 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) budget request. We are looking forward to hearing the testimony of Dr. Frieden.

I look forward to discussing in greater detail priorities I know we all share, such as reducing opioid abuse, antibiotic resistance, and chronic diseases in our country. I also want to better understand the steps CDC is undertaking to address Zika.

Last year Congress provided CDC with a 4 percent increase, double the request. This year, the Administration has proposed a 3 percent decrease for FY 2017. I would like to talk more today about the reasons for this proposal and the impact it may have on public health.

I understand two more countries have now met the World Health Organization criteria to be considered free of Ebola transmission. We know CDC has been actively engaged in the Ebola fight and are glad to hear about such progress.

Many other public health threats face 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. Although we will continue to work with you throughout the year, this may be the last time you appear before our Subcommittee during this Administration. I want to publicly thank you for your service.

As a reminder to the Subcommittee and our witness, we will abide by the 5 minute rule, and before we begin, I would like to yield the floor to my Chairman, the Gentleman from Kentucky, and then to our Ranking Members for opening statements.

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