



Chairman Tom Cole

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

Hearing on Labor, HHS, Education and SSA Management Challenges

Inspectors General

March 9, 2017

Opening Statement As Prepared

Good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education for a hearing this Subcommittee has not had for a few years, and that is to hear from our Inspectors General about some of the most pressing management and fiscal challenges facing the agencies under our purview.

The programs administered by these three cabinet agencies, as well as the Social Security Administration, touch the lives of every American. Many people rely on the programs they oversee to: see them through tough times, in the case of unemployment insurance; to go to school, in the case of Pell grants; to obtain medical care, in the case of the Indian Health Service and Medicare; and to do something as simple as legally changing their name on their Social Security card.

It is therefore crucially important that these agencies maintain strict security over personally identifiable information, that they ensure payments are made properly, in the correct amounts and to the person to whom they are intended. It is critical that agencies modernize their internal systems to keep one step ahead of criminals and cyber terrorists, and maintain the trust the public places with them both in terms of finances as well as information, and, in some cases, people's very lives.

The Inspectors General have each outlined some of the most pressing challenges confronting each agency, and I look forward to hearing their testimony.

Before we begin, I'd like to turn to my Ranking Member for any remarks she'd care to make.

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