



## **Chairman Tom Cole**

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

### **Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request - National Institutes of Health Opening Statement (as prepared) April 11, 2018**

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 2019 budget request for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We are looking forward to hearing the testimony of NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins.

I am very proud that Congress again provided a significant increase in funding for NIH in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus. The omnibus increased NIH's funding by \$3 billion, which was the second highest annual funding increase in NIH's history. This funding will accelerate the discovery of knowledge that will lead to new treatments and cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's, cancer, and heart disease.

While I realize your fiscal year 2019 budget request was submitted before Congress completed the fiscal year 2018 omnibus, I am still concerned that funding NIH at the requested level would prevent the U.S. biomedical research enterprise from achieving the progress we have begun to make with the past few years of funding increases.

I look forward to hearing about how NIH is making use of the significant new investments in fiscal year 2018 as well as how NIH will focus resources on its top priorities in the upcoming fiscal year. I hope to continue working with you to maintain the position of the U.S. as the world's leader in biomedical research.

I welcome Dr. Francis Collins, the NIH Director, to the Subcommittee. Dr. Collins is accompanied by five of his Institute Directors who can assist in answering specific Member questions. They are:

- Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases;

- Dr. Norman E. “Ned” Sharpless, M.D., Director, National Cancer Institute; and
- Dr. Diana W. Bianchi, M.D., Director, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; and
- Dr. Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse.

As a reminder to the Subcommittee and our witnesses, we will abide by the 5 minute rule, and before we begin, I would like to yield the floor to our Ranking Member, the Gentlelady from Connecticut, for an opening statement.