



Chairman John Carter

*Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Committee on Appropriations*

**Subcommittee Markup
Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill
May 28, 2014
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Subcommittee will come to order—

It is my honor to present to the Subcommittee the fiscal year 2015 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

Similar to the Subcommittee's work over the past few years, the bill before us today demonstrates how we can fund vital security programs with both urgency and appropriate fiscal discipline.

So, this bill is about our security and fiscal priorities...and getting them right.

The President's fiscal year 2015 budget proposal for DHS presents a seriously distorted and harmful budget for our frontline homeland security agencies—decimating their operational workforces and undermining vital mission capabilities.

The end result of the President's FY15 budget proposal would be a far less capable DHS—and our Subcommittee, on a bipartisan basis, found such an outcome to be unacceptable.

Instead, the bill in front of you addresses the very programs that are truly essential to our homeland security. In the interest of time, I will just provide a few noteworthy examples of what the bill includes—

- A nearly half a billion dollar increase to ICE to sustain and improve all aspects of enforcement, investigative, and detention operations, including an increase above the request of nearly \$77 million dollars to help address the growing issue of unaccompanied alien children transiting the border.
- Substantial increases to DHS's counternarcotics, interdiction, and border security capabilities, including: increases to CBP's Air & Marine Operations and Border Security Technology, and the Coast Guard's operating hours and acquisitions;
- Full funding for E-Verify;

- Full funding for the Department's cybersecurity programs;
- Restoration and sustainment of the Secret Service's investigative capabilities;
- Restoration and sustainment of FEMA's First Responder grants;
- Full funding for all projected disaster relief requirements; and
- Funding to support the completion – yes, completion – of the National Agro- and Bio- Defense Facility.

But, this bill also considers our nation's fiscal crisis by invoking real fiscal discipline and efficiency, including—

- A 15 percent cut below the request to DHS headquarters offices and reductions to every DHS component's managerial overhead;
- Sizable reductions to ineffectual offices and programs;
- Denial of all unauthorized proposals to increase fees on the traveling public; and
- Substantial oversight requirements ranging from withholding funds to statutory mandates to reporting requirements. And, those reporting requirements deal with critical functions and items such as: ICE detainees, major acquisitions, professional misconduct, and the purchase, inventory, and usage of ammunition and weapons.

This bill does not represent a false choice between fiscal responsibility and security—both are urgent national security priorities, and both are vigorously addressed by this bill.

I must note that, once again, DHS failed to comply with statutory requirements enacted into law in FY14—those failures are assertively addressed in the bill.

This Subcommittee is serious about compelling the Department to both enforce the law and comply with the law.

And, we will not tolerate further failures in this regard—a point I think we make clear through the zeroing out of the Office of Legislative Affairs and the inclusion of new, statutory oversight requirements.

In closing, let me first thank Ranking Member Price. He has been a statesman and true partner to work with on this bill. I sincerely thank him and his dedicated professional staff for their input and notable contributions.

In addition, let me thank the thoughtful Members of this Subcommittee—your input was critical to this Subcommittee's oversight work over the past few months as well as the production of this bill.

I know that my staff and I made every effort to accommodate virtually every Member submission we received and that has only made the product in front of you stronger.

Finally, I must thank the distinguished Chairman and Ranking Member of the full Committee, Chairman Rogers and Ms. Lowey—your input and support for this bill are genuinely appreciated.

I sincerely believe this bill reflects our best effort to address our Nation's most urgent needs—security and fiscal restraint. I urge my colleagues to support this measure and look forward to working with you as we move this bill through the legislative process.

I am happy to answer any questions anyone might have about the mark, but, before I do, I would like to recognize our Ranking Member, Mr. Price, and then our full Committee Chairman and Ranking Members for any comments they would like to make.

#####