



# Chairman Hal Rogers

---

## House Committee on Appropriations

### Subcommittee Markup – Fiscal Year 2016 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill July 9, 2015 Opening Statement As Prepared

---

Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding. I want to congratulate you and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard, as well as staff on both sides, for bringing forward the Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

This is the 12<sup>th</sup> and final bill to be marked up in subcommittee this year, and I want to thank you and the members of this subcommittee for your hard work in bringing this legislation before us today. We continue our historic march to get all twelve of our bills through the House in a timely, thoughtful manner – and I look forward to working with all of you to see this bill through to the finish line.

Funded at \$39.33 billion, this bill emphasizes fiscal discipline and oversight while prioritizing critical national security and anti-terrorism programs, the enforcement of our immigration laws, and preparedness for and response to national disasters. I'm pleased to see that the subcommittee has maintained our strong commitment to Coast Guard by providing a \$360 million increase over the President's requested level, which will fund critical modernization of aircraft and vessels and better enable our service men and women to carry out critical patrol and counter-narcotics missions.

This legislation also takes important strides to secure our nation's borders by providing robust funding for Border Patrol Agents, border security technology, and upgrades at the CBP Air and Marine Operations Center, all which will help improve surveillance.

In addition to these critical physical security measures, this bill provides much needed investments in cybersecurity and disaster preparedness, including \$2.5 billion for first responder grants to help provide our men and women on the frontlines with the proper training and equipment they need. Finally, the subcommittee has also included numerous oversight and reporting requirements that will ensure that DHS is following Congressional directives, spending wisely, and providing strong enforcement of our laws.

And speaking of strong enforcement, the bill makes doubly sure that immigration laws are being followed and enforced by DHS. For example, the bill contains no funding to implement the President's unconstitutional executive action on immigration, and prohibits funding for any activities under this action while legal challenges are ongoing.

No doubt, this was a tough balancing act writing this bill, but I'm pleased that it provides the resources to help keep our nation's borders, coastlines and airways safe and provides our first responders with the tools and assistance to ensure an effective local response to unforeseeable disasters and other emergency situations.

This is a good bill, and I urge the subcommittee to promptly report it to the full Committee. Thank you, and I yield back.

#####