



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

FY 2017 U.S. Secret Service Budget Request March 15, 2016 Opening Statement As Prepared

Thank you for yielding, Mr. Chairman.

Before I get started I'd like to echo the sentiments by the Chairman and Ranking Member regarding my former colleague and committee member, Martin Sabo. Martin dedicated over 47 years of his life to public service, 28 of which was in the House of Representatives including two years as ranking member of this subcommittee. He was a true patriot and great legislator. My condolences go out to his family and loved ones, he will be missed.

Director Clancy, thank you for being here today to discuss your Fiscal Year 2017 budget request for the U.S. Secret Service. Before delving into your budget proposal, I want to share my gratitude for the men and women at your agency who serve our great nation – many of whom put themselves in harm's way on a daily basis.

Your Fiscal Year 2017 budget request includes \$1.89 billion, which constitutes a \$42 million decrease from last year's enacted levels – largely due to the winding down of the presidential campaigns. The request includes \$108 million to enhance security at the White House, \$27 million for national capital region radio system upgrades, and \$72 million to continue the security work of presidential candidates through the inauguration. However, I am disappointed to see that the request does not include funding for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, which has been a bipartisan priority for years.

The Secret Service fulfills a critical mission of protection and investigation. Your agency is charged with protecting the Commander in Chief, the Vice President, presidential candidates, visiting foreign heads of state, among many others. This past year, you were tasked with protecting the Pope on his visit throughout the U.S., as well as over 160 visiting heads of state and their spouses for the U.N. General Assembly in New York. These were no small tasks and I want to commend you and all the men and women at your agency for the tremendous job they did. The world was watching, and the Secret Service did an exemplary job.

Although there is much to praise your agency about, there have also been some major missteps in recent years. There seems to be an overarching theme within the Secret Service since well before your tenure as Director began just a short time ago. A number of high-profile incidents in the recent past have called many to question the integrity, culture and effectiveness of the agency. From a series of unacceptable misconduct by some of your agents, to major security lapses, changes need to be made in order for the Secret Service to regain the trust of the American people. While I have to commend you and your agency for being relatively scandal-free since the last time you came before this subcommittee, the bar needs to be set much higher. Leadership starts at the top, and I trust that you are leveraging your

career's worth of experience to right the ship at the Secret Service. I look forward to hearing from you today on what measures you have put in place over the last year to address these problems at your agency.

Although these public-facing missions get most of the attention at the Secret Service, you have other critically important missions that safeguard the nation's financial infrastructure. Your agency plays a vital role in protecting the U.S. economy from cybercrime and the counterfeiting of currency. In Fiscal Year 2015 alone, you made nearly 800 arrests and seized almost \$60 million in fraudulent currency before it entered into circulation. You also trained 24 members of the Peruvian Counterfeiting Force to strengthen efforts to combat forgery in South America. We look forward to hearing how you plan to build upon these successes in Fiscal Year 2017.

Mr. Director, thank you for being here today and for your service. I look forward to your testimony.

Thank you, I yield back.

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