

Chairman Hal Rogers
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
FY 2014 Subcommittee Markup
Opening Statement As Prepared
July 10, 2013

I thank the Chairman for yielding, and I congratulate him on completing the Fiscal Year 2014 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill. Mr. Wolf, Mr. Fattah and staff on both sides have worked tirelessly to bring this important legislation before the subcommittee today.

Confronted with a slow-moving economic recovery, unprecedented deficit spending and out-of-control debt – our Committee has been tasked with putting forward appropriations bills that more closely align our federal spending to the unsettling fiscal realities confronting our nation. We’ve proceeded under regular order to produce measured and responsible legislation which right-sizes our government and puts us on a more sustainable trajectory for discretionary federal spending; the bill before us today is no exception.

The FY14 CJS bill includes appropriations of \$47.4 billion, which is \$2.8 billion below the FY13 enacted level and an additional \$1 billion below the President’s budget request. These cuts were certainly not easy, but given the aforementioned fiscal realities, compounded by a lack of leadership in addressing our ballooning entitlement programs, they are absolutely necessary.

However, the Chairman has taken pains to first root out extraneous, duplicative and unnecessary programs to save taxpayer dollars while prioritizing some of the most critical aspects of government. Within the overall reductions, strategic increases are included for the federal law enforcement on the front lines who protect our citizens from criminals and terrorists home and abroad, as well as the acquisition of our country’s next generation of weather forecasting satellites. We’ve also continued to support critical programs which maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses and industries, and those which promote the scientific research that will help America continue to lead the world in innovation. These targeted investments will surely help grow our economy and create jobs.

I am also incredibly grateful to the Chairman for his support in this bill for efforts to bring under control our country’s fastest growing drug threat – the abuse of prescription drugs. The CDC has classified this escalating situation as an epidemic, and we saw last week a new report that more American women now die of overdoses from pain pills like OxyContin than from cervical cancer or homicide. In one decade, fatal overdoses more than quintupled among women and more than tripled among men. This senseless loss of life has to end, and this legislation provides the DEA and US Attorneys with the resources to investigate and prosecute the so-called “dealers in white coats” running rogue pain clinics; supports struggling addicts and our soldiers returning from war through recovery with drug and veterans courts; and contains funding for vital tools like state-run prescription monitoring programs that help physicians make more informed decisions when prescribing these powerful medications.

It is a testament to the diligence of this subcommittee and the Chairman that we have been able to maintain funding for such programs and projects of vital importance to our nation and its future competitiveness while also realizing significant savings for the taxpayer. I urge that the subcommittee to support this bill and promptly report to the full Committee. Thank you, and I yield back.

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