



# Chairman Hal Rogers

---

## House Committee on Appropriations

**FY 2016 Budget Hearing – Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**March 25, 2015**

**Opening Statement As Prepared**

---

Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding. I join you in welcoming Director Comey back to the Committee as we discuss the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) budget request for Fiscal Year 2016.

The Chairman rightly stated that the FBI has a critical mission in protecting our homeland, and I extend my thanks to the 35,000 individuals under your charge: who support our country's counter-terrorism efforts; who protect us from hostile foreign intelligence agencies and espionage; who work tirelessly to beat back against the constant barrage of domestic and foreign cyber-threats; and who risk life and limb to put dangerous criminals here at home behind bars. The importance of these efforts to our national security and our economy cannot be understated.

And yet, the Chairman also rightly stated that we are confronting an extremely difficult budgetary climate – and every federal agency is therefore confronted with tough choices. It is extremely important for agencies like the FBI which rely so heavily on intelligence information to leverage and maximize the partnerships forged at the local, state and even international level to ensure that every penny the taxpayer spends is targeted, efficient and effective. I am pleased that the FBI has been taking strides in recent years to streamline and optimize its intelligence components, but I think we can all agree that much work is still to be done here. Last year, you requested and we granted permission to restructure the FBI's Intelligence Program to more seamlessly integrate intelligence and operations, and I hope you can provide the Committee with an update on these efforts – particularly as we all begin to assess the report evaluating the FBI's implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations.

Finally, I'd also like you to provide the Committee with some information about how the Bureau is working to combat the threat of homegrown domestic extremism. ISIL has demonstrated sophisticated recruiting techniques through the Internet and social media, and by some accounts, as many as 20,000 have traveled from 90 different countries to fight in Syria. It is imperative that we work to prevent the radicalization and recruitment of American citizens who could later return and do us harm, and the FBI has an important role to play in that regard.

Mr. Director, I thank you for being with us today. While the budget is tough, we will absolutely do our best to provide your agency with the necessary support to face these ongoing threats and challenges. I look forward to your testimony, and I yield back.

#####