



# Chairman Hal Rogers

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## House Committee on Appropriations

**FY 2017 Budget Hearing: Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**February 25, 2016**

**Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding. I join you in welcoming Director Comey back to the Committee to discuss the Federal Bureau of Investigation's budget request for Fiscal Year 2017.

Every day, the FBI is on the razor's edge protecting our homeland from extremism, guarding against global cyber threats and espionage, and putting dangerous criminals behind bars. The world is changing quickly as new threats emerge. The tragic attack in San Bernardino, California demonstrated that those who wish to do us harm are adopting more sophisticated recruitment tools than ever before. We routinely witness the FBI rising to the challenge and I have no doubt that they will continue to do so in the future. Your work is essential to our national security and our economy. This Committee thanks you, Director, and your 35,000 personnel for your dedicated service.

As with virtually every year in recent memory, we are forced to make difficult decisions to stay within the confines of our budget. Your request of \$8.4 billion is essentially flat, but many of the offsets will effectively reduce the operational capabilities of the FBI. A few problematic reductions include almost \$74 million in additional funds we provided in FY 16, \$57 million for personnel, \$74 million for an operational rescission, and \$150 million in fees for IT and criminal database improvements. While we should always be judicious in how we allocate scarce resources, we will need to hear from you about why you feel these accounts are the best places to scale back. It's also as important as ever for the FBI to make the most of its local, state, and even international partnerships to ensure that every penny is spent as efficiently and effectively as possible. These partners thrive with the support and leadership the FBI provides.

I remain very interested in the FBI's efforts to combat drug trafficking around the nation. As you know, Director Comey, my corner of Kentucky was among the first to feel the pain of opioid addiction in the 1990s and more recently, the surge in heroin. With your success combating production and trafficking in South and Central America and newer initiatives like your joint documentary with the DEA, "Chasing Dragons," I am confident your partnership in this epidemic will yield results – but we have to keep our foot on the gas pedal.

As we discussed last year, I am also concerned about the growing threat of homegrown terrorism. ISIS and other extremist groups have spread their poisonous doctrine worldwide through the Internet and social media. We must be diligent to stay a step ahead of the curve and I look forward to hearing your plans to stop the radicalization of American citizens.

Mr. Director, thank you again for being with us today. This committee will continue to work hard to provide you with the resources and support your agency need to fulfill your critical missions. I look forward to your testimony, and I yield back.

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