



Chairman Kevin Yoder

*Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations*

**Opening Statement (as prepared)
FY2019 Budget Request - Congressional Budget Office
April 18, 2018**

Good afternoon, I would like to welcome Keith Hall, Director of the Congressional Budget Office. Created in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Congressional Budget Office produces independent analysis of budgetary and economic issues in support of the Congressional budget process. Each year CBO produces hundreds of formal cost estimates, thousands of preliminary cost estimates, dozens of analytic reports and papers, releases numerous economic projections and is a constant source of advice relating to budgetary issues for Members and staff. Last year I had the opportunity to visit with Director Hall and tour CBO's offices, during that tour it became clear to me just how committed the CBO staff is to their mission, you could feel their energy and enthusiasm throughout the office.

CBO's fiscal year 2019 budget request is \$50.7 million which represents at 1.6% increase from enacted levels. In reviewing your budget justification, this year CBO focuses on three key areas; responsiveness to Congress, increased transparency, and expanding analytical capacity. I am supportive of all three areas especially increased transparency and I look forward to hearing more about your plans to improve in each area during your testimony and the Q & A that will follow.

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