



# Chairman Tom Cole

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*Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations*

## **Full Committee Markup - Fiscal Year 2016 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill June 24, 2015 Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Despite the rhetoric you may hear from the other side today, the bill we have before us this morning is a responsible bill that provides for increases in funding to advance biomedical research, protect public health, and ensure quality education services for those most in need across our country.

The National Institutes of Health, our Nation's premier biomedical research agency, is funded at \$1.1 billion above last year – \$100 million more than the President requested. NIH is working to find cures for Alzheimer's disease, cancer and develop the next generation of medical treatment through the use of precision medicine techniques.

The Centers for Disease Control, which protect our citizens against contagious diseases as well as help communities combat chronic disease like diabetes and stroke, is fully funded at the Request level, with special increases for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, prescription drug abuse prevention and antibiotic resistance prevention.

We know that a quality education can change the trajectory of a person's life for the better. Accordingly, this bill makes priority investments in programs that can make this difference. Head Start receives a nearly \$200 million increase, with a special focus on early Head Start for the most vulnerable children. Special education programs for students with disabilities are increased by over \$500 million, triple the increase that the President proposed, which will help local school districts ease the financial burden of providing specialized educational services. TRIO and GEARUP, which help disadvantaged students prepare for and complete college, receive 7 percent increases over last year. And institutions that serve special and disadvantaged populations also receive increases.

The bill also protects the most vulnerable of our Nation's people by including funds for community services block grants, the low-income home energy assistance programs, Meals on Wheels, job training programs and programs supporting Native Americans.

Finally, the bill includes modest increases for Inspectors General across agencies to help combat fraud and abuse in government programs. At the same time, the bill terminates funding for over two dozen federal programs that are not the best use of taxpayer dollars or our 302(b) allocation.

The Chairman's mark also includes several provisions that will prevent this Administration from moving forward with various regulations that threaten to close down small businesses by imposing one-size-fits-all rules and costly mandates. The bill also demonstrates our support for the rights of all Americans, including our doctors and nurses, to be guided by their consciences in the performance of their jobs and not to be forced to pay for, perform or refer for services they

find morally objectionable. And the bill protects human life by continuing long-standing prohibitions against federal tax dollars being used to pay for abortions.

Finally this bill includes a provision that ensures not one dime of federal tax dollars provided to the Department of Health and Human Services through this bill can be spent to do any more work on the President's deeply flawed and unpopular health care law.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a good bill. It's a bill that protects people and small businesses. And, unlike the President's request, it lives within the budget framework agreed to. We've done our job by setting priorities and making tough choices, as opposed to the President who wishes away the tough choices by raising taxes on the American people. I believe the bill we have before us represents a balanced approach designed to benefit every American, and to maintain appropriate stewardship of taxpayer dollars we have been entrusted with as Members of Congress.

I want to thank the Gentlelady from Connecticut and other Members of the Subcommittee for their many good ideas and recommendations throughout the subcommittee process. I thank my Chairman and yield back the balance of my time.

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