



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

FY 2017 Defense Appropriations Bill – Full Committee

May 17, 2016

Opening Statement

Thank you both for your hard work on this bill. You both have important jobs leading this subcommittee, and I'm glad to have you at the helm. I also want to thank the rest of your subcommittee and the staff for their efforts in bringing this bill before the committee today.

The world we live in is changing quickly. We face ongoing attacks and threats from terrorist organizations and enemies spanning the globe. Our troops must be fully prepared to fight at all times.

To maintain readiness and to ensure our military success, this bill provides \$575.8 billion in discretionary funding for the national security of this nation. This includes \$517.1 billion in base discretionary funding – a \$3 billion increase above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level – and \$58.6 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations and Global War on Terrorism Funding.

This funding is directed to programs that ensure our troops are trained, equipped and ready to respond to threats all over the world.

First and foremost, this bill supports our warfighters and their families.

The bill ensures that our troops are well prepared and well equipped. The legislation includes \$202.2 billion to support key readiness programs that train our troops, like flight time and battle training.

To sustain our military superiority, the bill contains \$70.8 billion for the research and development that keeps our armed forces on the cutting edge of defense technology, and provides \$120.8 billion for the equipment and upgrades that our military relies on.

The legislation includes funding above the request for military personnel and pay – avoiding troop reductions proposed by the White House. The bill also fully funds the authorized 2.1 percent pay raise, instead of the 1.6 percent request by the White House.

The bill provides \$34 billion for Defense Health programs – \$1.7 billion above last year – to care for our troops, military families and retirees. The bill increases funding above the President's request for key research into traumatic brain injury and psychological health, as well as for sexual assault prevention and response. The bill also provides authority to use funding to address the risk that the growing Zika epidemic poses to our service-members and their families.

The use of OCO funding in this bill adheres to the National Defense Authorization Act the House will consider this week.

Overall, this bill makes responsible steps to avoid any readiness shortfalls and to bolster troop end-strength, while supporting our partners in the fight against ISIL and making critical investments in our efforts to stop violent extremism.

I'm proud to support this bill today, and I ask for the Committee's endorsement of it today as well.

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House Committee on Appropriations

**Full Committee Markup – FY 2017 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill
May 17, 2016
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Our Capitol and the buildings surrounding it house the most successful democracy the world has ever known. It is essential that Congress provide the resources needed to keep this complex functioning, safe, and accessible to everyone.

The buildings are a symbol of our freedoms and our way of life. To preserve this image, and to promote the health and safety of those who visit and work here, the bill provides \$560 million for the Architect of the Capitol.

The bill also provides \$391.3 million for the Capitol Police – an increase above last year that will enhance security functions while maintaining public access. Recent events have reminded us that these officers play a vital role in the safety of visitors, staff, and Members; I am enormously grateful to these officers and their staff for all that they do, and I'm pleased that we can accommodate funding for additional hires and security measures.

In addition, this legislation targets funds to ensure effective representation of our citizens – providing \$1.181 billion for the operations of the House. This funding allows elected officials in Washington to go to work for the taxpayer each and every day.

In doing so, the bill maintains the pay freeze for Members of Congress.

The bill also provides funding for the support agencies of the Congress – the Library of Congress, the Government Publishing Office, and the Government Accountability Office, which helps keep the Congress accountable in its spending.

I thank the Subcommittee for their good work on this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

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