



Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

House Committee on Appropriations

Full Committee Markup – FY 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill

May 17, 2018

Opening Statement As Prepared

From encouraging scientific innovation, to supporting economic development, to enforcing our laws and fighting crime, the Commerce, Justice, Science bill provides funding for programs that make our nation safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

First and foremost, this bill prioritizes national security and law enforcement – protecting the interests of the United States and our people against all who would do us harm.

An increase of \$793 million above current levels – for the Department of Justice will give federal law enforcement more tools to stop crime and terrorism and bring criminals to justice.

Of particular note, I'm pleased to see nearly \$450 million provided for grant programs to fight opioid abuse. This epidemic is killing more people than ever.

This bill also bolsters safety in our schools and works to put an end to gun and other violent crime – including full funding for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Other investments that will make our communities safer include more funding for Violence Against Women Act, and funds that will help reduce the sexual assault kit backlog, which is unacceptably high in cities and communities across the nation.

In addition to making our nation safer, this legislation also makes America more prosperous.

This includes funding for Department of Commerce programs that spur economic development and promote, I hope, rational U.S. trade priorities.

I continue to have concerns about America stepping back from our international relationships and responsibilities.

Our global leadership role extends to our trade relationships, and I am worried that across-the-board tariffs on steel and aluminum products will have adverse effects on our relationships with key international partners and many our allies – not to mention increase prices for U.S. consumers and harm demand for American exports.

The Commerce Department and Administration need to better explain their strategies to Congress and the American peoples.

Our bill provides funding that will support a favorable balance of trade for the U.S. – promoting free and fair trade that will defend our economic prosperity, and enforcing our trade laws.

To further support and grow our economy, the bill also includes key investments in programs that advance U.S. competitiveness – such as NIST’s (the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s) Manufacturing Extension Partnerships program and other core research activities.

This funding also keeps our nation on the forefront of scientific research by continuing our pioneering space exploration programs at NASA.

It fosters innovation in areas like physics, cybersecurity, and neuroscience, and it supports critical work at the National Science Foundation.

I want to thank the subcommittee and staff for their work on this bill. I’m pleased that our Committee is using the “power of the purse” to support Congressional priorities that will improve the lives of all Americans.

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