



# **Chairman Hal Rogers**

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## **House Committee on Appropriations**

### **FY 2016 Budget Hearing – United States Secret Service March 17, 2015 Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Thank you for yielding, Mr. Chairman. Director Clancy, thank you for being with us this morning to discuss the United States Secret Service budget request for Fiscal Year 2016. This constitutes the first hearing for the DHS subcommittee, and I am immensely pleased that we have finally managed to pass a full-year spending bill for the department to support our men and women on the frontlines, bolster critical security agencies, and fund vigilant anti-terrorism and law enforcement efforts on our home turf.

Unquestionably, your organization is a vital piece of this puzzle. The Secret Service carries out a unique – but absolutely critical – dual mission of protection and investigation. The investigative component of your charge is essential for the financial infrastructure of our country, and by extension, the entire US economy. Your mission to protect our President, his family and other dignitaries from a host of potential threats requires discipline and dexterity, unparalleled skill and, yes, professionalism. Unfortunately, the Service has been beleaguered by a series of embarrassing – and unacceptable – lapses in security and other missteps. Just when we think we’ve assessed the problems associated with September’s White House fence jumper and developed a plan to close existing gaps in security moving forward, news broke that two agents drove around a security barricade at the home where our President resides during an active bomb investigation. You have personally committed to leveraging your lifetime of service to this organization to restore the Secret Service to its once storied reputation. I certainly want to take you at your word, but incidents like this demonstrate just how far you have to go.

Your Fiscal Year 2016 budget request includes \$1.9 billion, which constitutes a \$273 million increase over enacted levels. In addition to the Presidential protective service, this supports the Service’s network of 42 domestic field offices, 60 Resident Offices and Resident Agency offices and 24 offices abroad. Notably, this request includes a significant increase to accommodate your responsibilities leading up to the 2016 election and prepare for President Obama’s detail when he transitions out of office. \$87 million is also included to support security enhancements at the White House Complex pursuant to the recommendations of the Protective Mission Panel. Mr. Director, we all look forward to hearing how you intend to use this funding to right the ship so the Secret Service can focus on its truly critical mission at hand.

Thank you for being with us today, and I look forward to your testimony. I yield back.

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