



Chairman John Carter

*Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Committee on Appropriations*

FY 2019 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security April 11, 2018 Opening Statement As Prepared

Today's hearing is called to order –

Welcome to the subcommittee's first hearing on the Department of Homeland Security's fiscal year 2019 Budget Request.

As we begin our oversight process to fund the Department for fiscal year 2019, I would like to welcome all our subcommittee members back and thank you again for all of your hard work on 2018.

I would also like to extend a special welcome to today's witness, Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. Secretary Nielsen – thank you for your time today and, more importantly, for all that you – and everyone at the Department does for this great country. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on what needs to be done to keep our homeland safe and our borders secure – and we look forward to working with you on these challenges.

I am pleased to see continued investment in border security – the President's budget request proposes \$1.6 billion for 65 miles of physical barrier. Additionally, the budget request also proposes funding for 52,000 detention beds so that we can continue to enforce our nation's immigration laws. We will use this hearing process to learn more about these proposals and how they should be considered in context of the final 2018 appropriation.

Also noteworthy is the request for \$1.5 billion to modernize our Coast Guard's fleet of vessels, including \$750 million to construct a new Polar Ice Breaker. This will be the first of several needed to address the security challenges and economic opportunities facing our nation. I hope that this hearing process will help us to determine the Department's plans for continuing this effort and achieving the United States' strategic goals for the arctic.

Finally, I would also like to welcome back my good friend and Ranking Member, Lucille Roybal-Allard. While we don't always agree on policy, we do agree that working together produces a better product. For that, I want to thank her, and recognize her for any remarks she'd like to make.

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