



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee Markup – Fiscal Year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill April 30, 2014 Opening Statement As Prepared

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Fattah, congratulations on putting forward the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bill for Commerce, Justice and Science. This is a historic year for our Committee, as this is the earliest we've marked up spending bills since at least 1974. I am proud to associate myself with you and Mrs. Lowey in this important work.

This return to regular order is critical for a number of reasons. First, it is an important step to restoring the confidence of the American people that the system is working on their behalf.

Second, the Congress can and should reassert its obligation and prerogative to manage our country's purse strings. This subcommittee has combed every line of the budget within its purview to provide agencies such as the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, NASA and the National Science Foundation with targeted, responsible funding. This attention to detail and oversight is particularly important as we work to painstakingly reduce federal discretionary spending – by some \$165 billion since FY10. Certainly this process has resulted in many difficult choices. Even as this bill before us today reduces spending by \$398 million below the enacted level, the members of this subcommittee have worked hard to continue to preserve core federal functions – such as fighting crime, gangs, terrorism and human trafficking; mitigating cyber-terrorism; spurring job creation; and boosting our country's competitiveness through smart investments in science and space exploration.

I am particularly pleased to see the Committee dedicate significant resources and attention to the scourge of prescription drug abuse, which has emerged as our country's number one drug threat. This bill supports our Drug Enforcement Agents and US Attorneys in their respective missions, as well as funds a small but effective grant program within DOJ that helps state-run prescription drug monitoring programs provide doctors and law enforcement with potentially life-saving information about patients' prescription patterns. During the break, I was honored to spend several days at the National Rx Drug Abuse Summit with over 1,000 individuals – including representatives from the Department of Justice, NIH, ONDCP, HHS and FDA – who are committed to putting a dent in this terrible epidemic, and I'm proud that this bipartisan bill is a reflection of that commitment.

Before I conclude, I would like to tip my hat to my friend and colleague, Frank Wolf, who has served this committee with distinction and honor for quite literally, decades. He has been a tireless advocate for the people of Northern Virginia, and for our entire country – taking up the cause of those who might otherwise be left without a voice. He is a man of great courage and conviction, and Mr. Chairman, this body will be greatly diminished when you depart. Thank you for your incredible service and friendship over these years, and thank you for your work on the bill we consider today. I yield back.

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