



Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart

*Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations*

FY2019 Budget Request – HUD Public and Indian Housing

Opening Statement – as prepared

4/17/18

The Subcommittee will come to order.

Good Morning. Today we welcome General Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Public and Indian Housing, Dominique Blom from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to discuss the Fiscal Year 2019 budget request for those programs administered by public housing authorities and our partners in Indian Country.

The core mission of P-I-H is to provide residents with the dignity of a safe, decent, and affordable place to live, and at the same time provide opportunities and incentives for economic self-sufficiency and independence. Fulfilling this promise is one the most fundamental roles played by the federal government in communities across the country – a role that will consume over 70% of HUD’s net budgetary resources this fiscal year. In light of this, the Subcommittee gathers today to dedicate special attention to these critical elements of the HUD budget request.

For fiscal year 2019, HUD requests \$24.5 billion in new budgetary resources for P-I-H programs, a staggering 19 percent cut to the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. To be fair, the request was formulated prior to recent bipartisan budget caps deal and passage of the 2018 Omnibus. However, this request cuts P-I-H programs so deeply that it is 11% below even the 2017 funding level.

It is critical for us to understand how this low of a request can afford two years of rent inflation without cutting off support to the vulnerable families who rely on HUD for their housing. Once again, I want to acknowledge that, in the wake of the

caps deal and the 2018 Omnibus, the Administration's budget request has been somewhat overcome by events. However, it is still a relevant representation of the Administration's priorities and we owe the taxpayer and the American people a fair hearing on the proposals before us today.

We also understand that the Department is working on a yet-to-be released legislative proposal to reform how P-I-H's programs work, and that these reforms impacted the formulation of the request. However, as you know, such reform is outside our jurisdiction and must first be considered by the authorizing committee. So, while we look forward to the Administration's reform ideas, fiscal year 2019 is less than six months away and this Subcommittee must write a bill now that adequately funds P-I-H and its state and local partners as they currently function.

Ms. Blom, I look forward to your testimony and to working together to meet our Nation's affordable housing needs – all while being accountable to the taxpayer.

And now I would like to yield to my friend and Ranking Member, Mr. Price.

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