



Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart

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

Good Morning. Today we welcome the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Housing, Dana Wade from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Wade is here to testify on the Fiscal Year 2019 budget request for the important and diverse programs administered by HUD's Office of Housing.

The mission of the Office of Housing is to:

- contribute to building and preserving healthy neighborhoods and communities,
- maintain and expand homeownership, rental housing and healthcare opportunities, and
- stabilize credit markets in times of economic disruption.

To carry out this mission, the Office of Housing oversees the Federal Housing Administration, the largest mortgage insurer in the world, as well as regulates the housing industry. It provides rental assistance to more than 1.6 million families through the Project-Based Rental Assistance, the Housing for the Elderly, and the Housing for Persons with Disabilities programs.

I note that this subcommittee has consistently supported these vital programs - and in the FY 18 omnibus, we provided funds to create additional affordable housing units for these vulnerable populations.

These programs are critical to individual communities across the country, as well as to our National economy as a whole.

The fiscal year 2018 omnibus provided \$12.7 billion in budgetary resources for the Office of Housing. For fiscal year 2019, HUD requests \$12.2 billion, a reduction of \$436 million from the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. To be fair, the request was formulated prior to recent bipartisan budget caps deal and passage of the FY 2018 Omnibus. However, it is critical for us to understand how the proposed level will affect programs under the Office of Housing's portfolio, and vulnerable families who rely on HUD programs.

We also understand that the Department is working on a legislative proposal to reform how its rent subsidy 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 Housing programs as they currently function.

Ms. Wade, I appreciate your appearance before us today to discuss these issues so we can meet our Nation's affordable housing needs and ensure our housing policy supports affordability, as well as our economy – 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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