



# Chairman Hal Rogers

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## House Committee on Appropriations

**FY 2017 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill – Subcommittee  
May 25, 2016  
Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Thank you for yielding, Mr. Chairman. I congratulate you and Ranking Member Serrano as well as staff on both sides for your tireless work bringing forward the Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Services and General Government bill before us this morning. This subcommittee oversees a broad range of agencies and programs, which can make it difficult to strike the right balance of funding. I am pleased that this bill has found that balance.

The bill includes discretionary funding totaling \$21.7 billion, which is a reduction of \$1.5 billion below the FY16 enacted level and \$2.7 billion below the President's request. The subcommittee has prioritized programs that fulfill critical services while also taking important steps to rein in agencies that have not been performing adequately on behalf of the American taxpayer.

Additionally, the bill brings the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Office of Financial Research under the annual appropriations process in Fiscal Year 2018. Subjecting these two agencies to the scrutiny of this Committee will make them more transparent and responsive to Congress and the American people.

I am also pleased that this bill continues this Committee's strong support for efforts to reduce drug abuse and addiction in our country. Specifically, it achieves a record funding level for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, rejecting yet again the President's requested cut of over 20% to these important task forces which benefit so many of our communities. HIDTAs provide a critically important service to the areas of our country that are completely besieged by illegal drug trafficking and abuse. The Appalachian HIDTA has played a crucial role as we've battled the scourge of prescription drug abuse in Southern and Eastern Kentucky, and I know other HIDTAs around the country are helping to confront this ever-growing problem in their regions. Additionally, this bill provides increases to the Drug-Free Communities program, which supports critical prevention-oriented coalitions all over the country to keep our kids safe and drug-free. I am proud that this Committee fully funds these effective programs that help our states and communities stem the tide of abuse and addiction that has swept across our country.

Other areas of importance include funding for the federal Judiciary and financial programs that help the development of small businesses. While maintaining the committee's strong support for the federal bench, the subcommittee also supports programs like the Small Business Administration and the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund that provide a critical lifeline for communities that are struggling with economic opportunity and job creation. This includes communities across Appalachia, which are trying to cope with the loss of tens of thousands of coal-mining jobs.

This is a good bill, and I am proud to support it. I urge you all to do the same. Thank you and I yield back.

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