



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

**Legislative Branch Subcommittee
FY17 Subcommittee Markup
April 20, 2016
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Thank you, Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz, for your work bringing the Fiscal Year 2017 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill here before us today. Thanks are also due to our dedicated majority and minority staff, without whom this important bill would not be a reality. This is the fourth bill to be marked up in subcommittee this year, and I am pleased with the brisk pace at which we are working.

This year's bill provides \$3.4 billion for the operations of the Legislative Branch, excluding items for the Senate traditionally determined by that body. This legislation increases funding over fiscal year 2016 by \$73 million and is \$152.5 million below the President's request.

While its mission is not frequently advertised in the media, this subcommittee's jurisdiction covers some of the most visible and important programs to Congress and the 20 million visitors Washington, DC, hosts each year. This bill maintains our historic buildings, operations of the Library of Congress, Botanic Gardens, and Capitol Visitor Center, and ensures Congress's keen oversight of construction and renovation projects. As we've seen in recent weeks, the scaffolding starting to come off the Capitol dome has revealed the magnificent work the Architect of the Capitol has done on this national landmark.

The increase included for FY17 will provide additional resources for the Capitol Police, who ensure the safety of Members, our staff, and visitors every day without fail. The incident at the Capitol Visitor Center just a few weeks ago reminds us that these officers and their civilian support staff are more important than ever, and I am pleased we could accommodate funding for additional hires and security measures. This legislation also prioritizes important structural projects with the Architect of the Capitol to promote the safety of buildings and make necessary repairs throughout the complex.

This markup demonstrates our continued commitment to moving all 12 of our appropriations bills to the floor in a timely manner. Thank you for your good work on this bill, Chairman, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

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