



**Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen**  
*House Committee on Appropriations*

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**Legislative Branch Appropriations FY '19**

**Subcommittee Mark-Up**

**April 26, 2018**

I thank the Chairman (Yoder of Kansas) for the time and want to commend his leadership and that of the Subcommittee's Ranking Member, Mr. Ryan, and the Full Committee's Ranking Member, Ms. Lowey. I am deeply appreciative to all – and the staff – for their work on this bill.

My Colleagues, the United States Capitol represents what makes this country great; it is a symbol of freedom and democracy. Whatever we can do to keep the people who work in and visit this institution safe, we need to do. I am pleased to say that this bill lives up to that responsibility.

As Chairman Yoder highlighted, funding increases are targeted toward security and safety improvements in and around the Capitol.

For example, this legislation will fund critical safety and enhanced security for Members, staff, and visitors – all designed to maintain public access to the Capitol and its associated buildings. Increased funding is included to address garage security and prescreening.

The bill also boosts funding to address the aging facilities within the complex and tackle long-deferred maintenance, all to help protect the safety and health of Members, staff, and visitors.

But, of course, one of the most important elements in ensuring safety and security is the Capitol Police. We hike their funding by nearly \$30 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. These men and women are truly “unsung heroes” and we them a great debt of gratitude *and* all the resources we can provide.

Lastly, critical funding is targeted toward strengthened cybersecurity – further protecting our IT systems against bad actors.

These investments are necessary, and I'm glad we are able to support this work with this bill.

As Members of Congress, we are honored to come to this building every day with the charge of representing the will of the American people. This bill allows us to do so in a way we can all stand behind.

In closing, I want to thank the professional staff for their work in bringing this bill before us today, and I ask my colleagues for their support.

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