

**Chairman Shelley Moore Capito Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security**

Hearing to Review the FY2021 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security

February 25, 2020

(As prepared for delivery)

Welcome to the Subcommittee markup of the fiscal year 2020 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. Before I begin my remarks, I would be remiss if I did not thank the hardworking people who make a bill like this come together. From the subcommittee staff and hardworking folks at GPO, to all of the non-designated staff and my personal staff – thank you. This markup would not be happening today without you.

I also want to thank the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Senator Tester, for his leadership and commitment to working with our side to develop this bill.

Thank you as well to Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy for your leadership throughout this process.

And finally I would also like to thank all of the Members of this Committee and of the full Senate who provided input as we developed this Bill. We considered nearly 1,000 suggestions from 75 individual Senators related to just about every program within the Department of Homeland Security. I am pleased to say that we worked together to address the vast majority of those suggestions. We carefully considered the Department's views by thoroughly reviewing the materials accompanying the budget request. We held multiple hearings, briefings, and discussions with officials from the Department to gain further insight.

All of that is reflected in this bill, and as a result, we have before the Subcommittee today legislation that addresses critical Homeland Security needs within our Subcommittee's allocation.

The recommendation includes \$70.7 billion dollars in total discretionary appropriations. With regard to base discretionary appropriations, the bill recommends \$53.2 billion, \$3.8 billion dollars above the fiscal year 2019 level.

It provides the Department and its nearly 250,000 employees with the resources necessary to carry out a broad set of missions that span the entire globe and impact every American. Those missions include: combatting terrorism; managing who and what pass through our air, land, and sea ports of entry; securing civilian cyberspace; preparing for and responding to disasters; and protecting countless other national security interests.

My highest priority in working on this bill was including what is necessary to secure our borders, and this measure recommends major investments in border security and immigration enforcement.

The DHS bill is where border security is best funded, and my bill today directly funds the investments the President and law enforcement professionals have told us are needed to secure our borders. To that end, the bill includes:

- \$18.2 billion for Customs and Border Protection, fully funding the \$5 billion request for the border wall system and other technology systems; funding to support an additional 200 Border Patrol technicians; and 119 new Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry.
- \$8.4 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to ensure our immigration laws are upheld. The bill continues to fund the average number of detention beds used by ICE in fiscal year 2019.
- \$11.6 billion for the Coast Guard, to continue ongoing acquisitions for the Polar Security Cutter, Offshore Patrol Cutter, Fast Response Cutter, and aircraft recapitalization.

I want to emphasize that the bill does not fund border security at the expense of the Department's other critical missions.

It fully funds the Disaster Relief Fund at \$17.8 billion and includes \$4.2 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to invest in state and local preparedness and response capabilities.

It makes crucial investments of more than \$1.3 billion in cybersecurity and election security; it includes the necessary resources for the Transportation Security Administration, to hire an additional 1,090 staff and procure detection equipment, including sustaining 50 canine teams funded in 2019; and it provides the resources necessary for the Secret Service to provide ongoing protection and to prepare for the 2020 presidential campaign.

Considering all of these investments, the bill reflects what is needed to secure our nation and upholds the recent budget compromise agreed to by both sides by not including poison pill provisions from either party. I believe with the exception of the border wall and ICE detention levels, two areas where Republicans and Democrats cannot seem to agree, this was a bipartisan team effort. I look forward to continuing to work with Senator Tester and all of my colleagues on the Subcommittee as the bill moves forward for consideration.

Finally, I would like to thank Senator Tester and his staff, Scott, Chip, Drenan, and Reeves for their passion and professionalism throughout this process. I would also like to thank my staff, Peter, Chris, Kami, Justin, Thompson, and Anna Lanier for their hard work in getting us to this point.

I will now recognize Senator Tester for any comments he might like to make. Senator Tester.

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