

**Chairman Cindy Hyde-Smith Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch**

**Hearing to Review the FY2020 Budget Request for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and the
U.S. Capitol Police**

April 3, 2019

(As prepared for delivery)

Good afternoon. The subcommittee will come to order.

I'd like to welcome everyone to our second Fiscal Year 2020 budget hearing for the Legislative Branch appropriations subcommittee.

Today we have with us the Honorable Michael Stenger, Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, and Matthew Verderosa, Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police.

I appreciate your willingness to appear before the subcommittee today and look forward to your testimony.

The vital services provided by both of your agencies enables members of Congress to do our jobs, and maintain an open democratic process. We appreciate what you and your teams do every day to protect us, our staff, and the millions of people who visit the Capitol each year.

I'd also like to thank both of you for taking the time to meet with me before this hearing and to introduce me to your agencies.

The total budget request for the Sergeant at Arms is \$214.6 million. This represents an increase of \$3.8 million or 1.8 percent above the FY2019 enacted level. This funding level includes an increase for the Senate IT Help Desk contract, continues the protection of our networks, and provides for the services that support the day-to-day operations of the Senate.

The Capitol Police request for FY2020 totals \$463.3 million, an increase of \$7 million or 1.5 percent above the FY2019 enacted level. This increase supports an additional 57 sworn personnel to continue to meet the needs of the Capitol Police Board's five-year plan to cover known vulnerabilities and mission expansion. It also covers expenses associated with supporting the Republican and Democratic National Conventions in 2020.

I look forward to our discussion today and learning more about the requests from each of your agencies.

Now I will turn to my Ranking Member, Senator Murphy, for any remarks he would like to make.

###