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**CHAIRWOMAN MIKULSKI HOLDS OVERSIGHT AND FY 2013
BUDGET HEARING FOR FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Senator thanks men and women of FBI who work each day to keep us safe

"Federal employees feel under siege and unappreciated. I want them to know that the CJS Subcommittee is on their side," Mikulski says

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS), today chaired a fiscal year 2013 oversight and budgetary hearing for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The hearing included testimony from **FBI Director Robert Mueller**.

"I want to thank all of the hardworking FBI agents, analysts and professional staff for their dedication and determination. Federal employees feel under siege and unappreciated. I want them to know that the CJS Subcommittee is on their side. We know what the FBI does every day to keep America safe, and we appreciate it," **Senator Mikulski** said.

"As Chairwoman I have three priorities when examining the FBI's budget: National Security – How is the FBI keeping America safe? Community Security – How is the FBI keeping our families safe? Oversight and Accountability – How is the FBI ensuring our tax dollars are spent wisely?" **Senator Mikulski** said.

Senator Mikulski's opening remarks in full, as prepared for delivery, follow:

"Good morning and welcome.

"Today, the CJS Subcommittee will hear from FBI Director Robert Mueller. We are grateful that Director Mueller agreed to serve for two more years.

“As Chairwoman, I have three priorities when examining the FBI’s budget: National security – How is the FBI keeping America safe? Community security – How is the FBI keeping our families safe? Oversight and accountability – How is the FBI ensuring our tax dollars are spent wisely?”

“Today we will learn more about how the FBI will use its funding to carry out its extraordinary responsibilities keeping 330 million Americans safe from terrorism and violent crime; dismantling organized crime and drug cartels; combating gang violence, and illegal drug and gun smuggling; and catching child sexual predators.”

“Before we begin our hearing, I want to thank all of the hardworking FBI agents, analysts and professional staff for their dedication and determination. Federal employees feel under siege, unappreciated. I want them to know that the CJS Subcommittee is on their side. We know what the FBI does every day to keep American safe, and we appreciate it.

“The President’s budget request for the FBI is \$8.2 billion. The request reflects the stringent budget reality. There are no new initiatives in the FBI’s budget request this year. There is only one modest, targeted increase to enhance FBI’s abilities to fight mortgage and financial fraud.

“In fact, the FBI will be asked to do more with less in 2013. In order to afford to continue critical FBI efforts begun in previous years – such as computer intrusions – the budget proposes \$63 million in savings from lower priority FBI programs. FBI will also be required to ‘give back’ \$162 million in prior year funding. FBI is also tasked with becoming the banker for all Federal law enforcement agencies on interoperable communications equipment purchases. I want to ensure that the FBI’s budget maintains the FBI as our preeminent law enforcement agency.

“Additionally, if we don’t avoid a sequester, the FBI will be cut by 8 to 10 percent across the board. We will want to hear from Director Mueller about the consequences of a cut like that and how it will impact the FBI’s ability to carry out its mission.

“Our nation faces a growing and pervasive threat overseas from hackers, cyber spies and cyber terrorists. Cyber security may be the most critical component to our nation’s infrastructure. We need safe and resilient networks to protect our online banking and commerce, electrical and power grids, air traffic control systems and digitalized records. The budget request is \$136 million for the FBI’s Cyber efforts, which is the same as the current level. I want to know if the request is sufficient for the FBI to carry out its role as a key guardian of our nation’s cyber security.

“After 9/11, the FBI was charged with a new national security mission to protect us from international terrorism. The FBI disrupts terrorist plots before they happen by identifying, tracking and defeating terrorist cells in the U.S. They dismantle weapons of mass destruction on U.S. soil. Today, counterterrorism and counterintelligence activities make up over 40 percent of the FBI’s budget. Just weeks ago, we saw the FBI’s counterterrorism efforts up close when they arrested a man who was on a suicide mission plotting to blow up a bomb at the U.S. Capitol.

“I want to know if this budget request is enough to tackle all counterterrorism responsibilities, including weapons of mass destruction, cyber computer intrusions, foreign counterintelligence and critical incident response.

“I also want to know how the FBI is protecting Americans from violent crime in their communities. The budget requests \$2.7 billion for traditional crime fighting efforts here in the U.S.

“The FBI targets sophisticated criminal organizations who prey on the vulnerable, including trafficking children for prostitution and schemers who scam families out of their homes. These organizations will do anything to make a profit. But I am concerned that this budget request is flat to fight violent crime and gangs.

“The FBI’s State and local law enforcement partners work with the FBI on task forces by fighting gangs and violent crime. State and local budgets are under stress and Federal help has been reduced. Crime-fighting funding for State and local law enforcement has been cut by \$1.5 billion or 43 percent since 2010.

“I am pleased that the budget request includes a modest increase to investigate the most complex financial crime cases, such as mortgage, corporate and securities fraud. Mortgage fraud is the FBI’s number one white collar crime problem. The FBI is investigating roughly 2,600 mortgage fraud cases. This is down by 17 percent since 2010 peak of over 3,100 cases. But the FBI expects its mortgage fraud caseload to remain high. Suspicious Activity reports, known as SARs are at the highest levels ever—93,000 last year.

“The budget requests \$210 million to combat mortgage fraud. This is \$15 million above FY 2012’s enacted level. This funding will help hire 40 new special agents and four forensic accountants. It will establish two hybrid squads made up of agents, forensic accountants and financial analysts to investigate complex financial schemes.

“Director Mueller, I know you are with me. We want to send a clear message to the predators. No more scamming or preying on hardworking Americans. If you break the law you will suffer the consequences.

“The President’s budget request includes \$109 million for the FBI to protect children, catch deviants who use the Internet to prey on children, and break up international sex trafficking and prostitution rings.

“The FBI plays an important role in enforcing the Adam Walsh Act. It’s also responsible for monitoring and targeting Internet Predators. It runs Innocent Images, a national initiative that in 2009 convicted more than 1,200 producers, distributors and possessors of child pornography.

“The FBI’s Innocence Lost initiative has rescued more than 1,100 children from prostitution since 2003, including a victim who was just nine years old. Through this initiative, more than 500 pimps, madams and their associates who exploit children through prostitution have been

convicted. I want to hear from you if the budget request is sufficient to enhance child predator investigations, target predators before they strike and save children's lives.

“Finally, I want to say how proud I am of the men and women of the FBI who are on the job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, fighting to keep America safe from terrorism and violent crimes.

“We must ensure that the FBI has the resources it needs to protect the lives of 330 million Americans. But we also want to make sure the FBI is a good steward of taxpayer dollars, making sure every dollar spent to keep our nation safe is a dollar well spent.

“Thank you Director Mueller for your leadership. I look forward to continuing our productive relationship.”

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