

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

Markup of the FY2019 Homeland Security Appropriations Act

June 19, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

I call the Subcommittee to order. Welcome to the Subcommittee markup of the fiscal year 2019 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. I want to thank the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Senator Tester, for his leadership and commitment to working with our side to develop a bipartisan bill that we believe merits broad support.

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 1,300 suggestions from 68 individual Senators related to just about every nook and cranny of 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.

So we have a very strong product before the Subcommittee today that addresses critical Homeland Security needs while making tough choices to meet our Subcommittee's allocation. The recommendation includes \$55.2 billion dollars in total discretionary appropriations. With regard to base discretionary appropriations, the bill recommends \$611 million dollars above the fiscal year 2018 level and \$900 million dollars above the budget request level.

The bill provides the Department, its 15 components, and its nearly 250,000 employees with the resources necessary to carry out a broad set of missions that spans the entire globe. They include combatting terrorism; managing who and what passes through our air, land, and sea borders; 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 U.S. borders. To that end, the bill recommends a major down payment on border security by including \$14.3 billion for Customs and Border Protection, fully funding the request for the border wall system and adding 375 new Border Patrol agents and 375 new Officers for ports of entry; \$7.2 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the funding necessary to maintain record immigration enforcement capabilities; \$11.9 billion for the Coast Guard, including full funding for the first heavy polar

icebreaker to be built by the United States in more than 40 years; and \$148 million specifically to combat opioids, more than double the amount provided in fiscal year 2018.

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 \$7.2 billion and includes \$3.3 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to invest in State and local preparedness and response capabilities; it makes crucial investments of more than \$1.1 billion in cybersecurity and election security; it includes the necessary resources for the Transportation Security Administration, recommending significant investments in staff and detection equipment; it provides the resources necessary for the Secret Service to provide ongoing protection and to prepare for the 2020 presidential campaign; and it restores proposed cuts to the Department's research and development capabilities.

The bill also takes some significant steps to enhance transparency and this Subcommittee's ability to conduct oversight on how the Department spends precious taxpayer dollars.

With all of that said, the bill reflects a compromise. There are things in the bill I would not have included if I had written it alone. There are things not in the bill I would have included if I had the only say. The same can be said for Senator Tester. But this was a team effort. I am proud that the bill strikes a careful balance among competing views, and 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.

It is also worth pointing out: as Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy said at the full committee markup last week, we cannot and should not try resolve controversial authorizing issues, such as the "zero tolerance policy," via the Appropriations Committee, which is charged with setting annual priorities for the Federal government, not with making sweeping changes to long-term policy.

Finally, I would like to thank Senator Tester and his staff, Scott, Chip, Drenan (pro. Drenn – un), and Reeves for their passion and professionalism throughout this process. I would also like to thank my staff, Adam, Peter, Chris, Marisa, Christian, and LaShawnda for their hard work in getting us to this point.

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

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