

Chairman Jerry Moran Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Markup of the FY2019 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

June 14, 2018

(As prepared for delivery)

I want to begin by thanking Senator Shaheen and her staff for their partnership on crafting this measure. This is the first spending bill that we have collaborated on together, and I believe that this mark reflects a strong bipartisan product. There is no shortage of contentious issues connected to this bill, and I appreciate Senator Shaheen's willingness to find common ground to make certain that the appropriations process continues to move forward.

The recommendation before us is consistent with the subcommittee's funding guidance of \$62.995 billion in discretionary spending. This level is \$3.4 billion above the fiscal year 2018 enacted amount. I believe that we have achieved a careful balance between the many competing priorities within this bill. This Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies measure funds activities related to law enforcement; national security; economic development; scientific research; space exploration; and more.

The bill funds the Department of Commerce at \$11.6 billion and provides: The requested increase of over \$1 billion to the Census bureau to prepare for conducting the 2020 decennial census; Certainty that NOAA and its role for weather prediction is funded to provide forecasts that are important to farmers and businesses, and severe weather warnings that ensure public safety; And opportunities for economic growth by supporting the Economic Development Agency and continuing the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program.

This bill strongly supports science and innovation by crafting a balanced space program within NASA, which is funded at \$21.3 billion. Activities enabling human exploration, aeronautics, science, and STEM education are funded to support new discoveries and harness the excitement of our future science and engineering leaders.

The bill maintains strong funding for the Department of Justice at \$30.7 billion and includes an approximate 2 percent increase for most federal law enforcement agencies and their operations to support the men and women who keep us safe. This bill supports the hiring of 75 additional immigration judge teams to address the 700,000 case backlog, as well as providing \$25 million to upgrade the Executive Office of Immigration Review's paper system to an electronic one. Additionally, this bill fully funds the STOP School Violence Act, which was passed in the fiscal year 2018 omnibus at \$100 million.

Finally, I want to point out this bill provides \$4.436 billion in disbursements through the Crime Victims Fund, or C-V-F, which is equal to the FY18 enacted level. We have provided a transparent product and

have worked in a bipartisan manner to accommodate member priorities that address the needs of our nation.

I am proud of our final product and urge my colleagues to support moving this bill out of Committee. I now turn to Senator Shaheen for any comments she would like to include.

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