

Chairman Jack Kingston
Food and Drug Administration – FY 2013 Budget Hearing
February 29, 2012
Opening Statement – As Prepared for Delivery

The subcommittee will come to order.

I want to welcome back to the Subcommittee Dr. Margaret Hamburg, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration; Mr. Patrick McGarey – FDA’s Assistant Commissioner for Budget, and Mr. Norris Cochran – Assistant Secretary for Budget at HHS.

The FDA has responsibility for the safety, efficacy and security of human and veterinary drugs, medical products, and a large portion of our nation’s food supply that together comprise about 20 percent of U.S. consumer spending, and this subcommittee has the responsibility of ensuring that FDA has the necessary resources to carry out this critical mission.

The fiscal year 2012 appropriations bill contained very few budget increases, but we were able to provide the FDA with two key increases – food safety and medical countermeasures – whereas nearly all other agencies and offices received decreases or remained flat.

For fiscal year 2013, FDA’s budget request, including user fees, is \$3.87 billion, of which \$2.517 billion is in direct appropriations. This direct appropriation request is an increase of \$11.5 million above the \$2.505 billion that Congress enacted for fiscal year 2012. FDA’s budget request appears to be lean, focused, and responsible given the current fiscal environment. The single largest increase in the request is \$17.7 million for state-of-the-art laboratories at White Oak, and then \$10 million for increased inspections in China. The FDA request also includes data consolidation and information technology savings that yield nearly \$20 million.

In addition, the request proposes \$583 million in new user fees most of which will not make their way to the authorizing committee, and at least one of these user fee proposals has already attracted significant opposition.

We will get to some of the particulars later, but for now I want to commend you Dr. Hamburg for the realistic way in which you have put together what I know for you is a very tough, but fair

budget request. Some on this panel may disagree, and say that this budget relies too much on user fees, or doesn't seek enough appropriated dollars. Through this process, we will find those areas where we agree, and try to work out a compromise where we disagree.

With that, I want to yield to the gentleman from California, Mr. Farr for any opening remarks that he may have.

Dr. Hamburg I am going to turn it over to you now for your opening statement. Without objection, your full written testimony will be included in the record. We ask that you highlight your statement, so we can get on with questions.