

Opening Statement of Ranking Member Thomas R. Carper
HSGAC Business Meeting
March 4, 2015

As prepared for delivery:

I'd like to thank Chairman Johnson for holding this business meeting today. There are several important bills on this agenda today and I thank everyone for their hard work leading up to this business meeting.

Among the bills we'll be considering are several bills that this Committee successfully reported out last Congress, including the Presidential Library Donations Act, which brings transparency to donations made to Presidential Libraries, and the Gold Star Fathers Act, which makes an existing hiring preference gender neutral.

I am pleased to join with Chairman Johnson in offering the "*Improper Payments Coordination Act of 2015*." This bipartisan legislation would help curb agency waste and fraud by strengthening the ability of federal agencies to detect and prevent improper payments, which rose to \$125 billion dollars last year after dropping for the previous 3 years.

I'm also glad to see some several common sense homeland security bills on the agenda. One bill on the agenda would work to strengthen training to deter and stop human trafficking. Another bill would require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a strategy for interoperable communications so that DHS's different components can communicate effectively in emergencies. Another important bill works to address hazardous materials response issues in connection with railroad incidents.

Given the big agenda we have before us, I'm going to refrain from any additional remarks so we can move right into the agenda and get to work.