

I would like to thank Secretary Donovan for taking the time this afternoon to join us and I look forward to his comments as we discuss the 2012 fiscal year budget for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The seriousness of our nation's debt problem can no longer be overlooked. In order to ensure our children and grandchildren share the same economic opportunities of our generation we must begin to make tough choices to reign in the out of control spending in Washington. Our economic environment demands that programs across every agency be examined for inefficiencies and that those inefficiencies are eliminated. Just today, the Government Accountability Office released a study that indicates there is a duplicative effort on homelessness programs between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Health and Human Services. These are the types of areas where we should focus on when streamlining the federal government.

The budget for Housing and Urban Development has grown by more than 50 percent from fiscal year 2004. Our responsibility to reduce spending only follows what families all across America have been forced to do for the last two years. Targeted cuts to programs that have failed to produce desired results will help to create jobs and grow the economy in the short and long term.

I look forward to working towards a HUD budget which implements smart and effective spending while eliminating wasteful programs. Thank you Chairman Bachus for holding this hearing and thank you to Secretary Donovan for your testimony.