



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

March 17, 2017

M-17-20

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Mick Mulvaney
Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mick Mulvaney", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

SUBJECT: Testimony and Public Statements on the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

In the coming weeks, you may be testifying before Congressional committees in support of the Administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Budget Blueprint and participating in public events focused on budget initiatives. Until OMB releases the full FY 2018 Budget, all public comments of any sort should be limited to the information contained in the Budget Blueprint chapter for your agency. This includes highlights of major Administration initiatives and other proposals. Accordingly, it is critically important that you not make commitments about specific programs if they are not expressly mentioned in the Budget Blueprint. Similarly, you should not address account-level details. Comments on such specifics need to wait until the release of the full Budget. Agency officials appearing as witnesses in authorization, appropriations, or oversight hearings should defer any questions related to the full Budget until after the Budget is released.

Finally, it is our strong preference that only heads of executive Departments and Agencies or the Acting Head of the Department or Agency should testify on the FY 2018 Budget Blueprint. However, if you feel it is more appropriate to send another agency official, please work with your OMB representative.

Additional guidance and clearance of testimony and budget justification materials is provided in OMB Circular No. 11, section 22.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me or the staff at OMB if you have any questions about these protocols. And as always, thank you for your cooperation.