



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

David Price (D-NC), Chairman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security

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DEMOCRATS RAMP UP HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTMENTS

Since taking control of Congress in 2007, Democrats have increased spending on Homeland Security programs in each annual budget. Congressional Democrats have also pushed the Department of Homeland Security to prioritize a risk-based investment strategy that matches people and dollars with the country's highest threats and risks, something for which DHS was criticized in the previous Administration.

The 2010 appropriations bill provided \$42.8 billion for DHS, an increase of almost 7 percent over 2009, continuing a consistent Democratic record of strengthening the government's programs that secure our nation. Since 2007, the last year in which the Republicans made appropriations for DHS, Democrats have grown annual, non-emergency funding for DHS by 34 percent. In 2010, the Democratic Congress ensured our country is making key, threat-based investments such as:

- \$7.7 billion for the **Transportation Security Administration**, an increase of \$679 million over the 2009 level and an overall increase of 33 percent since 2007. These funds will accelerate the deployment of new scanning and screening technologies at airports, strengthen airport and aviation cargo security, and build out the **Secure Flight Program**, an investment in technology that will ensure automated, real-time updates to the "no-fly" list that prevents terrorist travel.
- \$84.3 million for the **Secure Flight program**, \$2 million above the 2009 level; the program is scheduled to be fully implemented this year. This will enable passenger information to be electronically checked against watchlist information and integrate this process with passenger information matching carried out by other agencies such as CBP.
- \$26.4 million for the **National Targeting Center**, a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operation, 8 percent over the 2009 level (and 12 percent over 2007). It provides real-time targeting and intelligence analysis for passenger as well as cargo traffic that enters and leaves the U.S., making it possible for CBP, TSA and other agencies to take timely action to prevent boarding or, in the Times Square case, to prevent a departure of a targeted passenger.
- \$6.7 million for the **Immigration Advisory Program**, another CBP program that operates at nine overseas airports (up from five in 2008), to provide inspection and other assistance to carriers and foreign partners to prevent individuals with improper travel documents or who have been watchlisted from boarding US-bound flights.
- \$145 million for the **Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative**, an increase of \$6 million over 2009 and an overall investment of over \$510 million since the program began in 2007, to continue deploying technology and infrastructure at the 46 busiest border ports of entry and to facilitate travel and security for all travelers, and ensure such travelers have proper travel documents.
- \$373.7 million for the **U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Program (US-VISIT)**, \$73.7 million over the 2009 level. Since 2007 the Democratic Congress has appropriated over \$1.15 billion for US-VISIT, to include \$330 million for the Unique Identity initiative, which enables DHS, Justice, State and Defense Departments to share biometric information on non-citizens. This capability is essential to maintaining security in travel as well as to support counter terrorism efforts and criminal investigations.

The cooperation of state and local authorities is critical to having an effective homeland security network. Supporting our first responders with grants to better equip them to handle the demands of a greater anti-terror role is an important part of homeland security, and on that score, the Democratic Congress has delivered.

- **Nearly \$4.2 billion in grant assistance to state and local first responders in the current fiscal year alone**, over \$700 million more than 2007 levels. This includes nearly \$900 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative which is awarded to the highest risk urban areas like New York City.
- Since Democrats took control of Congress, **securing New York** has been a point of emphasis, resulting in notable increases in grant allocations to New York regional governments and first responders. New York State Homeland Security grants rose from \$27 million in 2006 to \$114 million in 2010 (a fourfold increase), and New York's Urban Area Security Initiative grants grew from \$124 million in 2006 to \$152 million in 2010, remaining – by far – the largest recipient of urban area funds. With the award of the 2010 grants, an estimated \$2 billion in homeland security grants will have been provided to New York City since the Department was created.
- Increased funding for **State and Local Fusion Centers** by nearly 300% since 2007, allowing for the expansion of intelligence fusion centers in every state and in the highest-risk 22 Urban Area Security Initiative localities. These new centers, which team Federal, State, local and tribal law enforcement partners, give front-line emergency responders the information they need to locate and neutralize emerging threats as effectively as possible.

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