



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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CEO and Executive Director
TOM COCHRAN

June 19, 2017

The Honorable Michael McCall, Chairman
Homeland Security Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCall:

I write on behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors to indicate our support for the provisions relating to the homeland security grant programs in H.R. 2825, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017. At a time of growing concern about the terror threat to our cities, it is important to have a stable five-year source of funding that helps us prevent and respond to attacks.

While we appreciate the authorization levels you have included in the bill and understand the funding constraints you faced in drafting the bill, we must be clear that more funding is needed to help keep our cities safe. This applies, of course, both to designated higher risk jurisdictions and to the many areas not in that category, or no longer in that category, which have critical infrastructure and other risk factors which would suggest their need for assistance.

We also appreciate your inclusion of language that would require authorization from Congress for any grant consolidation proposals and the maintenance of the law enforcement terrorism prevention set-aside, a provision of great importance to our police departments.

The nation's mayors appreciate your leadership on homeland security and other issues and look forward to working with you and the Committee to see these provisions enacted into law.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director