



HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Statement of Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX) Homeland Security Committee

“Markup: H.R. 2626, H.R. 2805, H.R. 3202, H.R. 3284, H.R. 3328, H.R. 3359, and H. Res. 447”

July 26, 2017

Remarks as Prepared

As threats to our homeland continue to grow and our various adversaries plan their next attacks, we need to make sure we can defend our shores and keep America safe.

The advancement of technology and the speed of communication have made it easier for our enemies to target our country. Some of the dangers directed toward the United States may materialize on the other side of an ocean, but are still just one plane ride away. Others may arrive silently in an e-mail inbox without any notice.

With national security challenges multiplying daily, our defenses must be strong; from distant airports in foreign countries to the personal computers in our own living rooms.

This morning’s markup contains a series of important bills that will help strengthen the defense of our homeland by: requiring efforts to raise international aviation security standards, providing a report to disclose cyber vulnerabilities, establishing a Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series, and authorizing a travel card program to facilitate safe business travel for U.S. citizens to Asia.

We will also consider legislation from Congressman Hurd that improves visa security and visa applicant vetting. His bill requires CBP to use new technology to screen travelers at airports and review the social media pages of high-risk applicants for indicators of support for terrorism.

Additionally, this markup includes a bill that I’ve introduced with the Ranking Member to bolster our civilian cyber-defense through the authorization of a Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency at DHS.

Engaging in cyberwarfare is a tactic that our adversaries are becoming more and more involved with as they look to turn digital breakthroughs into digital bombs. From nation-state hacking to brand name breaches, our cyber rivals are desperately trying to break through our online protections.

Similar to how the House came together last week and passed the first ever comprehensive reauthorization of DHS, we must be united in a bipartisan fashion and make sure the Department

has an operational component to protect our Federal and civilian networks and strengthens digital America.

Sadly, our partners on this Committee and in so many vital pieces of legislation have decided to introduce a partisan measure today. We have dispensed with a related Resolution of Inquiry already this year and will do so again today.

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