



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Robert Silvers
Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Mr. Silvers:

I write to request an update on the status of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Quadrennial Homeland Security Review (QHSR), which is now over five years late. Given the broad and continually evolving range of threats facing the homeland, I am concerned that DHS has failed to update this important document, which plays a key role in shaping the long-term strategy and priorities for our homeland security.

In 2007, Congress required DHS to develop a QHSR in fiscal year 2009 and every four years thereafter.¹ In 2010, DHS issued the first QHSR, which identified five basic homeland security missions.² In 2014, DHS issued the second QHSR, which stated that while DHS would continue to adhere to the five homeland security missions identified in the 2010 QHSR, "the missions must be refined to reflect the evolving landscape of homeland security threats and hazards." In 2014, the QHSR addressed several gaps in the first QHSR, including establishing homeland security strategic priorities and identifying engaging key public and private partners.³ But as the Government Accountability Office noted in 2016, there remained several areas for improvement in the QHSR process.⁴ It stands to reason, therefore, that subsequent QHSRs would enable DHS

¹H. Rep. No. 110-259 at 280 (2007) [or 6 U.S.C. § 347 or Homeland Security Act (P.L. 107-296 as amended) Sec. 707].

²Department of Homeland Security, *Quadrennial Homeland Security Review: A Strategic Framework for a Secure Homeland*, February 2010. The five missions were: preventing terrorism and enhancing security, securing and managing our borders, enforcing and administering our immigration laws, safeguarding and securing cyberspace, and ensuring resilience to disasters.

³See, for example, Frank Cilluffo, Homeland Security Policy Institute, *Testimony Before the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security*, June 20, 2014, and Congressional Research Service. 2014 *Quadrennial Homeland Security Review: Evolution of a Strategic Review*. October 9, 2020.

⁴Government Accountability Office, *Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Improved Risk Analysis and Stakeholder Consultation Could Enhance Future Reviews*, GAO-16-371, April 15, 2016.

to continue to refine its missions and priorities in light of further changes in the homeland security landscape. However, DHS failed to issue a QHSR in either 2018 or 2022, as required.

DHS describes the QHSR as its capstone strategy document, offering recommendations on long-term strategy and priorities for homeland security, and providing the strategic foundation to ensure that DHS is ready to meet future challenges.⁵ Much has changed since the first QHSR was issued. For example, most of the rise and evolving threat of ISIS occurred after the QHSR came out.⁶ Similarly, the 2014 QHSR precedes the shift in the National Security Strategy toward addressing great power competition with China and Russia, including threats to the homeland regarding cybersecurity and intellectual property theft.⁷ As another example, the 2014 QHSR was issued four years before the creation of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).⁸

I therefore request a status update on the QHSR, to cover the following topics:

1. The current status of the QHSR, when DHS started to develop it, and its anticipated issue date;
2. The extent to which DHS considered revisions to the five basic homeland security missions established in the first QHSR;
3. Any changes in the drivers of change and challenges identified in the 2014 QHSR as presenting the most strategically significant risk to the security environment; and
4. Any other changes either in DHS' approach to developing the QHSR or within the QHSR itself that reflect changes that have occurred in the threats and risks confronting the nation since 2014.

Thank you for your prompt attention to and compliance with this request. Should you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to James Reynolds on the Committee staff at 202-226-8913.

Sincerely,



MARK E. GREEN, MD
Chairman

⁵ <https://www.dhs.gov/quadrennial-homeland-security-review>.

⁶ <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/timeline-the-rise-spread-and-fall-the-islamic-state>.

⁷ Trump, Donald, *National Security Strategy of the United States of America*, December 2017.

⁸ <https://www.cisa.gov/about-cisa>.