

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 78

Expressing support for emergency first responders and States and local communities, which are on the front lines of the Nation's homeland defense.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2003

Mr. SKELTON (for himself and Ms. HARMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for emergency first responders and States and local communities, which are on the front lines of the Nation's homeland defense.

Whereas since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the men and women who serve as police officers, firefighters, and emergency services and public health personnel (commonly known as "first responders") and States and local communities across the Nation have found themselves on the front lines of homeland defense in the war against terrorism on United States soil;

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes that first responders and States and local communities have been forced to bear almost all of the financial burden that accompanies this responsibility;

Whereas it is inappropriate for first responders and States and local communities to bear this responsibility alone;

Whereas Congress has provided initial support for homeland security through the appropriation of funds to help first responders and States and local communities improve homeland defense, but the House of Representatives recognizes that not all of these resources have yet reached first responders and States and local communities;

Whereas in addition to the homeland security funding that Congress has already appropriated, additional homeland security resources are needed by first responders and States and local communities;

Whereas homeland security responsibilities must be assumed by first responders in addition to their traditional duties, but increased funds have not been provided for additional personnel or personnel hours or specialized training and equipment;

Whereas, in addition to the new sources of funding that are required for for homeland security missions, full funding of first responder programs and activities must encompass funding of traditional Federal programs, including the COPS program and the grant program commonly known as the FIRE Act program, which have greatly benefited the people of the United States by helping first responders reduce crime and prevent and respond to fires and other emergencies; and

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes that homeland defense will only be as strong as the weakest link at the State and local levels and that the home front will be better prepared and the United States will be stronger if first responders and States and local communities have

the resources and tools that they need to bolster emergency preparedness and response efforts: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2       resentatives that Congress should fully fund first re-  
3       sponder programs, including providing the substantial ad-  
4       ditional resources that are required to assist States and  
5       local communities and first responders in making the  
6       homeland defense of the United States as strong as pos-  
7       sible.

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