

must provide the means to restore that hope for a secure future.

Our local first responders are absolutely key to that effort, and Democrats are working in Congress to provide the leadership necessary to get the job done.

Again, I want to thank my colleague Congressman TURNER for his leadership in this most important endeavor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK), a freshman Member who served very effectively in the Florida legislature and who serves on the Committee of Homeland Security.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I want to be very quick and within a minute I would like to share with the American public something that is very, very important. The information that you are receiving here this evening and the amendment that the Democrats will have tomorrow to not only put teeth but to make sure we have real homeland security is very, very important.

As we look at our ports and the Coast Guard, I think we need to go far beyond great speeches in front of Coast Guard cutters, and talking about how we support our men and women riding in those vessels and fighting in helicopters. I would say that with any major incident in our ports, not only will we experience a large loss of life, but we would also experience quite an interruption in commerce.

It is very, very important that the American people understand that the Coast Guard says they need a billion dollars alone this year to secure our ports. We have individuals working at our ports now that do not have proper credentials as it relates to some of the shipping companies. We know we are very vulnerable in our ports, and I think it is important that we make sure that this administration understands that it is more than just giving speeches, that it is important that we put our money where our mouth is and make sure that we are standing on behalf of homeland security.

This is an everyday issue that Americans care about, and it is an everyday issue that we have to respond to, and I am encouraging this Congress to support our efforts tomorrow to make sure that we have true homeland security.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) and our subcommittee members for sharing their thoughts and ideas that we have as it relates to meaningful homeland security versus just talking about what we need to do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida). The time of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) has expired.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Hawaii

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

FUNDING HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in urging the House to increase the amounts we will include in the supplemental appropriations bill later this week for homeland security. Last Friday I held a meeting in Honolulu of first responders to discuss preparedness, planning and coordination among agencies and funding needs. It became very apparent during the meeting that funding being received is clearly inadequate to undertake the job we are asking of our emergency law enforcement agencies and personnel.

For example, the Honolulu Police Department has apprised me of the need for some \$65.5 million for several projects that are necessary if the Island of Oahu is to be protected to the extent necessary. There are several important military installations for which Honolulu police have major responsibilities, such as Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Hickam Air Force Base, and Schofield Barracks. The Department has the responsibility for the safety of military personnel and their family who live off base, and to some extent on base. Specifically, communication and operability between civilian law enforcement and the military is essential. Additional personnel protective equipment has been identified as a need as well as emergency vehicles in a centralized equipment and maintenance facility.

The cost for effective homeland security management is a huge, unfunded mandate the Federal Government has imposed on State and local governments. The Honolulu Police Department is establishing an Emergency Management Command and an antiterrorism unit. It is undertaking extensive specialized training in areas such as chemical, biological, and explosive handling. Joint exercises with the military have been conducted so that in the event of an emergency, roles are recognized and responsibilities are familiar.

Our state of affairs and level of protection afforded to our citizens changed greatly after September 11, and has been heightened by our military engagement in Iraq. Our citizens expect and deserve such elevated security. But it also serves to remind us that protection is not cheap, and we in Congress should stand up to our responsibilities to properly fund the protections our citizens need.

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There are other imbedded homeland security costs with which state and local officials are struggling. When the Nation moves to a Code Red Alert posture, the Honolulu police incur costs of over \$1.5 million a day, about two-thirds of it for the protection of critical infrastructure for military installations.

The Oahu Civil Defense Agency has identified numerous critical projects which total \$18.1 million. Essential projects include warning siren upgrades, security cameras, computer software, as well as equipment and personnel training.

These statistics are for but two of numerous first responder agencies. This does not include the fire department, nor the burdens placed on hospitals and emergency rooms. And the Hawaii State Government has separate and additional mandates and responsibilities.

I'm not speaking today to point fingers of blame at anyone for the situation we face, but to articulate the need to provide adequate funding in the supplemental appropriations bill.

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Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Ms. Loretta Sanchez).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, while our brave soldiers continue their work abroad, our citizens back home must live under a constant state of Orange Alert. The administration has implemented Operation Liberty Shield.

Therefore, it is no secret that a threat still looms on our home front, so we must not forget that this war is not just being fought abroad.

Therefore, it is essential that the supplemental spending bill include necessary funding to meet the needs of the Nation's homeland security. In my district the Anaheim Police Department is presently spending an extra \$21,000 per day to maintain Level Orange threat. If our Nation goes to Level Red, this number will double to \$40,000 per day.

Also, joint terrorism task forces have been set up in a number of cities to coordinate the dissemination of information and strategies dealing with potential terrorism. These task forces give local law enforcement the unique opportunity to train, coordinate, and work closely with Federal agencies like the FBI, the INS, the marshals, Customs, and the Secret Service to share information and develop a coordinated process for combating terror threats, but there is no funding, no resources to adequately implement this.

While we continue to fight for additional resources for our first responders, we must not forget that the main thing we need to do is prevent any future terrorist attacks.

This week the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States received testimony from experts on the state of our Nation's homeland security. The testimony was not pretty. Our Nation's ports were referred to as porous, our civil aviation facilities called unprepared, and our immigration check points deficient. Our ports of entry are some of the most vulnerable threat risks to this Nation, and we need to provide the means and the resources for adequate security.

Every year more than 6 million cargo containers pass through our ports; 4 million of those, accounting for 35 percent of all international trade to the U.S. pass just 20 miles away from my home through Long Beach and L.A. ports, yet only 4 percent of these are screened. But the President responded to these requests with only \$22 million, just a third of what we need.

But the President responded to these requests with only \$22 million, a third of what the Customs Service deemed necessary.

Additionally, the U.S. Coast Guard requested nearly \$1 billion in Port Security Grant money to address gaps in the physical security of the ports it patrols. To date, only 40 percent of that needed funding has been granted.

While the President says in speech after speech that he is taking port security seriously, neither his FY04 budget request nor his supplemental funding request contained money for Port Security. Our ports are still extremely vulnerable, and full funding of Port Security Grants and the Container Security Initiative are imperative.

IMMIGRATION

Of course, our Nation's security risks do not lie exclusively at our ports. We need funding to make sure that border and airport security are adequately staffed to screen entry into our country.

Presently, the government watch list used to screen for suspected terrorists entering the U.S. has 13 million names, including 40 percent more records of suspected terrorists than last year. These numbers are unrealistic, and we need to hire the personnel and develop the accounting systems to make us smarter about keeping track of threats while still allowing legitimate visitors in.

Right now, our universities are facing a crisis because visa backlogs and the government's new foreign student tracking system are slowing the ability for good, qualified students to participate in our university system.

We cannot develop new immigration systems at the expense of undermining the diversity that makes our nation great.

CONCLUSION

As the war goes on in Iraq, we face a great challenge here at home. Our homeland security needs are great, and many of them are not met. We need to work hard, we need to work efficiently, and we need to work intelligently to ensure we are doing everything possible to protect our communities.

FUNDING HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me acknowledge the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) for the excellent Special Order that preceded me, and I would ask that my remarks be placed in the RECORD alongside that Special Order.

Madam Speaker, let me just suggest that we have an enormous challenge before us, and the responsibility that America is entrusting us with is a very difficult one, a very challenging one, but a very important one, and that is, of course, to secure the homeland. I like to think to secure the home front, the home city, to secure the counties and rural and urban communities, to secure the elderly, the disabled, the economically disadvantaged, people of all walks of life, individuals that do not speak English in our country, these are the responsibilities that we have.

Madam Speaker, I am here to suggest that we have challenges. We have challenges at the northern border, and we have challenges at the southern border. I was just in the Committee on Rules and heard the discussion about funding needs for the southern border and the northern border.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, I suggest we also have work to deal with this Nation of laws and immigrants. We are a Nation of immigration, and we should realize it does not equate to terrorism.

Madam Speaker, in the emergency appropriations, I am going to ask for additional monies to help us with the student tracking program because we heard from the inspector general today that we need more resources to train the INS or the new agency that deals with this. We need more funds to train them how to do the student tracking

program. As well, we need more funds for the implementation of the student tracking program. Our universities are suffering to a certain extent, and a lot of our research work is suffering.

In addition, I think it is important that we look at the entry/exit system which is not designed to prevent individuals from entering or leaving the United States, it simply makes a record of their entry and exit. It is doubtful that it has much utility in enforcing our immigration laws. It can provide the INS with a daily list of nonimmigrant visitors who have overstayed their authorized visit, but it will not provide information where they are. We must focus on finding where these individuals are. That is how we secure the safety of America.

So I also want to comment on the special registration program and suggest that we might look again at that to see whether or not that really does help us in terms of securing this Nation. What we need to do is ensure that we find the overstays, and that the overstayers are not here to do harm. We need to find the terrorist cells in this country and monitor them, and we need to provide the resources to the first responders.

I have added an amendment in the emergency supplemental to ensure that we give an extra \$2 million to our first responders, and an additional \$3 million to our emergency hazardous materials units and in our respective fire departments throughout the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I believe we have a lot of work to do, and we can do it together. I believe homeland security should be this Nation's first priority. We support the troops, the POWs, and their families. As they secure our freedom, we need to secure the homeland.

As the ranking member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, I want to emphasize that immigration law enforcement and immigration benefits are interrelated and both merit serious attention, support, and funding. The transition from the former Immigration and Naturalization Service into the new department should be undertaken so as to ensure the full provision of services and effective and fair enforcement, while minimizing disruptions and delays.

With the Department of Homeland Security's authority to establish and administer rules governing the granting of visas, it is vitally important that visas be granted to the people who come to build America and denied to those who mean to do us harm. We must balance our national security and economic security needs by recognizing that the United States is tied to the rest of the world economically, socially, and politically.

Enforcement and adjudications come together at our ports of entry. Our national security and economic security depend on the efficient movement of cross-border travel and trade at these ports. The Bureau of Customs and Border Protections must coordinate with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services to ensure that there are no unnecessary obstacles to cross-border travel. One good way of doing this is to examine ways to expand the use of preinspection stations and authorize pre-clearances for low-risk travelers.