

Post-9/11 established the need to anticipate unexpected threats from a variety of sources. The nation must plan to be a step ahead of our enemies in order to effectively detect, deter, and defend against terrorist attacks in whatever form they may arise, including cyberattacks to our nation's critical infrastructure.

It is for these reasons that I proposed H.R. 85, the Terrorism Prevention and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2015. This bill should it become law would greatly assist in our nation's ability to protect critical infrastructure from the worse effects of cyber-attacks.

The nation must be adequately prepared to fight cyber terrorism just as vigorously as we combat other form of terrorism carried out through physical violence. We can be prepared to meet and defeat cyber terrorism threats with legislative efforts like H.R. 85, which would offer tools to effectively address terrorist attacks against critical infrastructure.

The Terrorism Prevention and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act directs the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to:

(1) better engage critical infrastructure owners and operators as volunteers for the purpose of coordination of communication among state, local, tribal, and territorial entities for the purpose of taking proactive steps to manage risk and strengthen the security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks;

(2) establish terrorism prevention policy to engage with international partners to strengthen the security and resilience of domestic critical infrastructure and critical infrastructure located outside of the United States;

(3) make available research findings and guidance to federal civilian agencies for the identification, prioritization, assessment, remediation, and security of their internal critical infrastructure to assist in the prevention, mitigation, and recovery from terrorism events.

The bill sets forth the terrorism protection responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security as it relates to the Department's responsibility to protection and defends civilian agencies and private sector networks from cyber-attacks.

H.R. 85, Terrorism Prevention and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act also provides guidance to the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding actions to be taken to:

(1) facilitate the timely exchange of terrorism threat and vulnerability information as well as information that allows for the development of a situational awareness capability for federal civilian agencies during terrorist incidents;

(2) implement an integration and analysis function for critical infrastructure that includes operational and strategic analysis on terrorism incidents, threats, and emerging risks; and

(3) support greater terrorism cyber security information sharing by civilian federal agencies with the private sector that protects constitutional privacy and civil liberties rights.

Finally the bill directs the National Research Council to evaluate how well DHS is meeting the objectives of this Act.

I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their support and collaboration in working with me to improve the bill for consideration by the Full Committee and ultimately the House of Representatives as we work to ensure safety, security, resiliency, trustworthiness of vital critical infrastructure networks, while at the same time ensuring

that data used for this purpose does not undermine the privacy and civil liberties of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I include for the RECORD an article dated October 19 from The Hill newspaper on boosting power grid defenses against ISIS.

[From The Hill, Oct. 19, 2015]

JACKSON LEE PUSHES TO BOOST POWER-GRID DEFENSES AGAINST ISIS

(By Katie Bo Williams)

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) on Friday called for action on a bill bolstering power-grid cybersecurity after a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official said the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is trying to hack American electrical power companies.

"No solace should be taken in the fact that ISIS has been unsuccessful," Jackson Lee said. "ISIS need only be successful once to have catastrophic impact on regional electricity supply."

Caitlin Durkovich, assistant secretary for infrastructure protection at DHS, told energy firm executives at an industry conference in Philadelphia last week that ISIS "is beginning to perpetrate cyberattacks."

Law enforcement officials speaking at the same event indicated that the group's efforts have so far been unsuccessful, thanks in part to a Balkanized power grid and an unsophisticated approach.

"Strong intent. Thankfully, low capability," said John Riggi, a section chief at the FBI's cyber division. "But the concern is that they'll buy that capability."

Jackson Lee, a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee and ranking member on the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, in January introduced the Terrorism Prevention and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act.

The bill directs DHS to work with critical infrastructure companies to boost their cyber defenses against terrorist attacks, part of a swath of legislation that has attempted to codify the agency's responsibilities in that area.

Late last year, the Senate passed its version of the House-passed National Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act.

The bill officially authorized an already-existing cybersecurity information-sharing hub at DHS.

Although a deadly attack on power plants or the electric grid—a "cyber Pearl Harbor"—is still only a hypothetical, experts warn critical infrastructure sites are increasingly at risk, as electric grids get smarter.

National Security Agency Director Michael Rogers told lawmakers last fall that China and "one or two" other countries would be able to shut down portions of critical U.S. infrastructure with a cyberattack. Researchers suspect Iran to be on that list.

In August, DHS announced the creation of a new subcommittee dedicated to preventing attacks on the power grid.

The new panel is tasked with identifying how well the department's lifeline sectors are prepared to meet threats and recover from a significant cyber event.

The committee will also provide recommendations for a more unified approach to state and local cybersecurity.

"There is a great deal that has been done and is being done now to secure our networks," Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told the House Judiciary Committee in July. "There is more to do."

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, State and local governments have been struggling to keep pace with the evolving threats posed by cyber breaches. They just cannot do it alone. We have the resources. This Department was crafted and designed to be able to reach out beyond these parameters to ensure that local governments and State governments felt that they were secure.

I believe that the enactment of H.R. 3869 would send a clear message about our commitment to helping State and local governments address the perennial cybersecurity challenges that permeate their providing services for their constituents, which have been identified every year, according to the National Preparedness Report.

In having formerly chaired this infrastructure committee, I know that the need still remains great and that we have an opportunity to keep building and improving on that resource.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3869.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I concur with the gentlewoman. Once again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3869.

I yield back the balance of my time. THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3869, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to assist State and local coordination on cybersecurity with the national cybersecurity and communications integration center, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST RESPONDER IDENTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY NEEDS IN DISASTER SITUATIONS

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2795) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a study on the circumstances which may impact the effectiveness and availability of first responders before, during, or after a terrorist threat or event, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2795

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations” or the “FRIENDS Act”.

**SEC. 2. CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY IMPACT FIRST RESPONDERS DURING A TERRORIST EVENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that describes select State and local programs and policies, as appropriate, related to the preparedness and protection of first responders. The report may include information on—

(1) the degree to which such programs and policies include consideration of the presence of a first responder’s family in an area impacted by a terrorist attack;

(2) the availability of personal protective equipment for first responders;

(3) the availability of home Medkits for first responders and their families for biological incident response; and

(4) other related factors.

(b) CONTEXT.—In preparing the report required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States may, as appropriate, provide information—

(1) in a format that delineates high risk urban areas from rural communities; and

(2) on the degree to which the selected State and local programs and policies included in the report were developed or are being executed with funding from the Department of Homeland Security, including grant funding from the State Homeland Security Grant Program or the Urban Area Security Initiative under sections 2002 and 2003, respectively, of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603 and 604).

(c) HOMELAND SECURITY CONSIDERATION.—After issuance of the report required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider the report’s findings and assess its applicability for Federal first responders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to support H.R. 2795, the First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations.

Our country continues to be resilient because of the men and women who keep us safe every day by putting their lives on the line. We can thank them by ensuring they have sufficient resources to do their jobs.

H.R. 2795 will take a national snapshot of the current policies and programs that support first responders and their families in the event of a terrorist attack.

By requiring the Government Accountability Office to report this national snapshot to Congress and to the Department of Homeland Security, we will have a better understanding of the support surrounding our first responders and their families.

Both the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials and the International Association of Fire Chiefs are endorsing this legislation because it promotes the critical work our first responders are always prepared to do despite the challenges they face. Events like the Ebola scare that hit the U.S. in 2014 alerted us to the impact these events have not only had on our first responders, but also on their families.

I thank Ms. JACKSON LEE for introducing this legislation and for working with the Committee on Homeland Security to promote this important issue.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2795, the First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations, or the FRIENDS Act, as we have been very happy to call it as we have crafted it.

First responders are our Nation’s heroes. We know that we are gathering together in these final weeks to make sure that we pass the 9/11 health bill that provided for those who stood in the face of danger during the tragedy of 9/11.

We know that first responders run into burning buildings, that they rescue people trapped by dangerous floods, that they put themselves in harm’s way to protect others, and that, as we well know in these times, they deal with terrorism.

Just last week, in San Bernardino, we saw brave first responders heroically pursue two individuals who were fleeing from the scene of a deadly attack at an office holiday party.

We also know that, at the site of that incident, we saw a massive number of first responders who were going toward the building. Not knowing the threat or whether or not the individuals who had created this massacre were still there or how many there were, they ran toward the building.

To do their jobs, first responders must leave their homes and families while the rest of us cling to ours. Whether it was to deal with the aftermath of a terrorist attack, like the attacks of September 11, or to give support during a catastrophic disaster, like Hurricane Katrina, first responders bravely leave home to save others.

I had firsthand experiences of both of those incidences, one, a natural disaster and, one, a terrorist act.

I watched as firefighters stayed day after day after day and would not remove themselves because they were engaged in recovering their colleagues—their brothers and sisters—and those others who had perished. They stayed day after day.

That was a great hardship on those families. We know the stories. We know that some of them were dealing with situations in which they may have been the only parent or the only guardian.

In the situation of Katrina, I saw the Coast Guard stay in the area time after time and the National Guard and other first responders come from all over the country and from even all over the world to be able to help those who were in need, and they stayed a very long time.

Unfortunately, today first responders are asked to answer the call to action without knowing whether their families will be safe as they work to rescue others. Our first responders deserve better.

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The FRIENDS Act directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a comprehensive review of policies and programs designed to ensure that first responders are able to do their job safely and effectively by assessing, among other things, measures to ensure first responder families are safe and the availability of personal protective equipment is there.

During committee consideration of the FRIENDS Act, my friend from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) offered an amendment to authorize GAO to evaluate the availability of home med kits for first responders and their families in assessing the preparedness of first responders, maybe even being able to take care of their neighborhood or their family or themselves in the course of these disasters. I am pleased to support the Higgins amendment, and I believe it adds to the bill.

H.R. 2759 also directs GAO to distinguish policies available in high-risk urban areas, which may be better resourced, and rural areas where efforts to ensure preparedness for first responders and their families may require creative leveraging of resources. Many of those areas have volunteer fire departments and volunteers who need the assistance from this act. This provision will ensure that the information included in the report will be applicable and adaptable by various communities across the country as they work to better protect their protectors and to give them the support system that they need.

Additionally, the FRIENDS Act directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to review GAO’s findings and assess whether policies identified could be applicable to Federal first responders. The FRIENDS Act has been endorsed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, as well as the National Association of State EMS Officials, and the International Emergency

Management Society, along with others.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank Ranking Member THOMPSON and Chairman MCCAUL for their help in bringing this important legislation to the floor. Let me also thank the ranking member and chairman of the emergency preparedness committee and all of jurisdictional committees that helped contribute to this. Let me also acknowledge the staffs on both sides of the aisle who were enormously effective in helping to bring about this bill.

I want to thank Mr. HOYER, who for many, many years was a co-chair of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus on which I participated with him over those years, for his stated support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security, and the author and sponsor, I am proud to rise in strong support of H.R. 2795, the "First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations of 2015," or the "FRIENDS Act."

I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their cooperation, assistance, and support in shepherding this important legislation to the floor.

I appreciate Congressman PAYNE, the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, for his original co-sponsorship and strong support of the FRIENDS Act.

The FRIENDS Act embodies the important and fundamental idea that we have an obligation to ensure that the first responders who protect our loved ones in emergencies have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their loved ones are safe while they do their duty.

The FRIENDS Act, which reflects stakeholder input and bipartisan collaboration with the Majority, is an example of what can be achieved for the American people when Members of Congress put the public interest ahead of partisan interests.

I thank the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Association of State EMS Officials, and the International Emergency Management Society for their valuable assistance and input regarding the FRIENDS Act.

I thank Kay Goss, the President of the International Emergency Management Society, who provided technical assistance during the bill's drafting process on the work of first responders to prepare for catastrophic events.

Kay Goss was Associate FEMA Director in charge of National Preparedness, Training, and Exercises during the Clinton Administration, the first woman confirmed by the Senate to serve in that position.

I am passionate about the work of those who dedicate themselves to public service.

I hold in high regard the service of firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency response technicians, nurses, emergency room doctors, and the dozens of other professionals who are the ultimate public servants.

Few persons outside their ranks truly understand why and how first responders are able to do what they do every day—voluntarily and cheerfully risk placing their lives in harm's way to save a stranger.

First responders, whether as law enforcement officers, fire fighters, search and rescue

workers, or emergency medical technicians make our lives safer, often at considerable risk to their personal safety.

H.R. 2795 provides Congress an opportunity to let our first responders know that we do recognize and understand that they have families and loved ones who they must leave behind when they are called to duty.

The GAO study that will be provided as a result of this bill will shed light on what is being done by local and state governments to address the needs of first responder families when threats like Hurricanes Sandy, Hugo, and Katrina hit communities, or when a terrorist attack like the ones seen in New York and Boston occur.

The report called for by the FRIENDS Act will also provide information on the availability of personal protective equipment for first responders.

The issue of personal protective equipment was an acute problem for front line first responders during last year's Ebola crisis.

First responders including EMTs, emergency room doctors and nurses, as well as law enforcement and fire department professionals who responded to emergencies were in need of guidance on how to effectively treat a person with Ebola without becoming infected.

I joined members of the House Committee on Homeland Security in a Full Committee field hearing last year in Dallas, Texas, shortly after the first case of Ebola was diagnosed in the United States.

That patient, Eric Duncan, lived in the Dallas area and was treated at a local hospital, but died of the illness.

As a result of coming in contact with Mr. Duncan two nurses at the hospital where he was treated became ill with the disease.

During the Dallas field hearing, I brought to the attention of the House Homeland Security Committee a letter from National Nurses United transmitting the results of a survey of nurses, which found that:

1. Nearly 80 percent of respondents agreed that their hospital had not communicated to them any policy regarding potential admission of patients infected by Ebola;

2. 85 percent of respondents agreed that their hospital had not provided education on Ebola to enable nurses to interact with patients safely;

3. One-third of respondents reported that their hospital had insufficient supplies of eye protection (face shields or side shields with goggles) and fluid resistant/impermeable gowns; and

4. Nearly 40 percent of respondents agreed that their hospital did not have plans to equip isolation rooms with plastic covered mattresses and pillows and to discard all linens after use; fewer than 1 in 10 respondents reported that they were aware their hospital had such a plan in place.

The Centers for Disease Control and a few hospitals around the country with infectious disease units knew the right protocols and had the right protective gear to be used when treating an Ebola patient.

Ebola in the United States was a frightening thought for many, but I think we saw the best of what first responders do each day—our doctors and nurses went to work and treated the sick and did what they always do—take care of those in need.

In unanimously reported the FRIENDS Act favorably to the House, the Homeland Security

Committee voted to support first responders and the people who love them and need them most, their families.

The FRIENDS Act will help ensure that our healthcare workers, EMTs, firefighters, law enforcement, and other local, state, and federal first responders can answer the call of duty secure in the knowledge that they will have what they need in the way of health kits or an emergency response plan to enable them to perform their duty and return home safely to their families and loved ones.

The GAO's comprehensive review of the range of policies and programs in place at the State level to address the preparedness and protection of first responders will also delineate high risk urban areas from rural communities; and the degree to which selected state policies were developed or executed with funding from the DHS Grant Programs or Urban Area Security Initiative authorized by the Homeland Security Act.

The GAO Report's focus on the presence of the family of first responders in an area affected by a terrorist attack and the availability of personal protective equipment is essential.

This will be the first report that focuses on the family as a critical factor that should be considered in the work of first responders during times of crisis such as a terrorist attack or public emergency.

The issue of families in areas that may be impacted by terrorist attack or other crisis was highlighted by the Ebola crisis in Dallas, Texas last year.

According to Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, who managed the crisis, one of the chief concerns of first responders was keeping their families safe.

Judge Jenkins recounted that discrimination against first responders and their families was a real concern because it was known that EMTs and the firefighters accompanying them responded to the home of the first known Ebola victim in the United States, Eric Duncan.

People were so fearful for themselves and their children's health regarding possible means of contracting Ebola they did not want their children attending a school with the child of first responders who might come into contact with Ebola victims.

For this reason, Judge Jenkins requested the Commissioner of Public Health, the top Ebola expert in the United States, and the Dallas County Medical Society explain to the public that there was a zero percent chance of transmission of Ebola in that scenario.

In Dallas County and around the nation first responders expressed concerns regarding their lack of knowledge about the disease, as well as not having the right type of protective equipment to ensure their safety in managing the care of possible Ebola victims.

These are certainly factors that one would expect to weigh on a first responder called to respond to a terrorist attack or unprecedented emergency.

The bravery or dedication of first responders is not in question—they are the people who run into burning buildings to save people whom they may never have met.

The FRIENDS Act is a small token of the nation's gratitude and appreciation for all first responders do keep us safe.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and thank Natalie Matson and her colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee's majority staff, Moira Bergin and her colleagues with

the Minority staff, and Lillie Coney of my personal staff for their technical expertise and great work on H.R. 2795.

I urge all Members to support the nation's first responders and vote to pass H.R. 2795, the FRIENDS Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close since I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the remaining time.

One of the things that we wanted to do in the course of this legislation is to make sure that the stakeholders were fully informed and thought this would be a constructive addition to their ability to serve the public and to be on call and to be away for long periods of time from their families, which they have been called to do.

As I begin to reflect, I reflected on the wildfires in the West, the enormous flooding that we have had, and certainly we cannot forget the issues dealing with terrorism. The terrorism investigations, as individuals who are victims are buried in California, the first responders, law enforcement, and others are still on the job investigating what is occurring.

So, Mr. Speaker, I include a series of letters into the RECORD from the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, who are indicating the importance of this legislation; a letter from the Office of the Mayor of the City of Houston, Mayor Annise Parker, who indicates that as first responders risk their lives in responding to terrorist attacks and other emergencies, they and their families are at increased risk; from the Houston Professional Fire Fighters, Association Local 341, who have written on behalf of the 3,800 men and women of the Houston Fire Department, indicating the need for this legislation to protect their families; from the National Association of State EMS Officials, the International Association of Fire Chiefs on behalf of nearly 11,000 fire service leaders for introducing this legislation that would provide adequate preparedness for their families; and an article which is entitled "Family Versus Duty: Personal and Family Preparedness Law Enforcement Organizational Resilience."

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF  
BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES,  
*Alexandria, VA, December 9, 2015.*

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
*Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN JACKSON LEE: On behalf of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), our Executive Board, local chapters, and members, I am writing to express support for H.R. 2795, the First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations (FRIENDS) Act. Our nation's first responders risk their lives in responding to terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies. Consequently, they and their families may be at increased risk due to exposures they face in responding to disasters.

Directing the Government Accountability Office to prepare a report that examines the preparedness and protection of first responders and their families, including an assessment of the grant funding available, will serve an important function by evaluating existing resources to protect first responders and their families and the need for additional resources.

NOBLE feels that it is important that we equip our first responders to protect our communities while also ensuring that their families are safe.

Sincerely,

—  
DWAYNE A. CRAWFORD,  
*Executive Director,*  
NOBLE.

—  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,  
CITY OF HOUSTON,  
*Houston, TX, December 7, 2015.*

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
*Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN JACKSON LEE: I am writing to express my support for H.R. 2795, the First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations (FRIENDS) Act. Our nation's first responders risk their lives in responding to terrorist attacks and other emergencies, and they and their families may be at increased risk because of exposure they face in responding to disasters. Directing the Government Accountability Office to prepare a report that examines the preparedness and protection of first responders and their families, including an assessment of the grant funding available, will serve an important function by evaluating existing resources to protect first responders and their families and the need for additional resource.

We live in challenging times with the threat of terrorist attacks, and it is critical that we are prepared and that we best equip our first responders to protect our cities while at the same time ensuring that their families are safe.

Thank you for advancing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

—  
ANNISE D. PARKER,  
*Mayor.*

—  
HOUSTON PROFESSIONAL FIRE  
FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION LOCAL 341,  
*Houston, TX, December 7, 2015.*

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
*House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE, On behalf of the 3,800 men and women of the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 341, I thank you for your leadership on H.R. 2795, the First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations (FRIENDS) Act.

HPFFA members and our families appreciate your commitment to helping ensure that first responders' families will be prepared in the event of large-scale natural disasters, health crises, or terrorist attacks.

Thank you for introducing the FRIENDS Act.

Please let us know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

—  
ALVIN W. WHITE, JR.,  
*President.*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE EMS OFFICIALS,  
*Falls Church, VA, September 28, 2015.*  
Re: Expressing Support for the Jackson Lee  
Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute  
to H.R. 2795.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,  
*Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security,  
House of Representatives, Washington,  
DC.*

Hon. MARTHA MCSALLY,  
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness,  
Response, and Communications,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,  
*Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland  
Security, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.*

Hon. DONALD M. PAYNE,  
*Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Emergency  
Preparedness, Response, and Communications,  
House of Representatives, Wash-  
ington, DC.*

We are writing to express our support for the Jackson Lee Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute titled, the "Families of Responders Identification of Emergency Needs in Designated Situations" or the "FRIENDS Act." This bill would provide an important report on the state of family support planning for the families of first responders.

We believe that Federal family support planning is important to homeland security because this area of continuity of operations planning addresses the health and safety needs of first responder families during terrorist attacks or incidents as well as other emergencies. The FRIENDS Act will be an important first step in engaging the first responder community on the role of family in preparedness and continuity of operations.

The FRIENDS Act would also engage first responder organizations to get their perspectives on best practices in family support planning programs on the local and state levels.

For these reasons, we support the FRIENDS Act of 2015.

Sincerely,

—  
PAUL R. PATRICK,  
*President.*

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FIRE CHIEFS,  
*Fairfax, VA, November 3, 2015.*

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,  
*House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE: On behalf of the nearly 11,000 fire service leaders of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I would like thank you for introducing your substitute amendment to H.R. 2795, the First Responder Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations (FRIENDS) Act. The IAFC supports this legislation, because it will examine an important issue facing the nation's first responders during a major terrorist attack: adequate preparedness for the first responders' families.

During a major terrorist attack, fire, law enforcement and EMS officials will be called upon to take heroic actions to protect the public and provide fire and emergency medical response. In the case of a large-scale incident or biological attack, the families of these first responders also will be at risk. Based on the experience of IAFC members during the response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and last year's response to potential Ebola incidents in the United States, I know that the welfare of the first responders' families weighs heavily on them as they serve the public. It is important that federal, state, and local officials make plans to provide for the safety of first responders' families in order to ensure strong morale among

local fire, law enforcement, and EMS officials during a major terrorist attack.

The IAFC thanks the House Homeland Security Committee for considering this substitute amendment to H.R. 2795. It would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine planning for first responders' families during terrorist attacks. We urge the GAO to highlight effective plans, so that other jurisdictions can learn from them. We also support Representative Higgins' amendment to make minor changes to the bill, including examining the use of med-kits for first responders' families.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation. The IAFC urges the House Homeland Security Committee to pass both this substitute amendment and the Higgins amendment. We look forward to working with you to pass this legislation in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

FIRE CHIEF RHODA MAE KERR,  
EFO, CFO, MPA,  
*President and Chair of the Board.*

#### FAMILY VS. DUTY: PERSONAL AND FAMILY PREPAREDNESS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE

It has been more than four years since Hurricane Katrina opened our eyes to the personal struggles faced by law enforcement officers in the wake of disaster. The law enforcement response to Hurricane Katrina brought to the forefront the challenges that ensue when the intended responders become victims. Many law Enforcement Officers had to make the choice between their responsibility to their families and their duties as police officers. As law enforcement officers, how do we balance the needs and safety of our families with our duty to respond in a crisis? As employers and managers of law enforcement officers what are our responsibilities to our employees and their families in developing and maintaining personal and family preparedness? What steps can be taken by organizations to increase employee and family preparedness of law enforcement personnel?

This article provides an overview of personal and family preparedness of police officers and its relationship to law enforcement organizational readiness. The role of the law enforcement agency in developing and supporting personal and family preparedness will also be reviewed. The overall goal of this article is to develop the general elements of an effective program for law enforcement agencies that advances the personal and family preparedness of law enforcement officers to increase the likelihood that officers will report in emergency situations.

#### HURRICANE KATRINA: PREPAREDNESS AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

The New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) faced a multitude of challenges in efforts to respond to the impact of Hurricane Katrina that resulted in an "almost total loss of police capabilities in New Orleans." The official reports crafted in the wake of the disaster identify several issues that led to the "collapse of law enforcement." These identified problems included "missing police officers led to a law enforcement manpower shortage." While there were some officers who were derelict in their duties in failing to report, the vast majority had become victims themselves, or dealt with family crises related to the disaster, making it difficult or impossible to report for duty. There are estimates that as much as 5 percent of the NOPD force were stranded at home. Other elements, including the technological failures of electric power grids, communications systems, etc., can be overcome through effective continuity planning. The loss of signifi-

cant numbers of personnel through their failure to report is completely debilitating for the law enforcement function. Regardless of the technological enhancements, policing is accomplished by people, without them there is no maintenance of civil order.

#### PREVIOUS RESEARCH: ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO REPORT

Although the conditions faced by NOPD in its efforts to respond to Hurricane Katrina were of a scale not seen in our modern history, ensuring that personnel are willing and able to report for assignment is critical. This is an easier task when notice of the potential crisis, such as an approaching Hurricane, is known for several days in advance. Developing the organizational agility for officers to report in sudden unexpected conditions is more challenging.

There has been little research conducted directly on the ability and willingness of police officers to report in crisis situations. There have been several studies conducted in the public health and healthcare community, and limited studies among firefighters and emergency medical technicians. While there are many parallels that can be drawn across first response organizations, each has unique challenges in different emergency situations that may impact the willingness of responders to report.

There are two studies that have been conducted on the ability and willingness of law enforcement officers to report in disaster. A 2007 study of police officers in the Washington, DC area by Demme revealed that family preparedness and safety were the determinant factors in the ability and willingness of law enforcement officers to report for duty in the event of a biological incident. In an unpublished study, Nestal (2005) examined the ability and willingness of police officers in Philadelphia to respond using the National Planning Scenarios outlined in Department of Homeland Security preparedness guidance. The planning scenarios presented fifteen disaster situations that range from natural disasters to terrorist attacks. The study revealed that based on the given scenario, 55-66 percent of police officers reported they would refuse to adhere to an emergency recall or would consider abandoning their position based upon concerns for the safety of their family.

These studies illustrate the importance of family preparedness to the resilience of law enforcement agencies in disaster. Although further research is needed, these studies make employee and family preparedness impossible to ignore in overall agency preparedness efforts.

#### THE ROLE OF THE EMPLOYER IN EMPLOYEE AND FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

A recent study by Landahl & Cox (2009) examined the actions being taken by first response organizations related to employee and family preparedness and the attitudes and opinions of senior leaders on the role of the employer in the development of employee and family preparedness. The study showed that 97 percent of homeland security leaders identified that employee and family preparedness is an essential element to organizational resilience during large-scale emergencies. In addition, the results showed that a majority (52.9 percent) reported that organizations should be prepared to assume some responsibility for the care of essential employees and their families. The study concluded that "there is a fundamental disconnect between problem recognition by homeland security leaders and organizational activities; only 29 percent of participants reported their organizations had conducted training in or had written plans to support employees and families during disaster."

Essentially, the problem has been recognized, but little has been accomplished towards a solution. Although the issue of employee and family preparedness was exposed during the response to Hurricane Katrina and recognized through research, the issue remains absent from Department of Homeland Security planning and preparedness guidance.

#### IMPLEMENTING POLICY TO INCREASE PERSONAL AND FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

Law enforcement agencies train officers for confrontations, teach them how to investigate crimes and help them develop skills to earn promotions. However, as leaders we fail to teach our officers how to prepare their families and themselves if they are called to duty during a crisis. To improve the chances that law enforcement officers will be in a position to make the decision to report in a crisis situation, leaders should develop clear expectations through policy and planning; including a Mission Statement and Strategic Plan. According to Whisenand, the agencies that have gone through difficult times, managerially, have had three things in common. Each of these agencies exhibited signs of a lack of leadership, an absence of a shared vision and their strategic plans were either poorly developed or had not been established. Therefore, administrators should create a clear policy for their officers so expectations are established before disaster strikes.

Such a policy should include the following:

##### EMERGENCY RECALL GUIDELINES

Clear emergency recall guidelines allow officers to understand the methods and expectations following the notification of off-duty personnel to return to work. The policy should establish how the decision will be made, how officers will be contacted, reporting locations, and expected time from notification to reporting. Notifications may be accomplished through radio communication, telephone contact, pagers, or media utilizing the Emergency Alert System. These guidelines also establish who is exempt from returning. This may include officers who are on vacation, sick leave, or military duty.

##### HOLD-OVER GUIDELINES

These guidelines establish the process for extending the tour of on-duty personnel. This should include the decision process, which personnel may be affected.

##### SCHEDULE ASSIGNMENTS

While maintaining the flexibility to respond to a variety of incidents, expected emergency pre-planned shift assignments should be communicated to personnel. For example, agencies may choose to implement 12-hour A/B platoon shifts. The expectation should be communicated to personnel in order to facilitate personal and family preparedness planning.

##### LEVELS OF MOBILIZATION

Levels of mobilization should be established to set parameters for how many personnel will report for duty. Will the entire department report or will it be selected divisions, or specialized units that will be mobilized.

##### CIVILIAN SUPPORT STAFF

Communicating policies and roles for support staff is critical to emergency operations. They must be included in policies and personal and family preparedness process.

##### LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

Roles and responsibilities for logistical support of law enforcement operations in disasters need to be clearly defined. The Senate Hurricane Katrina report indicated that there were deficiencies in that there "did not appear to be any pre-planning for food,

water, weapons, and medical care." Officer's need to know how they will be supported during disaster operations, will they have off-shift food and lodging available? Concerns about on-duty and off-duty support may impact officers' willingness to report for assignment. The clear articulation and communication of support that officers can expect will allow for personal and family planning, strong support efforts may increase response rates.

#### FAMILY SUPPORT

Agencies must determine their level of commitment to support officer families and communicate the expected relationship between the organization and families to officers. There is a range of support that agencies can provide to families ranging from basic home logistical support to providing a shelter to locate officers' families during a disaster or an emergency situation. If agencies do not plan to provide support to families, they must communicate this expectation and prepare officers and families to be self-sufficient. The decision to provide no support to families may impact recall and dereliction of duty rates.

#### ANTICIPATED EMERGENCIES

Following their experience in Hurricane Katrina, the NOPD took a different approach in preparing officers to report for duty prior to Hurricane Gustav in 2008. NOPD provided employees paid time off to prepare and evacuate their families if necessary before reporting for duty. The effectiveness of the strategy on response rates could not be measured as Hurricane Gustav largely missed New Orleans. Pre-incident policies such as time off to prepare should be considered and communicated to personnel.

#### POLICY ENFORCEMENT/DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

Policy should clearly articulate the consequences when officers elect not to report for duty. Leaders must deal decisively with the issue. The failure of the chief executive to address such cases could erode confidence in their ability to maintain discipline within the department. Failure to enforce can also call into question the importance of such a policy.

#### TRAINING AND EXERCISE

Training in emergency policies should occur at least on an annual basis and be reinforced regularly by supervisory personnel. Training should include instruction in the development of personal and family preparedness plans and emergency kits. Emergency exercises should include the extension to families, in order for officers to engage their families in the potential impact of agency emergency operations on the home.

#### CONCLUSION

The general public and agency leadership have the expectation that law enforcement officers report for duty when significant events or crises occurs. An established policy that includes protocols, training, clear organizational mission, and communication of the expected relationship between agencies and families of officers can help officers prepare and facilitate the decision to report for duty. Agency executives must place high organizational value on personal and family preparedness and reinforce it through training, exercise, and the supervision process. Provisions for the safety of officers' families should be a key component of a plan. Planning and policy development can steer the organizational culture to a culture of preparedness that include the families of our most critical asset; our people.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as I began, let me thank the first responders of this Nation and thank their families for the sacrifice that they make.

Our first responders rush into dangerous conditions to protect us. They deserve to have the peace of mind that their families are safe as they courageously help others and other families during disaster and crisis. Now, their plate is enhanced. It is fuller dealing with not only these disasters, but the potential of a terrorist act.

So I want to extend my gratitude to all of those who have offered their support, again, in particular, the International Association of Fire Chiefs for their support in working with us.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2795.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time.

I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2795.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (H.R. 2795) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2795, as amended.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 644, TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 2250, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-378) on the resolution (H. Res. 560) providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 644) to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3578, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2795, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### DHS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3578) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen and make improvements to the Directorate of Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 687]

YEAS—416

Abraham	Clay	Fleischmann
Adams	Cleaver	Fleming
Aderholt	Clyburn	Flores
Allen	Coffman	Forbes
Amash	Cohen	Fortenberry
Amodei	Cole	Foster
Ashford	Collins (GA)	Fox
Babin	Collins (NY)	Frankel (FL)
Barletta	Comstock	Franks (AZ)
Barr	Conaway	Frelinghuysen
Barton	Connolly	Fudge
Bass	Conyers	Gabbard
Beatty	Cook	Gallego
Becerra	Cooper	Garamendi
Benishek	Costa	Garrett
Bera	Costello (PA)	Gibbs
Beyer	Courtney	Gibson
Bilirakis	Cramer	Gohmert
Bishop (GA)	Crawford	Goodlatte
Bishop (MI)	Crenshaw	Gosar
Bishop (UT)	Crowley	Gowdy
Black	Cuellar	Graham
Blackburn	Culberson	Granger
Blum	Cummings	Graves (GA)
Blumenauer	Curbelo (FL)	Graves (LA)
Bonamici	Davis (CA)	Graves (MO)
Bost	Davis, Danny	Green, Al
Boustany	Davis, Rodney	Green, Gene
Brady (PA)	DeFazio	Griffith
Brady (TX)	DeGette	Grothman
Brat	Delaney	Guinta
Bridenstine	DeLauro	Guthrie
Brooks (AL)	DelBene	Gutiérrez
Brooks (IN)	Denham	Hahn
Brown (FL)	Dent	Hanna
Brownley (CA)	DeSantis	Hardy
Buchanan	DeSaulnier	Harper
Buck	DesJarlais	Harris
Bucshon	Deutch	Hartzler
Burgess	Diaz-Balart	Hastings
Bustos	Dingell	Heck (NV)
Butterfield	Doggett	Heck (WA)
Byrne	Dold	Hensarling
Calvert	Donovan	Herrera Beutler
Capps	Doyle, Michael	Hice, Jody B.
Capuano	F.	Higgins
Cárdenas	Duckworth	Hill
Carney	Duffy	Himes
Carson (IN)	Duncan (SC)	Hinojosa
Carter (GA)	Duncan (TN)	Holding
Carter (TX)	Edwards	Honda
Cartwright	Ellison	Hoyer
Castor (FL)	Elmiers (NC)	Hudson
Castro (TX)	Eshoo	Huelskamp
Chabot	Esty	Huffman
Chaffetz	Farenthold	Huizenga (MI)
Chu, Judy	Farr	Hultgren
Clark (MA)	Fattah	Hunter
Clarke (NY)	Fincher	Hurd (TX)
Clawson (FL)	Fitzpatrick	Hurt (VA)