



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

12 July 2011

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel R. Coats
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman and Senator Coats,

On behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police, I would strongly urge the Senate to reject the House's drastic cuts to State and local programs in the FY2012 appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Federal interest in preventing, preparing for, and responding to terrorist attacks requires strong Federal-State-local partnerships. The strong partnerships already built will be threatened if the Senate agrees to the House-recommended levels of funding for DHS grants.

It is vital to consider the views of those on the front lines in determining the appropriate level of investment in the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), of which 25% of each must be used for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP). Tremendous progress has been made in prevention, preparedness, and response capabilities at all levels of government—due in large part to Members of Congress providing the necessary resources to build those capabilities. However, best practices still need to be institutionalized, responders need to be adequately trained and equipped, and obstacles to collaboration at all levels of government need to be lowered.

Grant funds from DHS provide the incentive and the means to achieve these goals at the State, tribal, county, and municipal levels. However, proposed cuts in FY2012 would hamper the progress already made, wasting prior Federal homeland security expenditures and drastically frustrating our ongoing national capabilities. This Federal assistance is especially important in light of budget crises throughout State and local governments.

The LETPP is a critical part of our national antiterrorism strategy and its activities are funded through SHSGP and UASI, providing the means to enhance preparedness and response capabilities nationwide. They allow public safety to not only handle acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events but to dedicate greater forces to the detection and prevention of attacks. These capabilities are squarely in the Federal interest and justify continued Federal investments. As a nation, we must avoid becoming complacent in the absence of major attacks since 9/11.

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

As we approach the 10th anniversary of those terrorist attacks, we respectfully urge the Senate to preserve investments in prevention, preparedness, and response through DHS State and local programs. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington, DC office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Chuck" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Canterbury" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script. The signature ends with a large, stylized flourish that loops back under the name.

Chuck Canterbury
National President