

**CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE (TX-18)**

**STATEMENT BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
HOMELAND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE**

**MEMBER DAY HEARING ON  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FY2018**



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST IN  
2008 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
9:30AM**

*Chairman: Rep. John Carter, Ranking Member Roybal-Allard and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee:*

- As Member of the Homeland Security Committee from its founding and the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, let me offer my appreciation and thanks to Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard for the difficult work and choices that must be made to produce the Department of Homeland Security spending bill, and for their commitment to producing a bill that reflects the interests and priorities of securing the American people from threats of terrorism.
- Mr. Chairman, I understand that my entire statement will be made part of the record so I will keep my remarks brief. In the few minutes allotted I wish to highlight four areas which warrant the Committee's continuing attention and support:
  1. Cyber Security;
  2. Counterterrorism;
  3. Border Security; and
  4. Other threats to homeland security

**I. PROGRAMS**

1. I support \$2 billion in funding for the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD). Cybersecurity efforts, including protection of civilian federal networks, should be supported at \$900 million. Priority should be given

to telecommunications upgrades so that designated calls and communications can be placed on the most current technology during disasters and emergencies. Funding must address one of the most stubborn problems, failures of telecommunications systems in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Critical infrastructure and civilian government agencies must be prepared to identify and solve “Zero Day Events,” which are previously undetected software or firmware vulnerabilities that if exploited could have catastrophic results because there is no defense. The castle and moat approach to cyber security must be replaced by a well-resourced and staffed agency that is prepared to meet the challenges posed by a kinetic cyber threat environment that is emerging as a consequence of the Internet of Things, which is exponentially expanding the number and verity of wireless devices in public and private spaces. Efforts should focus on underrepresented populations to close the skills to jobs gap in cyber security.

**2. I support \$8 billion for TSA to fully address additional requirements in screening processes, procedures, and training**

There are evolving threats to aviation that must be met with adequate training and personnel who receive the necessary support to focus on the mission. I support \$3.5 billion to support enough FTE Transportation Security Officers to ensure effective screening operations and maintain appropriate staffing levels at checkpoints. \$400 million for transportation screening technology to continue improving the capabilities of checkpoint screening equipment. \$120 million to provide training for TSA frontline employees including new basic training at the FLETC Glynco campus located between Savannah and Jacksonville/ \$55 million for TSO retention programs to address the alarming turnover rate of TSOs.

**3. I support \$755 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)**

UASI funds are provided to urban areas across the country that is at high-risk of terrorist attacks. These funds are used for planning, operations, training and exercise to prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

**4. I support \$1.5 billion in FY2018 for a national Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis Program that includes mitigation planning and emergency response.**

According to a comprehensive analysis conducted by the Association of Flood Plain Managers, it would take up to \$7.5 billion to provide accurate flood maps for every community in the nation. That is why this request at this funding level of \$1.5 billion for FY 2018, as well as a commitment to maintain this funding level over the next 5 years, which would amount to \$7.5 billion. It is important to note that in the 1990s the numbers of disasters nationally were about 30 a year and today they number over 100 at a cost of roughly \$1 billion each.

**5. I support robust funding for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program**

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program within FEMA takes a forward-looking approach to prepare for a disaster before it occurs. Mitigation enables communities to recover more quickly when a disaster strikes, and ultimately saves money associated with costly disaster recovery efforts. In fact, it is estimated that each \$1 spent on mitigation saves roughly \$3 to \$4 on disaster spending. Mitigation, realistic disaster planning, and well-coordinated efforts among local, state, federal, and private sector entities should be the model.

**6. I support \$100 million for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)**

The Port Security Grant Program directly supports State, local, and private maritime infrastructure by making funds available to improve port-wide

maritime security risk management; enhance maritime domain awareness; supports maritime security training and exercises; and maintains or reestablishes maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities.

**7. I support \$44 million for University Programs, Homeland Security Centers of Excellence for HBCU**

The Centers bring together leading experts and researchers to conduct multidisciplinary research and education for homeland security solutions. The Centers are authorized by Congress and chosen by the DHS Science & Technology Directorate through a competitive selection process. Each Center is led by a university in collaboration with partners from other institutions, agencies, laboratories, think tanks, and the private sector. We support increasing this program to \$44 million in FY 2018.

**8. I support \$10 million for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services plays an important role in processing applications for refugees, asylums, and other humanitarian programs. The requested funding is needed to ensure timely processing by USCIS of refugee and asylum applications, including the carrying out of security screening.

**9. I support robust funding for the Customs and Border Protection Salaries and Expenses**

Provide robust funding to cover the costs to support the integration of camera technology, including body-worn cameras, in Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) operating environments. A wall will not accomplish what training and technology can do much better.

**10. I support \$12 million for immigrant integration and citizenship programs within U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**

These funds will assist the more than 8.8 million legal permanent residents who are currently eligible to realize their dream of U.S. citizenship, and will help ensure the full and successful integration of immigrants into our society.

**11. I support \$410 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program**

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is critical to ensuring that our nation's first responders are adequately trained and equipped to safely and effectively respond to emergencies in their communities.

**CONCLUSION**

- Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the Ranking Member for your leadership and for extending me this opportunity to share my major priorities with the Subcommittee.