

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE (TX-18)

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

**MEMBER DAY HEARING ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT
FOR FY2019
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018
3:30-4:30 P.M.
2359 RAYBURN**

Chairman Carter, Ranking Member Roybal-Allard and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee:

- As a senior member of the Committee on Homeland Security, 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 a truly bipartisan Homeland Security spending bill, and for their commitment to providing the resources needed to secure our homeland.
- 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 several programs that warrant the Committee's continuing attention and support.
 1. **I support \$10 billion for 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.
 1. **I support \$110 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; support maritime security training and exercises; and to maintain or reestablish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities.

2. I support \$7.6 billion for TSA to fully address additional requirements in screening processes and procedures

These additional requirements will allow TSA the opportunity to more fully address the additional **requirements** identified last year in response to finding from covert testing of screening process and procedures. \$3.0 billion to support FTE Transportation Security Officers (TSO)s, to ensure effective screening operations and maintain an appropriate staffing level at checkpoints.

3. I support \$45 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 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.

4. I support full funding for the FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants program

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disasters. Mitigation includes community risk reduction, improved resilience of critical infrastructure, risk reduction for vulnerabilities from natural hazards and climate change, and initiatives to reduce future risks. Projects must provide a long term solution.

5. I support the \$405 million budget request for Emergency Food and Shelter

At minimum, fund the SAFER Grant Program at the \$405 million. This program, authorized in 2003, provides much-needed funding for career and volunteer fire departments to hire new firefighters and recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. This program is critical to the thousands of fire stations across the country that are currently operating short of staff and to those seeking to retain current first responders in the face of the economic downturn and recovery.

6. I support \$425 million for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program

At minimum, fund the SAFER Grant Program at the \$425 million. This program, authorized in 2003, provides much-needed funding for career and volunteer fire departments to hire new firefighters and recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. This program is critical to the thousands of fire stations across the country that are currently operating short of staff and to those seeking to retain current first responders in the face of the economic downturn and recovery.

7. I support \$750 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative

I respectfully request FY 2019 funding levels of \$750 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). UASI funds are provided to urban areas across the country that are 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.

8. I support \$115 million for the Transit Security Grant Program

I request \$115 million for the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP). Mass transit systems have unique security challenges, and one way the federal government fulfills its obligation to secure our homeland is by assisting localities in protecting them. TSGP provides critical funds for public transit entities to shield against terrorist attacks. Our request also asks that TSGP be kept separate and not consolidated into a larger grant program.

9. I support \$1.5 billion for Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis Program

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.

10. I support \$10 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 at a critical time in the evolution of our national immigration policy.

CONCLUSION

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