

**Testimony in Support of the FY 2024 Committee on Homeland Security
Before the Committee on House Administration
February 28, 2023**

Thank you Chairman Steil and Ranking Member Morelle.

I appreciate the opportunity to come before you to speak in support the Committee on Homeland Security's funding request for Fiscal Year 2024.

Last month marked my twentieth year on the Committee. What was started in 2003 as a temporary, select committee formed to oversee the newly-created Department of Homeland Security, has matured into a standing panel with broad oversight and growing legislative responsibilities.

In the Committee's earliest days, our work was primary focused on bolstering security and information sharing to prevent future attacks by foreign terrorist organizations like al Qaeda.

Today, with the threat landscape far more diverse and complex, our oversight responsibilities have expanded to include DHS' efforts to:

- detect, prevent, and respond to threats posed by domestic violent extremists, transnational criminal organizations, and hostile nation-states;
- cybersecurity;
- the security of our air, land, and sea borders;
- the security of air, rail, mass transit, pipelines and all other transportation modes;
- emergency preparedness, response, and recovery; and
- nuclear, biological, radiological, chemical, and explosive threats.

Last Congress, the Committee held 25 Full Committee hearings and 50 subcommittee hearings. Despite the pandemic, we were able to conduct three field hearings – *in New Jersey, Nevada, and Michigan* – and site visits to New York City, Puerto Rico, and Florida.

This Congress, *with additional resources*, we are well-positioned to build on this record and to increase our oversight of DHS' efforts in the field as well as international engagement with foreign partners.

On the legislative front, an increase in budgetary resources will help ensure the Committee has adequate resources to advance timely legislative initiatives.

Areas that require urgent attention include the reauthorization of expiring laws relating to:

- counter-unmanned aerial surveillance;
- DHS' Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office; and
- Chemical facility security.

Last Congress, CHS advanced over 55 measures to the Full House and succeeded in getting 23 enacted into law. Notable accomplishments include significant initiatives to enhance our nation's cybersecurity posture. Going into the 118th Congress, we will be looking to build upon those achievements.

I do not need to tell you that it takes a lot of staff work and resources to carry all the great oversight and legislative work we do. With respect to CHS, I am fortunate to have Hope Goins lead the talented and diverse professionals who make up the Democratic staff.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in the support of the budget proposal Chairman Green submitted. The resources sought are critical to ensuring that the Committee can continue to effectively carry out its responsibility as the primary authorizer of the nation's third largest Federal Department.

With that, I yield for any questions.