

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Fleischmann  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

We write to urge the committee to support full funding for programs critical to protecting America's cities in the FY2020 Homeland Security appropriations. New York City continues to be the nation's top target for terrorists seeking to inflict damage on the American people, as well as its economy and infrastructure. Ensuring the safety of those who call our city home, and visitors from every district in the nation, is our top priority. Prevention requires the collaboration of local agencies and federal partners to deter threats in an ever evolving landscape. Federal investment is a crucial component to the success of these efforts.

The professionalism and steadfast dedication of our law enforcement and first responders has protected us from dozens of terrorist plots targeting high risk cities since 2001. Federal funding is vital in empowering these cities to stay ahead of emerging threats. In New York City, incidents such as the 2016 Chelsea bombing and the 2017 attacks on the west side highway and the Port Authority bus terminal, demonstrate that the threat is real and adapting. Additionally, New York City has had to allocate resources for the President's and First Family's part-time residence, located on one of the busiest intersections in Manhattan.

It is clear why New York City is targeted by those with nefarious intent. It is home to over 8.6 million people and visited by over 60 million tourists annually from across the globe. New York is a center for commerce and culture, and is center on the world stage across multiple sectors. The Port of New York and New Jersey is one of the busiest in the nation and the commuter rail system has the most stations and annual ridership of any in the world.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to fully fund vital Homeland Security needs in FY2020. This includes fully funding key national programs like the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), State Homeland Security Grant Program, Port Security Grant Program and Transit Security Grant Program. In addition we must also highlight the need for more recent funding sources including the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant and the Presidential Residence Protection Grant. These programs are important pieces of the national effort to strengthen homeland security preparedness.

Specifically, we are seeking:

- \$662 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative
- \$250 million for the Port Security and \$250 million for Transit Security Programs
- \$562.9 million for the State Homeland Security Grant
- \$35 million for the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant
- \$50 million for the Presidential Residence Protection Grant
- \$50 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program

As we have noted before, UASI funding is essential to many ongoing counterterrorism operations, investments in public safety communications, core competency training for police and fire, public health readiness and overall emergency preparedness. Police departments across the nation require this funding to continue to procure the necessary equipment to detect potential chemical, biological, and radiological weapons. The New York Police Department (NYPD) utilizes this funding to support their Domain Awareness System (DAS), a networked system that aggregates and correlates multiple real time law enforcement data streams and provides the NYPD with actionable intelligence in support of its counterterrorism related assessments and operations. These funds are critical to maintain the Department's staff of intelligence research specialists, which examine raw data from multiple sources of information to identify trends and provide operational and investigative support in a wide array of investigations.

Federal funds also enable the law enforcement to develop programs to counter active shooters, like the NYPD's Counterterrorism Bureau's Training Unit, which offers some of the most advanced and comprehensive active shooter training. This training is critical in the aftermath of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Pulse Nightclub attacks, and the unit provides equipment for law enforcement to practice life-saving techniques on victims before medical personnel arrive at a shooting and a space for live active shooter training exercises to prepare law enforcement for real life scenarios.

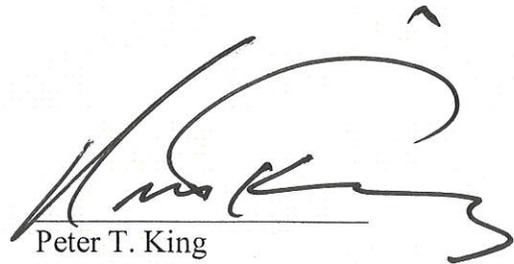
As members of Congress who represent the most high-risk area of the country, we urge you to support full funding for the Homeland Security programs critical to ensuring the safety of our nation. We firmly believe it is in the interest not just of New York, but of our entire country, to do everything possible to prevent a potential attack. The reasonable price of prevention far outweighs the costs of recovering from a terrorist attack.

Sincerely,



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Max Rose  
Member of Congress

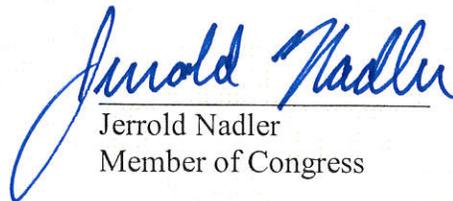


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Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



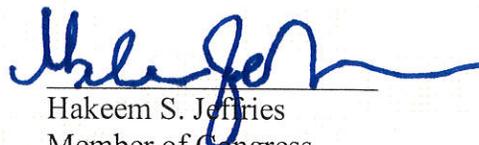
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



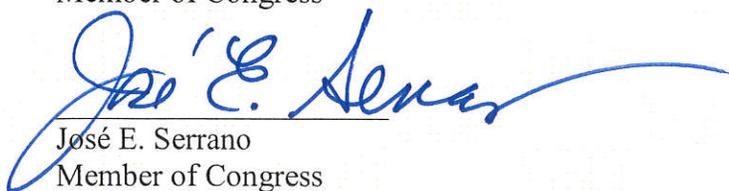
Hakeem S. Jeffries  
Member of Congress



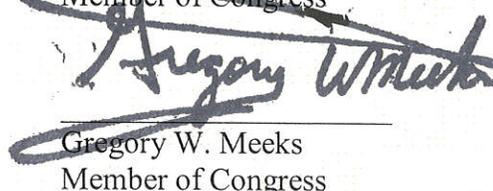
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



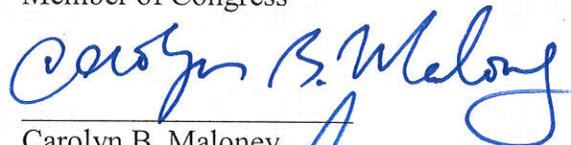
José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



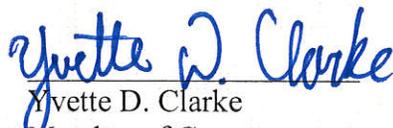
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



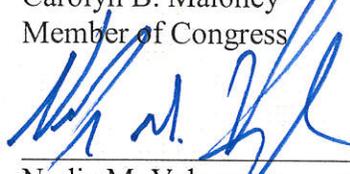
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



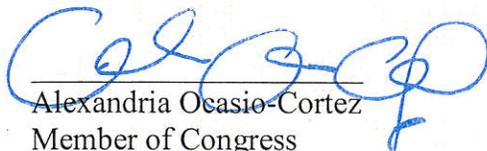
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velazquez  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress