

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

March 23, 2015

The Honorable John Carter  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

As you know, New York City is the top target for terrorists who seek to inflict damage on the United States. Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, New York City has worked with the Department of Homeland Security to protect New Yorkers. This is an ongoing threat -- since 2001 New York City has successfully thwarted sixteen terrorist attack attempts.

As bipartisan members of Congress who represent the most high-risk area of the country, we strongly urge you to support full funding for New York's homeland security needs through State and Local Grants Programs. This includes restoring national programs like the Urban Area Security Initiative, State Homeland Security Grant Program, Port Security Grant Program and Transit Security Grant Program to their FY2011 funding levels, as well as level funding for Securing the Cities. These programs are important pieces of the national effort to strengthen homeland security preparedness, including the security of critical transportation and port infrastructure. The Port of New York and New Jersey is already one of the busiest in the nation and New York City's commuter rail system has the most stations and annual ridership of any in the world.

This past year, State Homeland Security grants enabled the New York region to utilize capabilities that were built to deal with a Chemical or Bio-Terrorist attack to manage potential cases of Ebola. And as is evident in high risk areas around the country, UASI funding is essential to ongoing counterterrorism operations, investments in public safety communications, core competency training on police and fire, public health readiness, and overall emergency preparedness. Recent attacks abroad in Mumbai and Paris reiterate a need for such critical funding.

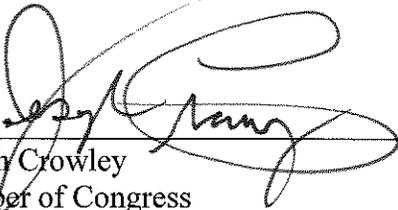
We also urge you to reject the President's proposal to consolidate the various homeland security grant programs into a single "National Preparedness Grant." This poses a threat to the continued efficacy of the UASI program, and would add unnecessary bureaucracy.

Further, we urge you to extend the performance period of these programs from its current length of two years to a period of three years. Such a move would better allow for implementing complex, innovative programs and overseeing the procurement of customized equipment, as well as take into account ongoing input by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that periodically alters the implementation timeline.

There is no doubt that making investments in homeland security preparedness is crucial for the safety and security of New York residents. Funding cuts to HSGPs would undermine the New York City's continued security and intelligence gathering efforts that protect its citizens, commuters, business locations and networks – which support much of the New York's financial sector, the loss of which would be devastating to the nation's economy – as well as iconic national landmarks that attract millions of tourists every year from nuclear, biological, and cyber-attacks. 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. We continue to believe that the reasonable price of prevention far outweighs the costs of recovering from a terrorist attack.

We urge you to place the highest priority on protecting New York and other high-threat urban areas from attack by allocating full funding for these key programs.

Sincerely,



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Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



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Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



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Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



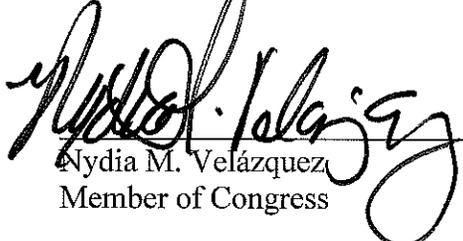
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Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Hakeem S. Jeffries  
Member of Congress

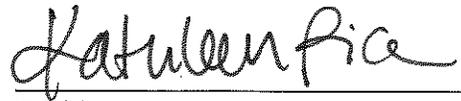


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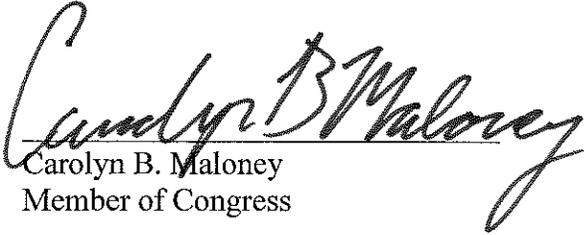
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



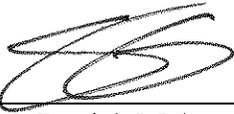
Kathleen Rice  
Member of Congress



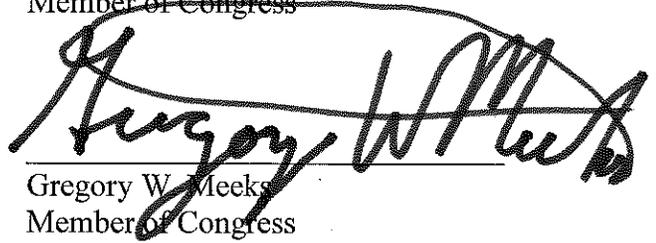
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress