

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street NW – Mail Stop 0200
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

As you prepare to execute your new grant allocation responsibilities under the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012” (P.L. 112-74), we are writing to request that you allocate funding to those high urban areas eliminated from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 so that they may maintain, and, in some cases, restore terrorism preparedness capabilities achieved under the program.

Since FY 2003, the Department of Homeland Security has invested over \$6.5 billion dollars into developing regional critical emergency preparedness capabilities through the Urban Area Security Initiative program. Funds awarded through UASI have provided local governments, first responders, and law enforcement agencies in high risk urban areas the resources necessary to execute their strategic preparedness plans. We are concerned that, without continued and/or renewed funding, high risk urban areas will be unable to continue developing preparedness capabilities and that the capabilities gained through previous grant awards will be lost.

As you know, well into FY 2011, 32 high-risk urban areas (Albany, NY; Austin, TX; Bakersfield, CA; Baton Rouge, LA; Bridgeport, CT; Buffalo, NY; Columbus, OH; El Paso, TX; Hartford, CT; Honolulu, HI; Indianapolis, IN; Jacksonville, FL; Kansas City, MO; Louisville, KY; Memphis, TN; Milwaukee, WI; Nashville, TN; New Orleans, LA; Oklahoma City, OK; Omaha, NE; Oxnard, CA; Providence, RI; Richmond, VA; Rochester, NY; Sacramento, CA; Salt Lake City, UT; San Antonio, TX; San Juan, PR; Syracuse, NY; Toledo, OH; Tucson, AZ; and Tulsa, OK) that relied on Federal support and partnership to bolster terrorism preparedness suddenly learned that they would have to be eliminated from the UASI program because of limited resources. As a result, many of the effected urban areas report that important terrorism preparedness capabilities have been lost. For example:

- Since being eliminated from the UASI program, the Buffalo-Erie-Niagara UASI has been unable to update its hazardous material response equipment and its plans to update the region’s outdated 9-1-1 system have been stymied.
- Prior to FY 2011, the Tucson UASI used these funds to purchase an Automated Emergency Notification System and develop the Pima County Wireless Integration Network (PCWIN) to enable seamless interoperable communications for every public safety agency in the region. Since Tucson was eliminated from the UASI program, the Automated Emergency Notification System is no longer operational and the

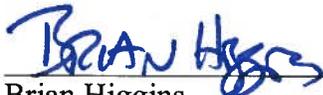
development of PCWIN has been severely handicapped and is unlikely to be completed on time.

- Similarly, upon being eliminated from the UASI program, the Oxnard UASI is no longer able to maintain training for existing Terrorism Liaison Officers, train and exercise on the newly updated plans, implement the recommendations that result from the Interoperable Communications Gap Analysis, or maintain its Infrastructure Protection Team. After investing so much, the nation cannot afford to gain gaps in our capabilities.

Budget-strapped urban areas across the country need resources to maintain capabilities gained through previous UASI grant awards. When allocating funding among the various State and local programs, we urge you to remember that gains achieved through years of investment with previous UASI funding are now in jeopardy and to allocate the fund necessary to ensure that the capabilities gained through previous UASI awards are maintained.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Jana Powell at (202) 225-3306.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Colleen W. Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
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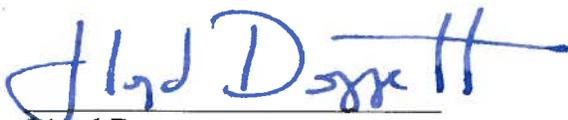
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Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
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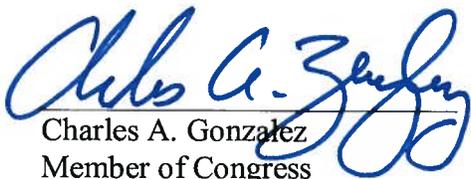
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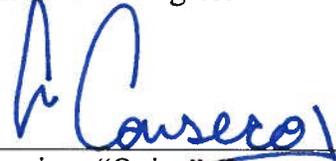
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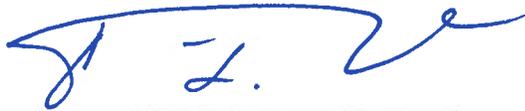
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