

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2013

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

We write to express our strong opposition to the Department of Homeland Security's decision to further decrease the number of metropolitan areas eligible for participation in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program with fiscal year 2013 funds.

Following the September 11, 2001 attacks and subsequent findings issued by the 9/11 Commission, Congress authorized risk-based grant programs, including UASI, to help states and high-risk urban areas develop critical preparedness and response activities. As Members of Congress representing many of the nation's high-risk urban areas, we understand how valuable UASI grant funds have been in developing capabilities necessary to quickly and effectively respond to terrorist attacks and catastrophic events.

The tragic Boston Marathon bombings on April 15 highlighted just how essential these funds are. Following the attacks, Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis stated that without grant funding, the "response would have been much less comprehensive than it was" and without the exercises supported through UASI funding, "there would be more people who had died in these – in these attacks."

As our local law enforcement and first responders cope with a new reality that goes beyond traditional crime, limiting UASI funding to only 25 metropolitan areas – a 61% decrease from fiscal year 2010 funding allocations – is irresponsible. And beyond an inability to prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks or other catastrophic events, state and local governments will undoubtedly lose invaluable capability gains and advancements made in previous years.

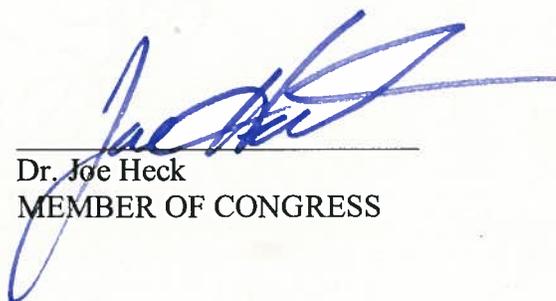
Quite simply, homeland security is a federal responsibility. Our communities cannot develop critical preparedness and response capabilities they otherwise could without leverage of Federal investments. To lay the entire financial burden of securing our cities, adequately protecting our citizens, and addressing new and evolving homeland security challenges on states and high-risk urban areas is careless and unacceptable. We ask that you make eligible all high-risk urban areas that have participated in the UASI program for funding in fiscal year 2014 and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



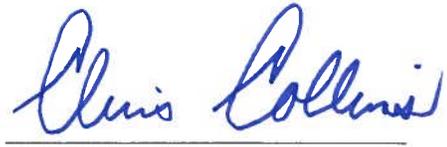
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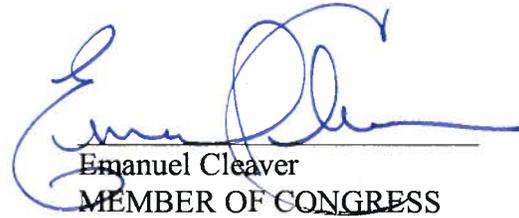
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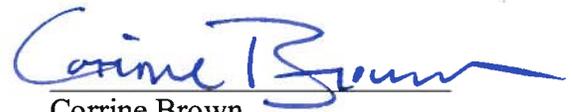
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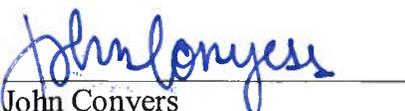
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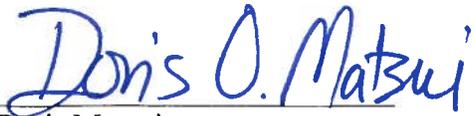
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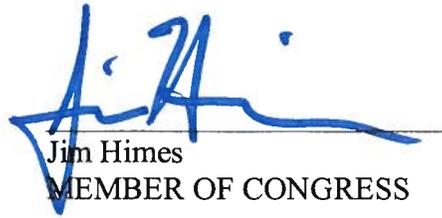
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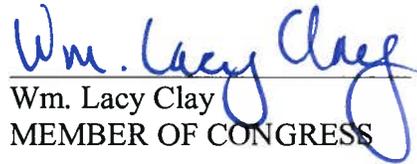
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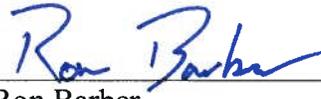
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