



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 23, 2004

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## Kind Proposes Fast Track for Intelligence Reform

*Calls for Special August Session to Immediately Address Intelligence Issues*

**Washington, DC** – Before the House adjourned for the six-week district work-period on Thursday, July 22, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) sent a letter to Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL) urging him to reconvene the House of Representatives during the month of August in order to address the urgent matter of intelligence reform. Kind proposes a special session of Congress during the four weeks of August between the scheduled party conventions, to begin consideration of the 9/11 Commission recommendations and to hold hearings on proposed reforms.

In the letter, Rep. Kind asks Speaker Hastert “to reconvene the House of Representatives during the month of August...in order to hold hearings on the 9/11 Commission Report so we can begin the process of reforming our intelligence capabilities to prevent any future terrorist attacks.”

Members of Congress were handed more than 500 pages of intelligence findings and recommendations from the bipartisan commission investigating the September 11, 2001, attacks on Thursday, July 22, 2004. The 9/11 Commission members stressed that urgent action is needed to implement reforms in the face of future attempts by terrorists to inflict even greater casualties on the United States. Some lawmakers have said Congress is unlikely to undertake major revisions of the nation's intelligence operations this year.

“We have a responsibility to act expeditiously to consider the 9/11 Commission Report and to hold hearings immediately on the Commission’s recommendations,” wrote Kind. “Now that we have those recommendations, we should not waste any time in moving forward in a bipartisan fashion to secure the safety of our citizens. Given al Qaeda’s reconstituted strength, I believe time is of the essence.”

***Letter attached.***

July 22, 2004

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

Today, Members of Congress will be leaving Washington, DC for the six-week district work-period. Speaker Hastert, I would like to point out that the House adjourned without addressing several critical issues facing our nation, including the urgent matter of intelligence reform. In light of Congress' unfinished work, I ask you to reconvene the House of Representatives during the month of August, excluding the periods designated for nominating the respective presidential candidates, in order to finish the people's business.

On Thursday, July 22, 2004, the 9/11 Commission released its report recommending changes to the United States' intelligence system. The Commission members stressed that urgent action is needed to implement reforms in the face of future attempts by terrorists to inflict even greater casualties on the United States.

Members of Congress have a responsibility to act expeditiously to consider the 9/11 Commission Report and to hold hearings immediately on the Commission's recommendations. Now that we have those recommendations, we should not waste any time in moving forward in a bipartisan fashion to secure the safety of our citizens. Given al Qaeda's reconstituted strength, I believe time is of the essence.

Speaker Hastert, as you are well aware, it is our obligation as elected members of Congress to faithfully serve the interests of the American people. In light of the urgency to address our nation's security needs, I request that you reconvene the House of Representatives during the month of August and hold hearings on the 9/11 Commission Report so we can begin the process of reforming our intelligence capabilities in order to prevent any future terrorist attacks.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress