



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

May 31, 2006

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
B-307 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Hal:

I am writing to express my concern about the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced funding levels for states and territories in the Homeland Security Grant Program for 2006. I urge you to include additional criteria for Department of Homeland Security to distribute funding on the basis of risk in the Department's appropriations conference report.

While I believe you have done a commendable job in moving homeland security funding towards risk based priorities, it seems to me in light of funding to New York being decreased by 40 percent by DHS, we should move further towards risk-based funding.

On March 25, 2006, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and I introduced H.R. 5017, the Ensuring Implementation of the 9/11 Commission Report Act to bring renewed focus to the 9/11 Commission Recommendations. Among other important provisions, H.R. 5017 contains language of H.R. 1544, the Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act. This legislation, passed by the House last year, would require the distribution of homeland security funding based upon an assessment of risk and vulnerability and includes a 0.25 percent base level for all states.

As the 9/11 Commission said, we are in a war with Islamist terrorists. They are not ethereal beings and they don't attack just any target. They attack high-impact targets and that is what we need to protect with our homeland security dollars.

Congressman
Christopher Shays
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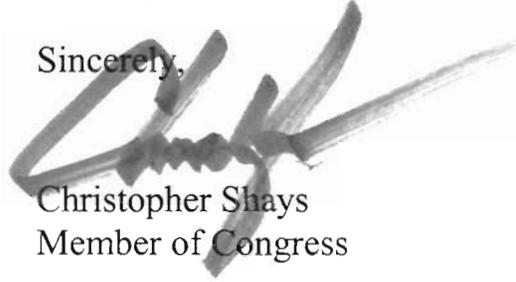
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By ensuring more homeland security dollars go to the New York Metropolitan Area, by far the greatest risk in our nation, we help protect residents, as well as many thousands of commuters and visitors to that city.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Shays', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Christopher Shays
Member of Congress

CS:dn