

# 9/11

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October 31, 2005

The Honorable Peter T. King, Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman King:

Thank you for seeking our views on Section 128 of H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005.

The 9/11 Commission recommended that homeland security assistance should be based strictly on an assessment of risks and vulnerabilities. The enactment of Section 128 in the PATRIOT Act Reauthorization would represent a significant step forward for national preparedness, in line with this recommendation.

The PATRIOT Act, as the original authorizing legislation for the homeland security assistance program, is the appropriate vehicle for this reform. We urge the conferees on the PATRIOT Act Reauthorization to include the House-passed grant reform language in the final conference report.

The approach contained in H.R. 3199 does not favor urban areas or large states based on preconceived notions of threat. Rather, it creates a transparent process that equitably weighs all risk, vulnerability, and consequence factors to arrive at a rational assessment of homeland security priorities.

This is the third time this proposal has been approved by the House, with wide bipartisan support. This reform is too important to wait until next year. The time to act is now.

We thank you for your continuing interest in the Commission's findings and recommendations. We look forward to working with you, to make the American people safer and more secure.

With best regards,



Thomas H. Kean



Lee H. Hamilton

CC: Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner  
Honorable John Conyers  
Honorable Arlen Specter  
Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Honorable Bennie G. Thompson  
Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Honorable Jon Kyl  
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