

Committee Passes \$1.8 billion Increase Over President's Budget Request

6/5/2007 Washington, DC—On Wednesday, Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY), Member of the House Appropriations Committee, praised an increase of \$673 million in funds for state and local homeland security grant programs from last year's funding levels. The new funds were passed today by the House Appropriations Committee.

"As a New Yorker, I know how important it is that we commit resources to ensure that state and local governments are equipped to prevent and respond to emergency situations or acts of terrorism," said Congressman Israel. "When I cast my vote today in Committee, I know that we're making critical investments in fighting terrorism at home as well as abroad."

The bill passed by the Appropriations Committee today includes \$4.12 billion for homeland security grant programs. This represents increases in funding for several key grant programs over last year's levels. Specifically, the bill includes:

- \$550 million for State Homeland Security grants, which are available to all states for training, procuring equipment, planning, and conducting exercises (an increase of \$25 million)
- \$800 million for Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grants, which are given to high-threat, high-density urban areas (an increase of \$30 million)
- \$800 million for Firefighter Assistance Grants, which provide local firefighting departments with funds to protect the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel, volunteers and emergency medical service personnel (an increase of \$138 million)
- \$400 million for State and Local Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention grants (an increase of \$25 million)
- \$17 million for the Citizen Corps programs, support Citizen Corps Councils and programs in effort to engage citizens in preventing, preparing for, and responding to all hazards (an increase of \$2 million)
- \$300 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG), which provide federal matching funds state and local comprehensive emergency management programs (an increase of \$100 million)

The Fiscal Year 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, which passed the Appropriations Committee today, must now be voted on by the entire House and reviewed in the Senate.