



TO: The Mayor

FROM: J. Thomas Cochran

SUBJECT: **Senate Rejects Clinton-Schumer-Mikluski First Responder Amendment, Approves More Money for High Threat Areas:**
Supplemental Now Moves to House-Senate Conference Committee

DATE: April 4, 2003

Late last evening the Senate voted 51-46 against the Clinton-Schumer-Mikulski amendment which would have provided local governments with \$3.58 billion in first responder funding. Instead, the Senate votes 66-31 for an amendment by Senator Arlen Specter (PA) which added \$500 million for high risk areas, with \$200 million in new money and \$300 million coming from other first responder funding in the bill. In total, the Senate approved \$1.72 billion for local governments as part of the supplemental. The House is working to complete action on its version, which includes \$1.76 billion for local governments. The President had requested \$1.4 billion for local governments. The bills will soon head to a conference committee, and the President has requested final action by April 11.

Direct formula funding is not included in either bill. However, some improvements were realized, such as increases for high risk communities in both bills, greater allowance for overtime in the House bill, and quicker suballocation times in the House bill. Following is a summary of the Senate bill and the House committee bill which is awaiting final action. The Conference of Mayors will work diligently to see that the final bill best serves America's cities and first responders.

Senate Bill

The Senate supplemental includes a total \$2.2 billion for first responders, as proposed by the Administration. Of this total, \$1.72 billion would go to cities. The funding would be provided as follows:

- \$1.27 billion would go to the states with 60 days, and then 80 percent – \$1.02 billion – would go to local governments with 60 days.
- \$600 million would be made available for “high-threat” urban areas as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security.
- \$300 million would go to the states for critical infrastructure protection, of which 33 percent – \$100 million – would go to local governments within 60 days. This money could be used for overtime.
- In addition, Senator Feinstein (CA) was successful in amending the bill on the floor to provide \$219 million for interoperable communications grants that will go directly to local governments.

House Bill

The House supplemental includes a total of \$2.2 billion for first responders. Of this total \$1.76 billion would go to local governments, up from the \$1.4 billion in the Administration's proposal. The funding would be provided as follows:

- \$1.5 billion would go to the states within 30 days, and then 80 percent – \$1.2 billion – would go to local governments within 45 days. In a major change, the language specifically says that, “within funds provided for the formula grant program, the Committee directs the Office of Domestic Preparedness to fund overtime expenses related to increased security being incurred by State and local entities.”
- \$700 million would be provided for “high-density urban areas, in high-threat areas, and for protection of critical infrastructure.” This is a discretionary program to be run by the Department of Homeland Security, however the money would flow through the states once a designation is made – with 80 percent going to the high-threat area and 20 percent staying with the state. As a result, \$560 million of this funding will go to local governments. This money would be combined with the \$100 million for high threat areas contained in the FY 2003 omnibus funding bill.

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Somers with the Conference staff at (202) 861-6706.