



# The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006  
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352  
E-mail: [info@usmayors.org](mailto:info@usmayors.org) URL: [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)

## STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO, PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, ON FY 2003 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

February 13, 2003

“The nation’s mayors are extremely disappointed with the homeland security funding provisions in the fiscal year 2003 omnibus appropriations bill the Congress is poised to enact.

“City budgets have been severely pinched by the combination of the weak economy and the need to invest in homeland security. Nationally, cities have spent more than \$2.6 billion on homeland security efforts since 9/11 and they still have not received federal financial assistance for homeland security.

“Remarkably, this bill does not contain the \$3.5 billion in new funding requested by the President and mayors 13 months ago to provide desperately needed assistance to our first responders, who are on the frontlines every day securing our cities and our homeland.

“Instead, the bill offers some smaller increases to existing programs, but it does so at the expense of other law enforcement initiatives. For example, the bill inexplicably cuts community policing grants (COPS) by \$200 million and Local Law Enforcement Block Grants by \$20 million.

“Our police officers, our firefighters, our EMS workers, our residents, and our businesses demand more and they deserve better.”

###

*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation’s 1,183 cities with population of 30,000 or more. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. More information about the Conference is available at [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).*

Press contact: Andy Solomon (202) 861-6766