



**STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS MENINO,  
PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,  
ON SENATE ACTION ON ASSISTANCE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**

June 27, 2002

“The nation’s mayors are pleased that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee today marked-up desperately needed legislation to provide \$3.5 billion in assistance to our first responders. Cities, on the frontlines in the fight to secure the homeland, have incurred tremendous security, preparedness, and emergency response costs since September 11. Therefore, we welcome progress on approving these new resources, which are sorely needed and will help make cities better prepared and better able to respond in case of emergency.

“We commend New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton for her leadership in improving this bill by encouraging coordination with cities and requiring a more timely pass-through of funding to local governments.

“However, we were very disappointed that the Committee chose not to provide this assistance directly to cities and not to make available any funding to help cities cover the huge overtime costs associated with increased security efforts. These and other key priorities of mayors are contained in Senator Clinton’s Homeland Security Block Grant legislation, which we have strongly endorsed. We are hopeful that there can be additional progress on these issues as this vital package and other bills move through the legislative process in the Senate and the House, and that the issues of direct funding and overtime will be adequately addressed.”

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