



**STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO,  
PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,  
ON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

November 19, 2002

“The nation’s mayors are pleased that Congress has approved legislation to streamline homeland security preparedness and prevention efforts at the federal level through the creation of a new department, as we have long advocated.

“We are also extremely pleased that important provisions clearly permitting critical foreign and domestic intelligence and other information sharing between federal and local law enforcement officials is included in the bill. This measure has been a top priority for mayors and local law enforcement since 9/11. The more information that is made available to local officials, the better we can respond to potential threats.

“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 not received federal financial assistance for homeland security. Therefore, mayors are extremely disappointed that Congress will soon leave town and adjourn for the year without providing the \$3.5 billion in first responder assistance that President Bush has been seeking for nearly one year. The President and Homeland Security Director Ridge understand the importance of providing critically needed resources to our nation’s first responders - police, fire and other emergency personnel. Despite broad bipartisan support for this funding, Congress has failed to act. We hope that the 108th Congress will move quickly on this matter when they convene next year and we look forward to working with them to secure funding that is provided directly to cities.”

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*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. 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 and 2002 mayoral election results are available at [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).*