



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 URL: usmayors.org

STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS MENINO, PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, ON SUPPLEMENTAL HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

March 24, 2003

“Mayors are pleased that President Bush, recognizing the needs of the nation’s cities, has proposed some additional homeland security funding for first responders.

“There are improvements that should be made to this proposal. The proposal funnels money through state houses, which is an inefficient way to get desperately needed funding to our local police, fire and emergency medical personnel quickly. Direct, flexible, and sufficient funding is what is needed now.

“We look forward to working with the Congress to increase the funding level in this proposal and to provide the bulk of the money directly to cities.”

STATEMENT OF BALTIMORE MAYOR MARTIN O’MALLEY, CHAIR, MAYORS’ HOMELAND SECURITY TASK FORCE, ON SUPPLEMENTAL HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

March 24, 2003

“Mayors appreciate the President’s leadership in seeking additional homeland security assistance. However, at a time when the nation is rightly prepared to do anything necessary and spare no expense to win the war in Iraq, the Administration’s homeland security funding proposal falls short of what is needed to support America’s domestic troops – our police, fire, and emergency medical personnel.

“The Administration’s proposal contains insufficient funding given the tremendous security expenses our cities face during the war and ongoing national high threat alert. And the proposal favors state bureaucracies over the needs of cities and first responders. For example, we are disappointed that two-thirds of the funding for personnel overtime is reserved for the states when the vast majority of first responders work for our cities.

“Our first responders deserve more help with fewer strings. We hope Congress will address these issues when it takes up the supplemental appropriations bill.”

###

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation's 1183 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. Each city is represented 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 is available at www.usmayors.org.

Press contact: Andy Solomon (202) 861-6766