



NEWS

The United States Conference of Mayors

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STATEMENT OF BALTIMORE MAYOR MARTIN O'MALLEY, CHAIR, MAYORS TASK FORCE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, ON AMENDING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

April 1, 2003

“America’s mayors strongly support the efforts of Senator Clinton, Senator Schumer, Senator Mikulski, and other members of Congress to amend the President’s supplemental appropriations request to increase homeland security assistance for cities and to get the money to cities more quickly, more efficiently, and with greater flexibility.

“The amendment would boost additional homeland security funding for cities from the \$1.4 billion proposed by the Administration to \$3.58 billion. This total includes \$2 billion for grants based on population, more than \$1 billion for high-threat urban areas (up from only \$50 million in the Administration’s plan), \$250 million for critical infrastructure, and additional funding for firefighter grants and the highly effective COPS community policing program.

“Responding to our desire for faster, more efficient delivery of these funds, their amendment would also require that states disburse new homeland security assistance to local governments within 30 days, based on population. The Conference of Mayors remains committed to seeking direct homeland security assistance and this amendment moves us in that direction.

“We are also pleased that additional amendments would boost critically needed investments in airport, mass transit, port, and border security.

“Our nation is united in its support for our troops fighting abroad. Now Congress needs to step up to the plate and demonstrate equally strong support for our troops at home – our police, fire, and emergency medical personnel in our cities.”

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation’s 1185 cities with populations 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 is available at www.usmayors.org.