

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven, Chairman
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter, Chairman
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Rogers, Lowey, Carter, and Roybal-Allard:

We write on behalf of cities across the nation that would be significantly harmed by the deep funding cuts to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) as proposed in the President's FY 17 budget. As Mayors, we share the strong belief that severe cuts to key homeland security grant programs directly jeopardize the safety of the citizens we represent. As the threat continues to grow, we ask Congress to restore these funds that are essential for cities to adapt and remain nimble in responding to evolving threats.

We are alarmed that the proposed cuts would translate into reductions across the spectrum of security. The UASI program is facing an almost 50 percent cut, from \$600 million this year to \$330 million next year. This funding is essential to many ongoing counterterrorism operations, investments in public safety communications, core competency training for police and fire, public health readiness and overall emergency preparedness.

These proposed reductions are particularly alarming in the wake of mounting global attacks in major cities like Paris and here at home in San Bernardino. In New York City, which continues to be the Nation's number one terror target, twenty plots have been thwarted since 2001 alone. To date, the only explanation provided for the recommended funding decrease is the need for hard choices in the current budget environment. This statement is not reflective of the need we see in the distinct communities we represent across the nation. Rather the equipment, training, system development and best practices that have resulted from access to UASI funds provide far reaching region wide benefits.

Reducing UASI funding destabilizes ongoing security and intelligence gathering efforts that protect our citizens, commuters, and businesses. Law enforcement requires this funding to continue to procure the necessary equipment to detect potential chemical, biological, and radiological weapons. First responders utilize funds to train and develop innovative best practices to improve response and save lives. These investments in security preparedness are crucial for both the safety and security of our residents, as well as the countless tourists who visit our cities.

We are united in urging you to reject these proposed cuts and fully fund UASI. Heightened concern over terrorism and violent extremism at home makes adequate funding more critical than ever. It is in the interest of the security of our cities, and indeed the nation, to do everything possible to prevent any potential attacks. When UASI is fully funded, local governments across the nation are empowered to better protect the people who call our cities home.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York, NY
Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA
Martin Walsh, Mayor of Boston, MA
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore, MD
Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, DC
Ed Lee, Mayor of San Francisco, CA
Francis Slay, Mayor of St. Louis, MO
Mike Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas, TX
Kevin Johnson, Mayor of Sacramento, CA
Chris Coleman, Mayor of St. Paul, MN
Jeff Williams, Mayor of Arlington, TX
Kevin Faulconer, Mayor of San Diego, CA
Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San Jose, CA
Miguel Pulido, Mayor of Santa Ana, CA
Carolyn Goodman, Mayor of Las Vegas, NV
Edward Murray, Mayor of Seattle, WA
Betsy Price, Mayor of Fort Worth, TX
Andy Hafen, Mayor of Henderson, NV