

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 27, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
The Capitol, Room S230  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

As we rapidly approach the date on which the Department of Homeland Security's funding expires, and as law enforcement officials face major threats to our nation's safety and security, we write with one simple request: work with us to pass a clean bill that funds Homeland Security for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The House bill cannot pass the Senate. Democratic Leader Harry Reid has called for a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security. The President has also made clear that he will veto any bill that expressly limits his authority to exercise prosecutorial discretion on immigration matters. While we agree our current immigration system needs comprehensive reform, including border security enhancements, this appropriations bill is not the place for this debate.

In light of recent events in Paris, Ottawa and Australia, the threat of ISIS and the proliferation of foreign fighters that return home radicalized, DHS funding should not be tied to divisive political issues that could jeopardize this critical funding.

We are now four months into the fiscal year. A series of short-term continuing resolutions to fund DHS should be off the table. Secretary Jeh Johnson has noted that if DHS continues to operate on CRs, counterterrorism efforts will be limited, border security initiatives and grants to state and local law enforcement will go unfunded, and aviation security efforts will be hampered.

Every day, new threats emerge that endanger our citizens at home and our allies abroad. We should not cast doubt on future funding for the Department of Homeland Security at a time when the entire nation should be marshalling collective resources to defend against terrorism. Uncertainty undermines security.

Last December, House and Senate negotiators reached a bipartisan agreement on a bill to fund DHS for the entire fiscal year. The best way to provide certainty and stability for the men and women who fulfill DHS's mission to protect the United States from harm is to immediately schedule a vote so that this compromise bill can become law.

We know that you share our desire to keep our nation safe in these dangerous times, and we thank you for considering our request.

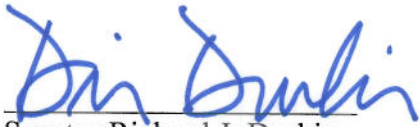
Sincerely,



Senator Jeanne Shaheen



Senator Barbara A. Mikulski



Senator Richard J. Durbin




Senator Charles E. Schumer



Senator Patty Murray



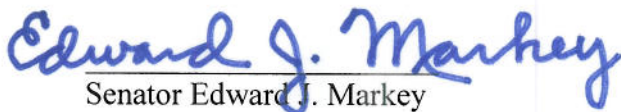
Senator Debbie Stabenow



Senator Elizabeth Warren



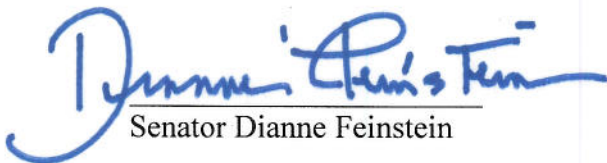
Senator Thomas R. Carper



Senator Edward J. Markey



Senator Tammy Baldwin



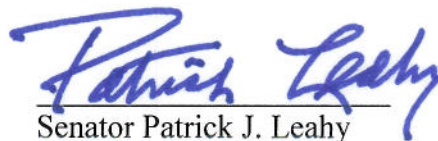
Senator Dianne Feinstein



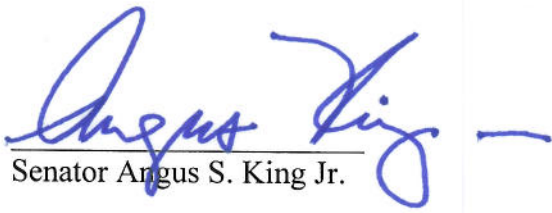
Senator Mazie K. Hirono




Senator Heidi Heitkamp

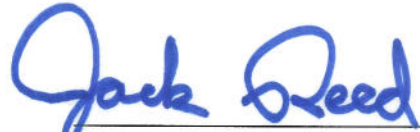


Senator Patrick J. Leahy

  
Senator Angus S. King Jr.


  
Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand

  
Senator Mark R. Warner

  
Senator Jack Reed

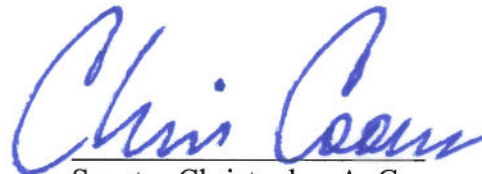
  
Senator Richard Blumenthal

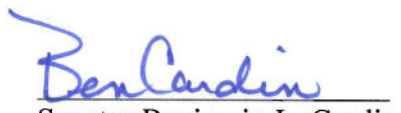
  
Senator Sherrod Brown

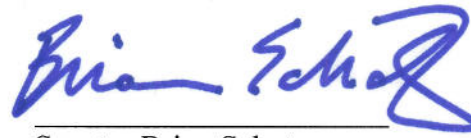
  
Senator Bernard Sanders

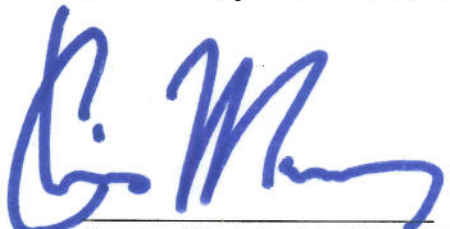
  
Senator Robert Menendez

  
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

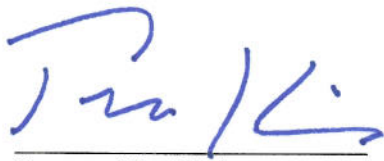
  
Senator Christopher A. Coons

  
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin

  
Senator Brian Schatz

  
Senator Christopher Murphy

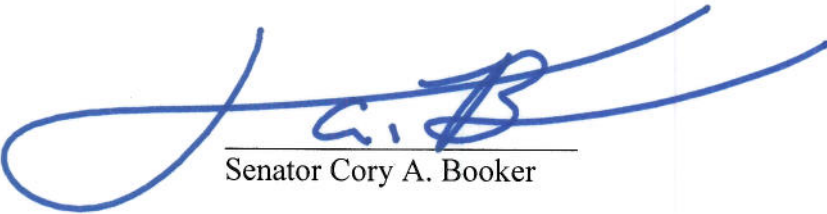
  
Senator Ron Wyden



Senator Tim Kaine




Senator Barbara Boxer



Senator Cory A. Booker



Senator Tom Udall



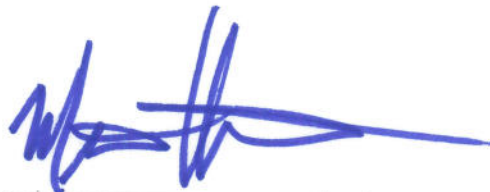
Senator Jon Tester



Senator Michael F. Bennet



Senator Amy Klobuchar



Senator Martin Heinrich



Senator Claire McCaskill



Senator Bill Nelson



Senator Gary Peters



Senator Jeff Merkley



Senator Al Franken

*Bob Casey, Jr.*  
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Senator Robert P. Casey Jr.

*Maria Cantwell*  
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Senator Maria Cantwell

*Joe Manchin III*  
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Senator Joe Manchin III

*Joe Donnelly*  
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Senator Joe Donnelly