

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 16, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We are writing to express the gravest concerns about the existential threat that the Trump Administration's proposed budget poses to the homeland security of New York City.

Here is the bottom line: the Trump budget, if enacted, would leave America's largest city woefully unprepared to prevent and respond to a second 9/11.

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), State Homeland Security Grant Program, Transit Security Grant, and Port Security Grant together provide approximately \$190 million annually to New York City—funds that form the backbone of our city's counterterrorism and emergency preparedness infrastructure. Draconian cuts to the homeland security grants would all but dismantle the FDNY's capacity for emergency management and would reduce the NYPD's post 9/11 counterterrorism apparatus to a shell of its former self.

The Trump budget is an act of national self-sabotage. Since 9/11, New York City has been the target of 67 known terrorist plots. Alarming, two-thirds of those plots have emerged within the last decade. In just the first half of 2025, we have seen seven terrorist plots—roughly one per month. 24 years following 9/11 terror attacks, the threat of terrorism remains as real as it has ever been.

Even more destructive than the \$45 million cut to the homeland security grants is the imposition of terms and conditions that could serve as a pretext to defund them entirely. The new terms and conditions are so open-ended and over-broad as to render compliance all but impossible. Even jurisdictions that might wish to comply could find themselves in legal limbo, with no clear standards of definitions to guide them. This is not homeland security policy. It is political blackmail.

At a time when terrorism, cyberattacks, and extreme weather events are converging to create an increasingly complex threat environment, the Trump budget would gut the very systems we depend on to detect, deter, and respond to those threats effectively—not just in New York but nationwide. The FDNY and NYPD do not operate in isolation; their teams routinely provide reinforcements and technical assistance to jurisdictions across the United States. The homeland security grants for NYC enables a national network of mutual aid between and among states.

We urge the Appropriations Committee to reject a Trump budget that puts America's homeland security not first but last—to the detriment of all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ritchie Torres", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Yvette D. Clarke in black ink, with "M.C." written in small capital letters below the signature.

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Jerrold Nadler in black ink.

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Dan Goldman in black ink.

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Gregory Meeks in blue ink.

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress