

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 52

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the grave danger of domestic terrorism and the need for improved organization in the executive branch and Congress to deter, prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impending threat of domestic terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GEKAS, Mr. RILEY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mrs. BONO, Mr. BEREUTER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the grave danger of domestic terrorism and the need for improved organization in the executive branch and Congress to deter, prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impending threat of domestic terrorism.

Whereas domestic terrorism poses a significant threat to the safety and security of all citizens of the United States;

Whereas there is no Government entity that oversees and coordinates the more than 40 executive agencies involved in

detering, preventing, preparing for, and responding to terrorism;

Whereas the duty of Congress to oversee the activities of the executive branch related to domestic terrorism is complicated by the diffuse nature of domestic terrorism and the coordination necessitated by having 14 full congressional committees with responsibility for issues related to domestic terrorism;

Whereas the Advisory Panel to Assess Domestic Response Capabilities for Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (established pursuant to section 1405 of the Strom Thurmond Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261; 50 U.S.C. 2301 note)) found that the United States “has no coherent, functional national strategy for combating terrorism”;

Whereas such advisory panel further found that Congress must better organize itself to deal with issues related to terrorism;

Whereas the United States Commission on National Security/21st Century, the National Commission on Terrorism, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies have all concluded that the threat of domestic terrorism is real, that the executive branch has not been organized to deal effectively with the threat of domestic terrorism, and that Congress needs to take decisive action to improve its ability to oversee issues related to domestic terrorism;

Whereas having a single executive agency with direct and complete responsibility for issues related to domestic terrorism would make it possible for Congress to coordinate

effectively with the executive branch on the issue of domestic terrorism;

Whereas the Nation is still sorrowed by, and will never forget, the injuries suffered and the lives lost as a result of the bombing of the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993, and the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on April 19, 1995;

Whereas the plan of terrorists to enter the United States during the millennial celebration and kill citizens of the United States is evidence of the continuing threat of domestic terrorism; and

Whereas the President and Congress have no greater duty than to protect the lives of the citizens of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) domestic terrorism is a grave danger to the
4 national security of the United States;

5 (2) the President should—

6 (A) examine the organization of the execu-
7 tive branch and identify the coordination and
8 communication problems that have existed in
9 recent years among the numerous executive
10 agencies that deal with issues related to domes-
11 tic terrorism; and

1 (B) formulate a plan to reorganize the ex-
2 ecutive branch to minimize or eliminate such
3 problems;

4 (3) Congress should establish a panel to exam-
5 ine the adequacy of its committee structure to deal
6 with issues related to domestic terrorism and to con-
7 sider the creation of more effective structures, in-
8 cluding a Select Committee on Domestic Terrorism;
9 and

10 (4) the President and Congress should work to-
11 gether to reach a mutual conclusion regarding the
12 most effective reorganizations to address the threat
13 of domestic terrorism.

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