

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 534

To bring the FBI to full strength to carry out its mission.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Mr. BIDEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred  
to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To bring the FBI to full strength to carry out its mission.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Full-Strength Bureau  
5 Initiative Act of 2007” or the “FBI Act of 2007”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Throughout its history, the FBI has been  
9       an integral part of anticrime investigatory efforts in  
10       the United States.

1           (2) Since September 11, 2001, the FBI has lost  
2           substantial capacity and willingness to fight violent  
3           crime.

4           (3) The FBI has reduced the goal of combating  
5           crime to number 8 of its top 10 priorities.

6           (4) To meet its primary goal of combating ter-  
7           rorism, the FBI has reprogrammed nearly 1,000  
8           agents from crime to counterterrorism cases since  
9           September 11, 2001.

10          (5) While this reprogramming of agents to  
11          counterterrorism is necessary and proper, it has had  
12          the unintended consequence of precluding the FBI  
13          from adequately and satisfactorily discharging its  
14          traditional anticrime efforts.

15          (6) The FBI's shift to counterterrorism has re-  
16          duced the Bureau's involvement in traditional crime  
17          investigations, including—

18                 (A) fewer agents to the successful High In-  
19                 tensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task  
20                 forces;

21                 (B) fewer violent crime cases, as the Bu-  
22                 reau has reduced the number of agents com-  
23                 mitted to Federal-State-local task forces like  
24                 “Safe Streets” and Violent Crime Task Forces;  
25                 and

1           (C) fewer agents handling bank robbery  
2           and white collar crimes, which involve technical  
3           areas of investigative expertise that State and  
4           locals often lack.

5           (7) In testimony before the Committee on the  
6           Judiciary of the Senate, FBI Director Bob Mueller  
7           stated that the shortfall of agents has “required dif-  
8           ficult choices in determining how to most effectively  
9           use the available agents”.

10          (8) This reprogramming has occurred at the  
11          same time that Federal assistance for State and  
12          local law enforcement has been decimated, including  
13          the elimination of the Office of Community Oriented  
14          Policing Services hiring program and substantial  
15          cuts to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assist-  
16          ance Grant Program under part E of title I of the  
17          Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of  
18          1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.).

19          (9) Local police officials have decried this ap-  
20          proach, and the results are becoming apparent, with  
21          the largest crime increase in 15 years according the  
22          2005 Uniform Crime Reports.

23          (10) The preliminary Uniform Crime Reports  
24          for 2006, reported in December, have shown further  
25          increases in violent crime across the Nation.

1           (11) The FBI's traditional anticrime investiga-  
2           tions complement and assist investigations by State  
3           and local law enforcement around the country.

4           (12) Through task forces and other more infor-  
5           mal assistance, the FBI over the years has brought  
6           an invaluable expertise and resources to help state  
7           and local law enforcement in combating traditional  
8           criminal enterprises.

9           (13) Even when factoring in assistance local  
10          law enforcement has received from the Department  
11          of Homeland Security, the International Association  
12          of Chiefs of Police has stated, "combined, the pro-  
13          posed FY 2006 funding level for DoJ/DHS law en-  
14          forcement assistance programs is \$2.158 B. This is  
15          a reduction of \$1.467 B or 40 percent from the  
16          combined FY 2005 level of \$3.625 B. It represents  
17          a decrease in \$2.55 B or 54 percent from FY  
18          2004."

19          (14) The FBI has the ability and the mandate  
20          to focus both on countering terrorist plots and fight-  
21          ing traditional crime.

22          (15) There does not need to be a trade-off be-  
23          tween crime and terrorism, but this can only happen  
24          if the FBI is given the manpower to be able to do  
25          both.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR MORE AGENTS.**

2       There are authorized to be appropriated  
3 \$160,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through  
4 2012 to fund 1,000 Federal Bureau of Investigation field  
5 agents in addition to the number of Federal Bureau of  
6 Investigation field agents serving on the date of enactment  
7 of this Act.

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