

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT EAST DIVISION

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 12, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fort Worth Police Department East Division, in the 26th Congressional District of Texas for their outstanding work serving and protecting the communities of Fort Worth.

This past May, I had the privilege of visiting the Fort Worth Police Department East Division. Captain Bryan Sudan provided me with a brief tour of the facility and explained how the divisions of the department interacted together.

I also had the opportunity to ride along with veteran Officer Anthony Cutler and with Officer Thomas O'Brien and witnessed firsthand the high level of respect the officers have for the community and citizens. It was clear that the officers cared about the neighborhood and the people in it.

On a day-to-day basis, these individuals place their lives on the line just to protect us all. They do this with bravery, strength, humility and dignity. They are selfless in their actions and compassionate people at heart. They only want safety for us all, and I am thankful for their service.

Friendly, courteous, and professional only begins to describe the high caliber of officers employed with the Fort Worth Police Department East Division. I am honored to now represent the Fort Worth Police Department and send my sincere thanks for their service to the community.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5441) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007. As a member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, it has been an honor to work with Chairman HAL ROGERS and with our ranking member, MARTIN SABO, who sadly is retiring at the end of the 109th Congress. Congressman SABO has served our country with honor and distinction. It has been a privilege to serve

with him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Chairman, Chairman ROGERS has once again been presented with an inadequate budget allocation. He has done his best to strengthen our ability to effectively respond in times of national emergency and fund the critical programs in the bill that protect our Nation against terrorist attacks and national disasters.

Nevertheless, I am disappointed that due to the lack of funds resulting from hundreds of billions of dollars in Republican tax cuts for the very rich, the bill reduces badly needed funds for programs critical to our first responders' ability to efficiently and safely respond to a terrorist attack or national disaster. I am particularly concerned about cuts to grants that fund communication capability such as interoperability. Radio interoperability is essential for our police, fire, and emergency medical service departments to communicate with each other in times of emergency. This was demonstrated by the horrors in New York on 9/11 when many of the New York police and firefighters died because of the inability to warn each other of the dangers ahead. Four and a half years after 9/11 it is unconscionable that interoperable communications remain an unmet urgent need. It is also unfortunate that the Democratic amendment by Mr. OBEY that would have added funding for port security, border security, and first-responder equipment and training failed on a party line vote.

I am also disappointed and greatly concerned that this bill's report expresses support for the expansion of the 287(g) program which allows State and local law enforcement officers to perform immigration enforcement functions. Many local law enforcement officers have stated that if they are required to enforce Federal immigration policies it would hamper their ability to successfully fight crime in their respective communities.

Furthermore, I am disappointed that the report does not include a solution to the miscalculation of the Letters of Intent contract between the TSA and the Los Angeles World airports, LAWA. According to LAWA, TSA's contractor made errors in calculating the cost of installing inline baggage screening equipment at Los Angeles and Ontario airports. These calculating errors have resulted in a contract dollar amount lower than what is needed to complete the required equipment purchase and installation. I hope to work with the chairman in conference to resolve this problem.

Despite these concerns, I thank Chairman ROGERS and Congressman SABO for including many of the items I requested in the Homeland Security report. The following report language addresses serious issues raised during subcommittee hearings with representatives of the Department of Homeland Security.

(1) The report language addresses the need to continue the use of Legal Orientation Programs in Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, detention centers around the country. Legal Orientation Programs are legal presentations given to persons in immigration detention, prior to a first hearing before an immi-

gration judge by nongovernmental agencies. The presentations facilitate access to justice for detained immigrants in removal proceedings. The program also saves money on immigration detention and makes the Immigration Court more efficient.

(2) The report recognizes the success of the Intensive Supervised Appearance Program, ISAP, which prevents families from being detained in jail. The bill includes an additional \$5 million for the expansion of this program.

(3) The report expresses concern regarding reports that children apprehended by DHS continue to be separated from their parents. The committee's report language encourages ICE to work with reputable nonprofit organizations to consider allowing family units to be placed in the Intensive Supervised Appearance Program. If detention is necessary, the report language encourages ICE to house family members together in nonpenal, home-like environments until the conclusion of their immigration proceedings.

(4) The report includes language that expresses concerns regarding recent media reports of health care deficiencies at ICE detention facilities. The committee's report language correctly directs ICE to report on the activities it undertakes to ensure compliance with detention standards.

(5) The report highlights concerns with the backlog at the National Records Center. This backlog results in few, if any, of the asylum applicants who requested their files through the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, receiving their files in time to prepare for their appearance in immigration court. The report language directs Citizenship and Immigration Services to develop a plan to ensure that such requests are filled in a timely and expeditious manner.

(6) The report expresses concern that the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services has not issued regulations on the U-visa for immigrant victims of a crime. This visa was established 6 years ago in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Due to the lack of regulations, few victims have applied because only interim relief exists. The report directs CIS to report on its plan for issuing U-visa regulations.

(7) I was pleased that the report recognizes the important efforts of the Directorate of Science and Technology, S&T, to encourage universities to become centers of multi-disciplinary research on homeland security issues.

An outstanding example of such a center is the University of Southern California's Center for Risk and Economic Analysis in Los Angeles. Given the high threat of acts of terrorism to large cities like Los Angeles, these centers can help prioritize countermeasures to terrorism, by computing relative risks among potential terrorist events and by identifying where homeland security investments can be most effective.

(8) I am also pleased that Customs and Border Protection is directed to report on their plans to address the increased workload at Ontario International Airport and to provide

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.