Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

We are writing to respectfully request the inclusion of not less than $7 million in funding for the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP), also known as the Over-the-Road Bus Security Assistance Program, in the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. This request is in line with the FY2019 House Homeland Security Appropriations bill (H.R. 6776, 115th) provision of $7 million for the program.

Congress created the IBSGP through the enactment of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-53) with the intent of enhancing security preparedness and ensuring the safety of our nation’s transportation systems. Today, numerous intercity bus and motorcoach companies operating in metropolitan areas that are at higher-risk of terrorist attack utilize IBSGP funding for security preparedness and enhancement measures. In fact, for the second year in a row, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) exclusively focused on the threat of vehicle ramming attacks by terrorists. The report shows that, from 2013 to 2017, there were 25 known vehicle ramming attacks in North America and Western Europe alone, resulting in 156 deaths and 790 injuries. Additionally, the TSA report states that “it is likely that terrorist groups will continue to encourage aspiring attackers to employ unsophisticated tactics, such as vehicle ramming, as these types of attacks minimize the potential for premature detection and could inflict mass fatalities if successful.”

Given the current threat landscape, security preparedness is a strong point of focus for the American bus and motorcoach industry. IBSGP recipients use the money for conducting vulnerability assessments, driver “active shooter” training and other emergency preparedness drills, construction of fence perimeters at facilities to secure bus vehicles, installation of security camera systems, installation of driver shields to prevent access to drivers, enabling GPS tracking of vehicles with real-time sharing capabilities with law enforcement, installation of remote kill-switches for bus and motorcoach engines, among other investments.

We appreciate that your Subcommittee faces many competing priorities for FY2020. However, we believe funding for the IBSG meets a compelling national need. The American bus and motorcoach industry conduct more than 600 million passenger trips every year, and IBSGP funding helps ensure the people who enjoy these services are kept safe.
Sincerely,

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

John Katko  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Al Lawson  
Member of Congress
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress