

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

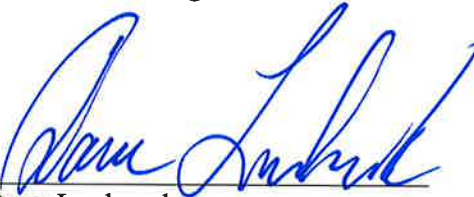

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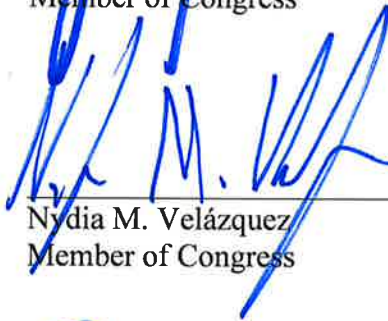

Al Lawson
Member of Congress




Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



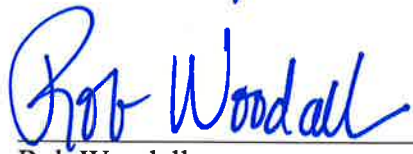
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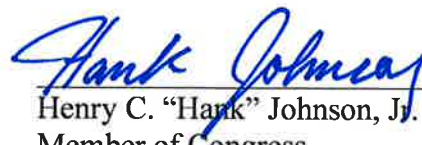
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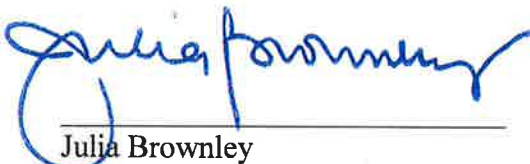
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