

NEWS ALERT



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Homeland Security Committee

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson

“Addressing the Department of Homeland Security’s Morale Crisis”

April 19, 2007 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Management, Investigations, and Oversight Subcommittee hearing entitled “Addressing the Department of Homeland Security’s Morale Crisis”:

“We appreciate your willingness to provide us with your input on how we can fix the Department of Homeland Security. This week’s events at Virginia Tech demonstrate the clear need for achieving this goal quickly. It’s no secret that morale in the Department is low—one of the lowest of all federal agencies

That’s a huge problem. But what really worries me is that this is not a new problem. This Department cannot continue to score last or near last in leadership, performance, talent, and satisfaction on the job.

A former co-director of the Department’s Culture Task Force said it best, ‘Stop talking about Team DHS and start talking about Team Homeland Security.’

Why? Because this team is united for a common goal. That goal is to protect, secure, and strengthen this great country. Every job within the Department is important to achieving that goal - and employees must feel, believe, and know that.

Today we will address why employees within the Department are plagued with low morale and what the Department is doing to address this crisis. We must afford the Department’s employees the same protections afforded other civil service employees—so doing will not cause a breach in protecting the Nation.

We have seen the survey results and they’re bad. We’ve heard from the culture task force and they said the Department’s conditions are bad. We’ve listened to the employees and they say MaxHR was bad. We must turn this around, because too much is at stake.

Team Homeland Security cannot fail. We are dedicated to seeing you through to success.”

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