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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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October 21, 2005

The Honorable Michael Chertoff  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

We are writing to urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to work with the Administration to comply with the Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-330), which brings DHS under the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, as amended (31 U.S.C. 901 et seq.).

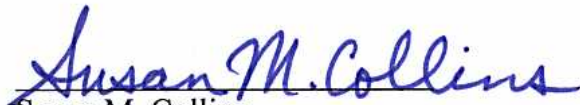
Financial accountability is critical to the success of the mission of DHS. Accordingly, the Financial Accountability Act, enacted on October 16, 2004, directed the President to appoint a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Department within 180 days after enactment. We are greatly concerned that, to date, the White House has not announced a nomination for the position, and DHS continues to be the only cabinet-level department without a CFO appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

The intent of the Financial Accountability Act was to ensure that DHS has efficient and effective financial management. The task of the CFO at DHS is especially important because the consolidation of the financial management and accounting systems of the 22 agencies folded into DHS is crucial to the effective management of the Department. The need for a strong CFO is even more urgent in light of the Department's responsibility in overseeing emergency appropriations for Hurricane Katrina relief that will exceed the Department's annual budget.

We are committed to working with you on a bipartisan basis to address the management and structural challenges that face DHS. As the duties of CFO are key to the sound financial and accounting disciplines in the Department, we urge you to coordinate with the White House on the selection of a qualified nominee for CFO as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
Chairman



Joseph I. Lieberman  
Ranking Member



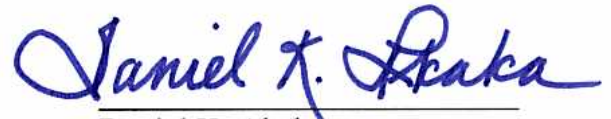
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Tom Coburn  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator