



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

David Price (D-NC), Chairman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY REP. DAVID PRICE *On the President's Budget Proposal for Homeland Security*

WASHINGTON – Congressman David Price (D-NC), chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, issued the following statement today in response to President Bush's Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposal for the Department of Homeland Security:

“The Administration is claiming that the President's 2009 budget will increase funding for the Department of Homeland Security by 7% - a hefty margin in this environment. Unfortunately, this claim is not credible, because it omits \$2.7B in border emergency funding that Congress provided for 2008. When this funding is included in the calculations, it turns out the President is proposing an increase of less than \$100 million – *or only two-tenths of one percent* – for our country's homeland security needs.

“I am particularly concerned about the hits that our state and local grant programs will take under this budget. The President is recommending an almost 50% cut (from \$4.15B down to \$2.15B) for first responder, transit, and port security grants. This would weaken our country's ability to prepare for and respond to threats in our communities and at high-vulnerability locations.

“For the combined appropriations of Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the US-VISIT entry-exit program, the President would actually decrease funding by \$8 million, from \$14.633 billion this year to \$14.625 billion in 2009. When the Administration calculates border enforcement funding for its press releases, it leaves out the enforcement that takes place at ports of entry and airports, as if unauthorized entries do not occur there.

“The subcommittee will need to take a fresh look at whether essential security priorities would be adequately supported under this budget. My preliminary read is that it leaves a lot to be desired.”

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