

***Floor Statement of Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)
For Consideration of H.R. 3857***

September 11, 2012

I rise in support of H.R. 3857, the “*Public Transit Security and Local Law Enforcement Support Act*,” and yield myself such time as I may consume. As the President stated in his weekly address, the anniversary of 9/11 is a time to honor and commemorate first responders, the victims of the attacks, and members of the armed forces serving at home and abroad.

It is unfortunate that the Republican Majority has decided to discontinue the House’s tradition of doing just that, by considering a resolution honoring the fallen and commending our nation’s bravest on this day.

For years, Majority Leaders of both parties have introduced and scheduled consideration of a 9/11 resolution. Surely, if the House has the time to consider the thirty-two (32) bills scheduled for consideration on the suspension calendar this week, it has the time to commemorate our nation’s first responders, the victims of 9/11 and our troops by considering a resolution doing just that.

Even if some politicians would prefer not to mention it, our nation is still at war in Afghanistan. Our troops are still in harm’s way, a half a world away, fighting a war that was the direct result of the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Accordingly, I would urge the Republican Leadership of the House to reconsider their decision to forgo considering a 9/11 resolution on this day. As for the legislation under consideration, I support this bill that, thanks to an amendment offered by Representative Jackson-Lee during Committee consideration, authorizes four hundred million dollars for the Transit Security Grant Program.

The Transit Security Grant Program provides funds to state and local jurisdictions that need help keeping their transportation systems secure.

As state and local budgets continue to face the strain of recovering from the economic collapse that occurred during the previous Administration, we have a responsibility to ensure that they have the funding needed to build and sustain the capacity to protect against a terrorist attack. As amended, H.R. 3857 does just that.

On this day, above all others, we turn our thoughts to those who were lost in the tragic events of 9/11.

It is unfortunate that the Republican Leadership of the House has decided not to continue this body’s tradition of considering a resolution to commemorate first responders, the victims of the attacks, and members of the armed forces serving at home and abroad.

I urge my colleagues join me in calling for the consideration of a 9/11 resolution and to support H.R. 3857. H.R. 3857 authorizes funds crucial to ensuring our nation’s transportation systems are secure. It does so to the tune of four hundred million dollars. Dollars that state and local jurisdictions desperately need.