

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 15, 2015

The Honorable John Carter  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard,

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we urge you to not limit the Secretary of Homeland Security's (Secretary) discretion on the number of cities eligible for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The Explanatory Statement accompanying the Fiscal Year 2015 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act limited UASI funding to urban areas representing up to 85 percent of the cumulative urban area risk, which resulted in the reduction of the overall number of UASI cities from 39 to 28. This requirement leaves several urban areas, including those in our districts, vulnerable because without additional funding, they will struggle to maintain or sustain terrorism prevention capabilities.

Cities like the ones that we represent fluctuate from year to year on being eligible for UASI funding, due to limitations in past Appropriations bills. We believe that the cities with the greatest risk of terrorism should receive UASI funding, but believe the Secretary should have the discretion to determine eligibility based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's risk assessments. Our cities host a variety of high-profile sporting and cultural events that require robust security funding. These events, in addition to the everyday threats our communities face, make them at risk for a potential terrorist attack and UASI funding is vital in helping mitigate security gaps. Our first responders should not be limited in their ability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate acts of terrorism. Therefore, we request a return to the language contained in the 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act (PL 113-76) that leaves the Secretary the ability to change the number of urban areas receiving UASI funding to "more efficiently and effectively target resources to address risk."

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to ensure the Secretary has the discretion he needs to award UASI funding in a manner that best protects our nation's urban areas from terrorist attacks.

Sincerely,



Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver II  
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress