

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

As you prepare fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations legislation for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), we respectfully request you reject President Trump's proposal to slash funding for the applicable account which provides funding for the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) and instead increase it to at least \$105 million as well as reject his suggestion for a 25 percent non-federal cost share requirement.

We understand the Committee is under difficult funding constraints and agree that taxpayer dollars must be spent wisely. However, significant threats to the safety of our homeland remain. Federal funding must be continued at a sufficient amount to ensure security for the American people.

One sector which is heavily utilized and has unique security challenges is mass transit. There were over 10.1 billion passenger trips on mass transit in 2017 in the United States, covering all types of passenger rail and bus systems, according to the American Public Transportation Association. Americans should not fear riding the rails or boarding busses.

An attack on any of these systems could kill thousands, flood rail tunnels and stations, and cripple major metropolitan areas. And, the open and porous nature of mass transit systems makes them especially vulnerable. Terrorists are well aware of these facts and have targeted such entities many times, such as in the high-profile, deadly attacks in Madrid, in 2004, London, in 2005, and Brussels, in 2016.

In June 2009, the General Accountability Office summarized the issues facing mass transit security, writing the following:

According to [the Transportation Security Administration], transit officials, and transit experts, certain characteristics of mass transit systems, such as multiple access points and limited barriers to access, make them inherently vulnerable to terrorist attack and therefore difficult to secure. High ridership, expensive infrastructure, economic

importance, and location in large metropolitan areas or tourist destinations also make them attractive targets for terrorists because of the potential for mass casualties and economic damage.

The special challenges in securing mass transit systems and the potential disaster that could occur from an attack mean we have to be extra cognizant of providing the necessary resources for this transportation sector. One way the federal government addresses this serious security threat is through TSGP.

TSGP is a competitive grant program administrated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, with funds going to the owners and operators of transit systems. Funding is made available for these entities to secure their infrastructure and otherwise protect against terrorist attacks. Examples of possible uses for TSGP awards include surveillance training, public awareness campaigns, detection equipment, security cameras, and the hardening of infrastructure.

President Trump's FY 2020 budget proposes only \$36.358 million for TSGP. While we recognize that the current budget climate makes funding choices difficult, we urge you to keep in mind the consequences of failing to commit sufficient resources to protect mass transit systems used daily by millions of Americans. The small amount of money spent now could be dwarfed by the savings in lives and damage by preventing a horrific attack. Further, costs have increased while TSGP funding has remained flat; this necessitates an increase for the program.

Additionally, imposing a 25 percent non-federal cost share requirement as proposed by the FY 2020 budget only serves to make it more expensive for agencies to accept these awards. This may make them less inclined to take this needed assistance or have a negative impact on other vital transportation services they provide.

We thus ask that you reject President Trump's request for a drastic reduction in TSGP funding and instead increase it to at least \$105 million in FY 2020, a small increase over what the program has received in recent years, as well as to reject the non-federal cost share proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

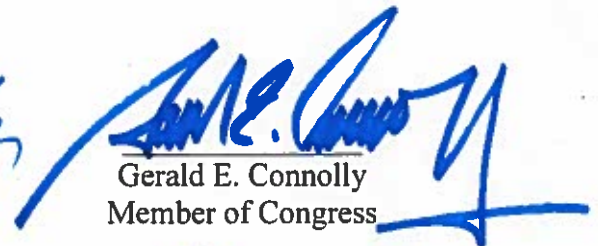
Sincerely,



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

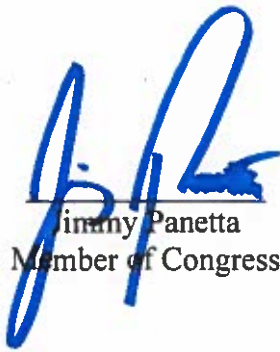


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress




Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress


Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jim Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Max Rose
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

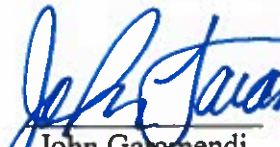

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress


Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

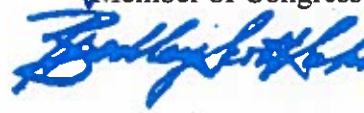

Katie Hill
Member of Congress


Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Andy Levin
Member of Congress


Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress


Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress


Marc Veasey
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress


Andre Carson
Member of Congress


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

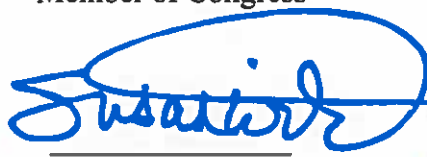

Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress


Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress


G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

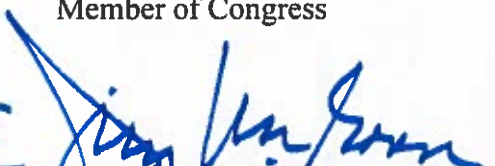

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress


Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Tony Gárdenas
Member of Congress


Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress


Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress

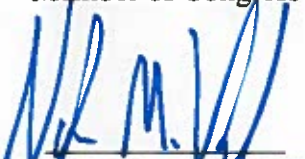

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress


Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress


Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress


Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

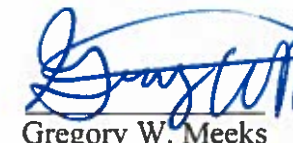

Darren Soto
Member of Congress


Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

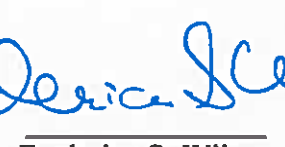

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress


Jim Himes
Member of Congress

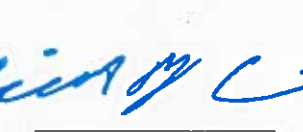

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress


J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress


Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress


Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress

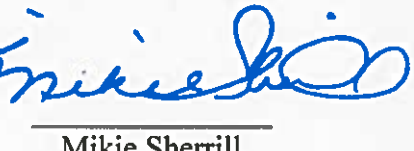

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

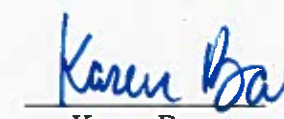

Lucy McBath M.C.
Member of Congress

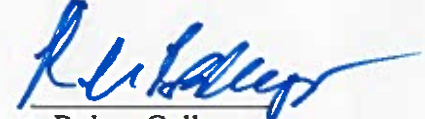

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress


Bill Foster
Member of Congress

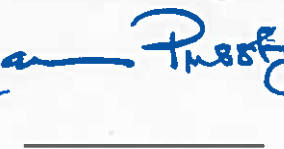

Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


Karen Bass
Member of Congress


Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress


David Trone
Member of Congress


Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress


Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress