

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 15, 2024

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chair
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Katie Britt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murphy and Ranking Member Britt:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations bill, we urge you to support robust funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) preparedness grant programs, including the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG), the Public Transportation Security/Railroad Security Program, the Port Security Grant Program, and the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP). These grant programs are critical to helping state and local governments address our nation's homeland security needs.

In recent years, threats against urban and religious institutions tragically have reminded us of the importance of these programs. These grants are the main source of federal assistance for addressing the security needs of high-risk areas, including cities, critical transportation systems, and port infrastructure. It is more important than ever that we provide our states and local governments with the highest level of funding possible to combat threats and attacks.

The President's FY25 Budget Request proposes increased funding for several of these vital state and local preparedness grant programs. To better address the critical security needs of communities across the country, we respectfully request that each program is funded to no less than the following (either level to the FY24 Minibus, or the President's Budget Request, whichever was higher):

- \$553.5 million for the UASI (level to FY24 Minibus);
- \$468 million for the SHSGP (level to FY24 Minibus);
- \$375 million for the EMPG program (President's request);
- \$100 million for the Public Transportation Security/Railroad Security Program (President's request);
- \$100 million for the Port Security Grant Program (President's request); and
- \$12 million for the RCPGP (President's request).

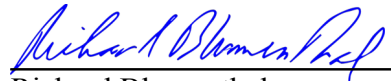
FEMA's grant programs ensure a coordinated, comprehensive federal response to natural disasters and strengthen the ability of our first responders to quickly and effectively respond to national security threats. Without this necessary funding, our country's ability to protect citizens from violent extremists, develop and enhance strategic emergency plans, provide organizational resources and security equipment, and protect our critical infrastructure will be undermined.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request. We look forward to working with you to support these vital programs and ensure our country is ready and able to protect our citizens from national security emergencies.

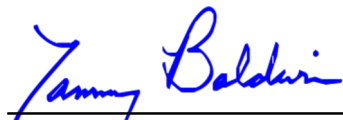
Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



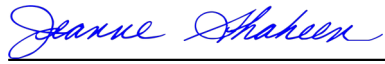
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



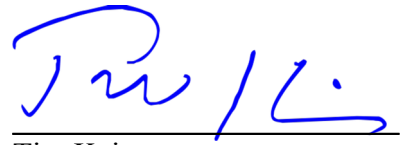
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator

**Homeland Security Group Letter Table
HLS_Durbin_Group_240515-031720[LetterID 19245]**

ID	Sub	Request Agency or Account	Request Project Name	Request (\$000)
168117	HLS Group	[Title III]/[Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)]/[Federal Assistance] [Member Staff] - Jessica Garber Jessica_Garber@durbin.senate.gov 202-224-7104	FEMA Preparedness Grants [Member's Request (text)] - No less than the funding levels listed in letter	\$0