To establish a first responder interoperable communications grant program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

September 8, 2005

Mrs. Boxer introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish a first responder interoperable communications grant program.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “First Responders
5 Interoperable Communications Act of 2005”.

6 SEC. 2. COMMUNICATION SYSTEM GRANTS.

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
8 rity is authorized to make grants, on a competitive basis,
9 to States, local governments, local law enforcement agen-
10cies, and local fire departments to assist in—
(1) improving communication systems to allow for real-time, interoperable communication between State and local first responders; or

(2) the purchase of communication systems that allow for real-time, interoperable communication between such State and local first responders.

(b) Application.—Any State, local government, local law enforcement agency, or local fire department that desires to receive a grant under subsection (a) shall submit an application to the Secretary, in such form and containing such information as prescribed by the Secretary.

(c) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated $300,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010, to carry out this section.