

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 34

Expressing support for the emergency first responders and communities which are the front lines of the Nation's homeland defense.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2003

Mrs. CLINTON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the emergency first responders and communities which are the front lines of the Nation's homeland defense.

Whereas since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our country, first responders—the men and women who serve as police officers, firefighters, and emergency services personnel—and communities all across the United States have found themselves on the front lines of homeland defense in the war against terrorism on United States soil;

Whereas we recognize that the first responders and communities have been forced to bear almost all of the financial burden that accompanies this responsibility;

Whereas it is inappropriate for the first responders and communities to bear that responsibility alone;

Whereas State and local fiscal crises have led to layoffs of first responders and the closing of police and fire stations all across America at a time when the homeland security demands on our first responders and local communities are greater than ever;

Whereas Congress has provided strong support for homeland security through the appropriation of funds to help our first responders and local communities improve homeland defense, but the Senate recognizes that not all of these resources have yet reached our first responders and local communities;

Whereas in addition to the homeland security funding that Congress has already appropriated, additional homeland security resources are needed by our first responders and local communities;

Whereas the strength of this Nation's homeland defense depends upon the appropriation of homeland security resources in addition to the full funding of traditional first responder federal programs, such as the COPS program and the grant program commonly known as the FIRE Act program, which have greatly benefited the American people by helping first responders reduce crime and prevent and respond to fires and other emergencies; and

Whereas we recognize that homeland defense will only be as strong as the weakest link at the State and local levels and that the home front will be better prepared and the United States will be stronger if the first responders and our communities have the resources and tools that they need to bolster emergency preparedness and response efforts: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that Con-
2 gress should fully fund all traditional first responder pro-
3 grams and appropriate substantial additional resources to
4 assist local communities and first responders in making
5 the homeland defense of the United States as strong as
6 possible.

