

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 534

To bring the FBI to full strength to carry out its mission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Mr. BIDEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To bring the FBI to full strength to carry out its mission.

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 “Full-Strength Bureau
5 Initiative Act of 2007” or the “FBI Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Throughout its history, the FBI has been
9 an integral part of anticrime investigatory efforts in
10 the United States.

1 (2) Since September 11, 2001, the FBI has lost
2 substantial capacity and willingness to fight violent
3 crime.

4 (3) The FBI has reduced the goal of combating
5 crime to number 8 of its top 10 priorities.

6 (4) To meet its primary goal of combating ter-
7 rorism, the FBI has reprogrammed nearly 1,000
8 agents from crime to counterterrorism cases since
9 September 11, 2001.

10 (5) While this reprogramming of agents to
11 counterterrorism is necessary and proper, it has had
12 the unintended consequence of precluding the FBI
13 from adequately and satisfactorily discharging its
14 traditional anticrime efforts.

15 (6) The FBI's shift to counterterrorism has re-
16 duced the Bureau's involvement in traditional crime
17 investigations, including—

18 (A) fewer agents to the successful High In-
19 tensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task
20 forces;

21 (B) fewer violent crime cases, as the Bu-
22 reau has reduced the number of agents com-
23 mitted to Federal-State-local task forces like
24 “Safe Streets” and Violent Crime Task Forces;
25 and

1 (C) fewer agents handling bank robbery
2 and white collar crimes, which involve technical
3 areas of investigative expertise that State and
4 locals often lack.

5 (7) In testimony before the Committee on the
6 Judiciary of the Senate, FBI Director Bob Mueller
7 stated that the shortfall of agents has “required dif-
8 ficult choices in determining how to most effectively
9 use the available agents”.

10 (8) This reprogramming has occurred at the
11 same time that Federal assistance for State and
12 local law enforcement has been decimated, including
13 the elimination of the Office of Community Oriented
14 Policing Services hiring program and substantial
15 cuts to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assist-
16 ance Grant Program under part E of title I of the
17 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
18 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.).

19 (9) Local police officials have decried this ap-
20 proach, and the results are becoming apparent, with
21 the largest crime increase in 15 years according the
22 2005 Uniform Crime Reports.

23 (10) The preliminary Uniform Crime Reports
24 for 2006, reported in December, have shown further
25 increases in violent crime across the Nation.

1 (11) The FBI's traditional anticrime investiga-
2 tions complement and assist investigations by State
3 and local law enforcement around the country.

4 (12) Through task forces and other more infor-
5 mal assistance, the FBI over the years has brought
6 an invaluable expertise and resources to help state
7 and local law enforcement in combating traditional
8 criminal enterprises.

9 (13) Even when factoring in assistance local
10 law enforcement has received from the Department
11 of Homeland Security, the International Association
12 of Chiefs of Police has stated, "combined, the pro-
13 posed FY 2006 funding level for DoJ/DHS law en-
14 forcement assistance programs is \$2.158 B. This is
15 a reduction of \$1.467 B or 40 percent from the
16 combined FY 2005 level of \$3.625 B. It represents
17 a decrease in \$2.55 B or 54 percent from FY
18 2004."

19 (14) The FBI has the ability and the mandate
20 to focus both on countering terrorist plots and fight-
21 ing traditional crime.

22 (15) There does not need to be a trade-off be-
23 tween crime and terrorism, but this can only happen
24 if the FBI is given the manpower to be able to do
25 both.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR MORE AGENTS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated
3 \$160,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through
4 2012 to fund 1,000 Federal Bureau of Investigation field
5 agents in addition to the number of Federal Bureau of
6 Investigation field agents serving on the date of enactment
7 of this Act.

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