

In our Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science, and Research and Development, we are focusing partly on technologies, so that we can identify technologies that have been developed and encourage them to be fielded quickly so that we can be safer quickly. And then in addition, we can research those areas where technologies have not yet been developed where there is a need. We will focus on the cyber threat. We are having a hearing, for example, this week to try to understand the nature of the threat, also our vulnerabilities and the appropriate role of the Federal Government. We are interested in the information technology of the Department itself, because whether we are focused on the borders or in many other aspects of guarding our homeland, having good information technology, where the databases communicate with each other, that are user friendly but also secure is a key part of the challenge that faces this Department.

Mr. Speaker, to be successful there has to be partnerships involved, partnerships across the aisle, partnerships with the administration, partnerships with the private sector. I look forward to working with all my colleagues to develop those partnerships and to be successful.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I rise in strong support of H.R. 1416, the Homeland Security Technical Corrections Act. Today's bill represents our committee's first adjustment of the Homeland Security Act. As we have been examining some of the issues pertinent to homeland security, it will be necessary to make other changes to the act in order to provide clearer counsel to the Department as it undertakes its massive new responsibilities. For example, on my Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness and Response, we have discovered that while the Department's main mission is to prevent terrorist attacks against the United States, the law fails to rest the specific responsibility for preventing such attacks with any one of the four directorates; and therefore it is unclear which of those directorates is in charge of this most critical mission. Other examples of how and where fine tuning of the statute is needed will arise as we do our work, and we will act to improve the law.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security became a reality just in March. It represents the largest reorganization of the Federal Government since World War II. This is truly a herculean task, but the Department has taken some important steps to assist our Nation's readiness for emergencies. \$566 million has been made available to the States and the cities from the fiscal year 2003 budget to as-

sist first responders in the form of funding for equipment, training, planning and exercises. \$750 million has been made available for firefighter assistance grants from the fiscal year 2003 budget to help rural, urban and suburban fire departments better train, prepare and equip themselves. On April 30, \$1.5 billion was made available to States and localities from the fiscal year 2003 supplemental budget to help State and local law enforcement personnel pay for equipment, training and exercises and to offset the costs associated with enhanced security measures deployed during heightened periods of threat. On May 14, \$700 million was allocated from the fiscal year 2003 supplemental budget as part of the urban area security initiative for 30 cities and their contiguous counties and mutual aid partners to enhance the security of urban areas with high-density populations.

I rise in strong support of this legislation. I thank the chairman for bringing it forward. I look forward to working to make our Nation more secure.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism.

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time. I rise in support of H.R. 1416, the technical corrections bill for the Homeland Security Act. Mr. Speaker, following the events of September 11, 2001, our Nation began the most significant reorganization of the Federal Government since 1947, all in an effort to better protect America from terrorist attacks. The Department of Homeland Security was founded in an effort to create a centralized authority capable of streamlining and harmonizing our country's domestic security.

One of the clearest lessons learned from the tragic events of September 11 was the need for our intelligence and security agencies to share information and unify their efforts to the most feasible extent possible. Tasked with meeting this challenge is the Department of Homeland Security's directorate of information analysis and infrastructure protection, commonly known as the IAIP. H.R. 1416 will help the directorate achieve the goal of information-sharing.

The Homeland Security Act established the IAIP as a critical component in providing comprehensive threat analysis and management capacity to our Nation and will serve as the primary focal point for intelligence-sharing and analysis related to domestic security.

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IAIP will provide vertical as well as the horizontal information flow that

will allow our security forces, including our local community first responders, to respond as quickly and effectively as possible in executing their mission. As the Department of Homeland Security moves forward in accomplishing its mandate to make America safer, the Director of Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection will have to play an integral role in assuring our intelligence agencies share information with each other as well as with the State and local law enforcement agencies and first responders.

I would like to thank Secretary Ridge and his department staff for their assistance and cooperation with our efforts in Congress to assure the Department of Homeland Security accomplishes this dual task of protecting against future terrorist attacks and preparing our Nation for our Nation's emergency response should an attack unfortunately occur. As Secretary Ridge and the Department of Homeland Security continue their work in this uncharted area, I look forward to a continued successful and productive relationship and urge support for H.R. 1416.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), the vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process under the Committee on Rules.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 represented a monumental undertaking to reorganize multiple Federal agencies with various jurisdictions. This legislation, as amended by the Select Committee on Homeland Security, is an important step in the committee's oversight of the newly created department. Among other things, the technical corrections in H.R. 1416 further clarify the powers and duties of the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General.

Further, the gentleman from California's (Chairman COX) mark addressed concerns raised about the original bill's language that would have potentially placed jurisdiction of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services under the Under Secretary of Border and Transportation. These corrections provide guidance and more accountability by creating a clearer chain of command.

By abolishing the INS and reorganizing its functions, the Homeland Security Act I think made tremendous strides toward achieving a delicate balance between protecting our country from those who might do it harm and those properly seeking admission into the United States.

I look forward to continuing to work through the select committee under the leadership of the gentleman from California (Chairman COX) and also with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) and all of our colleagues to

continue to strike an important balance that we did in the example mentioned of Immigration and Border Control. Under the leadership of the gentleman from California (Chairman COX), we are taking the first of many steps to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is appropriately organized to not only help prevent terrorist attacks through heightened security and preparedness but also to respond effectively in times of need.

Our successes, Mr. Speaker, will depend much on the foundation which we have laid in the framework for this new department, and we will continue to work to ensure that we do so as effectively as possible.

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I consume.

Let me thank the gentleman from California (Chairman COX) for his leadership on this bill and his continued effort to try to mold our committee into one that will accomplish the goal that we all have of building a secure America. I know that when we look at where we are now there are many deficiencies, and we must recognize that the oversight responsibility of our committee is perhaps the most challenging of any committee in the Congress. The reorganization of 22 agencies molded into one Department of Homeland Security is a landmark change designed to be sure that the focus of those agencies is on protecting America, and so I am pleased that the chairman and I and members of our committee have worked closely together to take on the responsibility of oversight which is so critical, ensuring that we mutually achieve the goal that we have in mind.

We all know that we must set the priorities. The priorities for homeland security can never be set unless the Department of Homeland Security carries out that vital function of determining the threats and matching them against the vulnerabilities, and I am pleased that the chairman has provided the leadership that we need to move forward in that area.

There is much to be done, Mr. Speaker, and we must move faster and we must be stronger than we are today if we are going to ensure a secure America. This legislation is but a small step in that direction, and I am pleased to join with my colleagues in support of H.R. 1416.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

I want to return the thanks and congratulations to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), the ranking member, for his leadership and work on this important legislation.

The bill that we are bringing before the House today represents the extraordinary scope of responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security. Although this is a technical corrections bill, it amends portions of the Homeland Security Act concerning the

breadth of the responsibilities of the department, including critical infrastructure protection, visa issuance, first responders, the military activities of the Coast Guard, information security, training for first responders to enforce border controls within the country, war risk insurance, arming flight deck crew on commercial airliners, and enforcing the Privacy Act. Each of these subjects is touched upon in the bill, H.R. 1416, that is now before us.

This committee is going to continue its aggressive oversight. We are going to continue legislating and improving the Homeland Security Act itself, and we are going to continue authorizing ever more resources, both financial and information, as we fight the war against terrorism.

Between last year and the current appropriations cycle, the Congress has authorized and enacted over \$17 billion in funding for homeland security. We have increased funding for first responders over 1,400 percent. Just this year, a few months ago, we added \$3.5 billion additional in a supplemental spending bill for first responders, and later today on the floor we will make appropriations for the next year with an additional \$4.4 billion for first responders.

Beyond money we need to provide information, as the ranking member and I have both stressed here on the floor, we need to share that intelligence information between the Intelligence Community and law enforcement in Washington, and we need to share between Washington and our State and local law enforcers.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that we can win the war on terrorism. I know we are in this for the long haul, but the preparations that this Congress is making today will stand this country in good stead for years to come. I urge support for H.R. 1416.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1416, the Homeland Security Technical Corrections Act of 2003. This is the first bill from our new but very important Select Committee on Homeland Security and I want to thank our chairman and ranking member for their leadership through the difficult waters of protecting our homeland.

The establishment of the Homeland Security Department on March 1 was only the beginning of an ongoing process in defending our homeland against terrorism, as is this technical corrections bill, which we are debating today.

There are still areas where lines of responsibility need to be clarified and cemented, and certain processes need to be streamlined and made more first responder friendly.

The Homeland Security Act is one which treats the Territories fairly, but there is one issue involving the need to ensure that Indian tribal governments are included amongst the governmental entities that are consulted with respect to activities carried out by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security that still needs to be corrected.

I sought unsuccessfully to address this problem during markup of H.R. 1416 in our committee but I expect that it will be resolved

successfully when the bill gets over to the other body.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 1416.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in support of H.R. 1416. The bill makes various technical corrections to the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which we passed in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks to better equip our Nation to prepare for and respond to future disasters, whether natural or man-made.

Since passage of that bill last year, we have come a long way, but there is much work to be done. We now have a Department of Homeland Security, employing close to 200,000 people and assuming the responsibilities of dozens of former Federal agencies. We have sharpened the Nation's focus on the crucial issue of homeland security and given Federal, state, and local officials and first responders the tools to better meet our pressing security needs.

But as the ranking member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, Mr. TURNER, has said, we must move faster, and we must be stronger. When it comes to protecting our citizens, making progress is simply not enough.

One of the most critical shortcomings facing us is the failure of the Department of Homeland Security's Intelligence Directorate to fulfill its role as the nerve center of the new agency. The intelligence unit was intended to be the very heart of DHS, and its effective operation is indispensable to the success of every other division of the department. This directorate is tasked with collecting and analyzing intelligence information from our nation's intelligence community, and then mapping the perceived threats against our vulnerabilities.

It is this process that should be creating the information on which all of our homeland security decisions are based. Instead, decisions are being made, resources are being allocated and priorities are being set without the benefit of this all-important analysis. Meanwhile, the Intelligence Directorate is woefully unprepared to undertake its responsibilities. We must correct this state of affairs immediately if DHS is ever to operate as intended.

So, Mr. Speaker, while I rise in support of this technical corrections bill, I also want to stress how many more significant issues remain to be addressed. I hope the administration and this Congress will turn their attention to them without delay.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1416, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.