



THE POLICE COMMISSIONER
CITY OF NEW YORK

March 15, 2013

The Honorable Thomas Coburn
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

I am writing to express my concern about an element of your proposed amendment, Number 69, to the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act for FY 2013. This amendment would prohibit Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant funds from being used to pay local public safety employees overtime and backfill. Such a restriction would jeopardize our collective efforts to safeguard New York City, which has been the target of 16 publicized terrorist plots since September 11, 2001.

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) uses UASI funding to pay for, among other things: overtime expenses associated with members of the Joint Terrorist Task Force working on major terrorism investigations with the FBI; and backfill expenses incurred by sending members of the service to critical counterterrorism training courses, including a course on active shooter response, which they cannot attend during their normal shifts because of regular job responsibilities.

At times of fiscal constraint, it is essential to direct the limited homeland security grant funds available to the programs that are most effective. Without a doubt, the overtime and backfill funding that the NYPD uses to support investigations, training, and deployments are essential to the NYPD's layered approach to security. I appreciate your attention to this matter and the Homeland Security Committee's ongoing efforts to ensure that New York City will continue to benefit from the most robust counterterrorism program possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Raymond W. Kelly". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "R" and a cursive "W".

Raymond W. Kelly
Police Commissioner