



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Field Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

Evolving Threats: Security and Safety in a Post-9/11 World

September 12, 2023

Twenty-two years ago, everything we knew about our Nation's security changed. September 11, 2001, was a pivotal moment in our history — it left an indelible impact on our country and, of course, New York City. On that tragic day, four hijacked airplanes were used as weapons, claiming the lives of 2,983 people. We continue to mourn their loss and keep their families in our prayers.

To the first responders who served on 9/11 and to their loved ones left behind that terrible day and in the years since, we express our continued, unwavering support to you.

It is fitting that the Committee on Homeland Security is meeting, again, on this hallowed ground today. The Committee was established in the wake of 9/11, so that Congress could do its part to oversee and support those on the front lines securing our country and our communities.

Since its inception, this Committee has worked with the Department of Homeland Security, which was also stood up after 9/11, to secure the homeland and provide grants to State and local partners. We have made — and must continue to make — significant investments in grant programs like the Urban Area Security Initiative, the State Homeland Security Grant Program, the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, and the Transit Security Grant Program. This funding is critical to firefighters, paramedics, police, and other first responders.

I hope the witnesses today will share what we can do to better help them protect communities against the ever-evolving threat landscape. The threat of terrorism persists, but as a nation we are better prepared than we were 22 years ago.

As someone who has served on the Committee on Homeland Security since its creation, I remain committed to supporting first responders and communities fighting this threat, both domestic and foreign. I look forward to your testimony on how the Committee can support your efforts to protect New York City.

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Media contact: Adam Comis at 202-225-9978