



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Markup Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

**Markup of: H.R. 4349, H.R. 4476, H.R. 5574, H.R. 5615, H.R. 5616, H.R. 5633, H.R. 5652, H.R. 5658, H.R. 5681, H.R. 5682, H.R. 5683, and S. 658**

**October 26, 2021**

Today, the Committee is meeting to consider twelve homeland security measures that touch everything from civil rights and civil liberties to port of entry infrastructure and cybersecurity to acquisitions and transportation security. I am particularly pleased that the Committee will be considering H.R. 5615, the Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act, a bill that speaks to an issue that the Committee has identified in the Urban Area Security Initiative Program.

The Committee has observed that the way the program is constituted, it is not uncommon for a high-risk city to suddenly fall out of the program and lose grant funding needed to maintain capabilities achieved with UASI funds. I commend the gentlewoman from Florida, the Chairwoman of the Emergency Preparedness Response and Recovery Subcommittee, Mrs. Demings, for working across the aisle to develop this legislation to require DHS to take a serious look at this issue and come up with a way to provide bridge funding to help certain cities transition the costs of maintaining certain capabilities into their own operating budgets.

I am pleased that a bill I authored, H.R. 5633, the DHS Inspector General Transparency Act is included in today's markup. It would require the DHS Inspector General to resume producing unredacted copies of certain reports to Congress. Under my bill, the OIG would have to transmit reports that substantiate allegations of whistleblower retaliation or an allegation of misconduct, abuse, fraud, or violation of policy by an official in authority.

I also have an amendment in the nature of a substitute to S. 658, the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2021. The underlying bill would authorize DHS to partner with nonprofit entities to assist in providing services, education, and trainings in support of cybersecurity preparedness for state and local governments. My amendment seeks to improve the underlying bill by ensuring that DHS can partner with more than one consortium, making the participation of HBCUs, MSIs, and community colleges a factor in the selection of a consortium, and promoting greater geographic diversity among participating institutions. My amendment was prepared in consultation with the Senate sponsors of this legislation, and I look forward to working with them to move this bill toward enactment.

More broadly, looking at the roster of bills before us, I understand that there is bipartisan agreement on many of the measures and amendments on the agenda. Members are advised that it is my intention to seek unanimous consent for en bloc consideration of those measures for which there is broad bipartisan agreement.

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