



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) *Organizational Meeting of the Committee on Homeland Security for the 118th Congress*

February 8, 2023

Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by welcoming you back to the Committee on Homeland Security. As you no doubt recall from your service during the 116th Congress, this Committee has a tradition and culture of bipartisanship because the mission of protecting the homeland knows no party affiliation or ideology. Last Congress, when John Katko was my partner as Ranking Member, he said this Committee was “where we could rise above partisanship for the good of the American people.”

Mr. Chairman, you will be just the fifth person to serve as Chair of the Homeland Security Committee, which means you have a great opportunity to shape the Committee’s work and reputation. I appreciate how you have already set out to make bipartisan cooperation a key part of your tenure and, ahead of today’s meeting, worked with me on modest refinements to the Committee’s rules. I extend my hand in partnership and commitment to “try and find common ground whenever and wherever possible” just as Democratic Leader Jeffries is doing with Speaker McCarthy.

This Congress, we are fortunate to be joined by so many new faces that will add to the impressive legacy of this Committee. I am pleased to introduce the new Democratic Members:

- Troy Carter of Louisiana, who will be ranking member of the Emergency Management and Technology Subcommittee
- Shri Thanedar of Michigan, who will be ranking member of the Transportation and Maritime Security Subcommittee
- Seth Magaziner of Rhode Island, who will be ranking member of the Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence Subcommittee
- Glenn Ivey of Maryland, who will be ranking member of the Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability Subcommittee
- Dan Goldman of New York
- Robert Garcia of California
- Delia Ramirez of Illinois
- Robert Menendez of New Jersey.

And we are pleased to welcome back:

- Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas
- Donald Payne, Jr. of New Jersey
- Eric Swalwell of California, who will be ranking member of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee
- Lou Correa of California, who will be ranking member of the Border Security and Enforcement Subcommittee
- Yvette Clarke of New York
- Dina Titus of Nevada.

Committee Democrats bring a wealth of personal and professional experience to this panel. I look forward to working with them to address the whole range of issues confronting the Nation. While border security is an important DHS mission, the Department has wide range of critical missions that also demand attention. They include counterterrorism, domestic violent extremism, cybersecurity, infrastructure security, aviation and maritime security, and disaster preparedness and response. Last Congress, this Committee successfully shepherded nearly 50 bills into law that address issues as varied as cybersecurity and school security.

As we begin our work this Congress, I would encourage Members to keep in mind that natural disasters and terrorist threats are not be confined to the Southwest border. Even as we rightfully give attention to conditions at the Southwest border, we owe it to our constituents to work together on the full range of issues that concern them, their families, and communities.

This month marks 20 years since I was first appointed to this Committee. At the time, it was a select committee formed in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Over the past two decades, I have seen the threat landscape evolve from being dominated by foreign terrorist organizations, like al Qaeda and ISIS, to the emergence of homegrown violent extremists, including some who participated in the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol. We owe it to our constituents to remain vigilant regarding the full range of security challenges we face, including those emanating from within our borders.

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