



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Markup of: H.R. 3965, H.R. 4057, H.R. 4058, H.R. 4070, AND H.R. 4071

June 25, 2025

Today, the Committee is considering five bills to improve the operations of the Department of Homeland Security. Representative Correa, the Ranking Member of the Border Security and Enforcement Subcommittee, leads H.R. 4057, the bipartisan “CBP Canine Home Kenneling Pilot Act,” which authorizes a pilot program for Customs and Border Protection’s Office of Field Operations’ canine handlers to keep their service dogs with them at night and when off-duty.

CBP OFO is currently the only DHS component that does not permit officers to keep their working dogs at home kennels. Home kenneling is better for dogs, better for canine-handler bonding, and better for DHS’s bottom line, as it is more cost-effective than contracted kennels. I urge all my colleagues to join me in advancing H.R. 4057 today.

Representative Goldman is the lead sponsor of H.R. 4058, the “Enhancing Stakeholder Support and Outreach for Preparedness Grants Act,” which was favorably reported by this Committee last year by voice vote. H.R. 4058 directs the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide continuous engagement with stakeholders along with educational materials and technical assistance for the State Homeland Security Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative—key grant programs administered by FEMA. The bill also requires the Government Accountability Office to submit a report to Congress on the effectiveness of FEMA’s outreach and support efforts related to these grant programs.

Our communities need the State Homeland Security Program and Urban Area Security Initiative, especially in light of the assassinations in Minnesota and the U.S. attacks on Iran. Increased threats mean our first responders at home need more Federal assistance. It is essential that these grant programs work well and deliver for our constituents.

Before I yield back, Mr. Chairman, I would like to note my disappointment that legislation to extend the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 was not included in this markup, despite its fast approaching sunset on September 30. CISA 2015 underpins essential information-sharing activities between the government and private sector. Robust information sharing is important to our security every day, but even more so during times of elevated risk, like where we find ourselves now. The Committee has heard from dozens of stakeholders—at hearings and in writing—that we must pass a clean extension of CISA 2015 as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I know the timing of your departure is uncertain, but I urge you to prioritize extending this critical legislation. And if this is our final Committee activity together, I wish you well in whatever the future holds for you.

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