



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

*Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Hearing Statement of Emergency Management & Technology Subcommittee Ranking Member Troy Carter (D-LA)**

### ***'How Trump and Project 2025 Threaten Law Enforcement'***

**December 10, 2024**

This is not the first hearing we have held about conditions on the Southern Border—or the second hearing, or the third hearing. The Committee on Homeland Security has held **23 prior** hearings this Congress on the southern border. Yet, **not a single** hearing has resulted in any meaningful solutions from my Republican colleagues.

When they had the chance to do real work—by considering a bipartisan border deal negotiated in the Senate, my Republican colleagues rejected it and yielded to the demands of President-elect Donald Trump, sabotaging a solution in favor of maintaining a political talking point.

This was a bill described as the toughest bill in a generation. This was a commonsense border security bill that would have strengthened our defenses, included new presidential emergency authority to shut down the border when necessary, and provided much-needed personnel and resources to communities. But Trump said no.

Now, Trump is returning to the presidency and we are seeing a resurgence of his partisan agenda taking precedence over meaningful solutions. Project 2025, drafted in part by Trump's new 'Border Czar' Thomas Homan, underscores the Republicans' strategy of chaos and dysfunction. This initiative aims to drastically reduce immigration, dismantle key security agencies, and impose sweeping restrictions on asylum seekers—all while failing to address humanitarian concerns or economic realities that drive immigration.

Donald Trump's planned mass deportations, which will include non-violent and hardworking individuals, will distract law enforcement from prioritizing violent criminals and national security threats. Such policies epitomize the Republican approach: no real solutions, no viable path forward, just chaos.

While I understand my Republican colleagues wish to continue their partisan border rhetoric, today's hearing should have focused on protecting our nation from the increasing threat of natural disasters, which devastate communities every year, causing loss of life and billions in damages.

This Subcommittee has oversight jurisdiction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and it is puzzling that, after one of the deadliest and most costly hurricane seasons, we are not discussing the impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton or how this Subcommittee's work can help disaster survivors.

Under Republican leadership, Congress has failed to pass critical disaster relief measures that could help communities recover from devastating disasters. Despite the Biden-Harris Administration requesting supplemental funding for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) in both June and November 2024, no additional funds have been allocated to help communities recover from devastation.

As we sit here today, Republican leadership is slow-walking the disaster relief package while Americans are without help. Specifically, the Small Business Administration (SBA) announced two months ago that its disaster loan program has run out of funding, leaving 18,000 businesses and homeowners without the critical support they need to rebuild. We should be talking about this.

My District is no stranger to disasters and the thought of Congress not moving with the utmost speed to help survivors is extremely troubling.

Republican's unwillingness to provide critical funding does not stop at disasters. They have targeted Homeland Security grants, which are vital for emergency response and are within the jurisdiction of this Subcommittee.

Today's hearing could have also been about using Homeland Security grant program dollars to better support law enforcement, especially since Republicans pushed for and enacted 10% cuts to the Homeland Security grant programs like the Urban Area Security Initiative, the State Homeland Security Program, Operation Stonegarden, and the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which support law enforcement and communities. Also, Project 2025 has called for these grants to be **"terminated."** All of this is familiar because during his presidency, Donald Trump proposed slashing \$700 million from these grants in Fiscal Year 2021.

As one can see, there is plenty of work for the Subcommittee to do. I look forward to next Congress and I hope my Republican colleagues will prioritize safeguarding our communities from disasters and providing support for those working to keep us safe.

# # #

Media contact: 202-225-9978