



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)  
Full Committee Markup  
July 26, 2017**

I am pleased we are considering a Resolution of Inquiry introduced by Vice Ranking Member Watson Coleman that directs the Department to provide this Committee with information regarding payments made to the Trump Organization or costs incurred in association with the Trump family members' travel on Trump Organization business.

We are in uncharted territory as a Nation. For the first time in history, we have a President who refuses to put his investments and business interests in a blind trust. Instead, the Trump Organization is in a revocable trust whose purpose is to hold assets "for the exclusive benefit of Donald J. Trump." Since President Trump took the oath of office, his sons, Donald Jr. and Eric, have traveled around the world, at great expense to the U.S. taxpayers, to promote business for the Trump Organization.

DHS has little choice but to incur whatever costs are associated with carrying out its protective mission for the President's children but given the scarcity of Departmental resources, we need to know the degree to which U.S. taxpayer dollars are expended to essentially increase the President's personal wealth.

We also need to know whether the Department is doing business with the Trump Organization. We on this Committee have a responsibility to find out whether decision-makers within DHS are favoring the President's company in procurement or hospitality decisions. This information is important to ensure that scarce homeland security dollars are used appropriately and responsibly, in order to carry out the Department's missions.

In addition to supporting H.Res. 447, I also would urge approval of H.R. 2805, a bill introduced by CTI Ranking Member Rice to make the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card program permanent. Additionally, I support H.R. 3202, the "Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act", as introduced by Representative Jackson Lee.

I am also pleased to see legislation I cosponsored, the "Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act of 2017" on the agenda. Mr. Chairman, you and I have been trying to reorganize the Department's National Protection and Programs Directorate for some time.

Enactment of this measure, which includes considerable input from DHS, will ensure that the Department is organized in a manner to effectively carry out both its cyber and infrastructure missions.

Before I yield back, I would note my grave disappointment that at this—our last markup before the August district work period— H.R. 3328, the “Cuban Airport Security Act of 2017” is on the agenda. Last Congress, when we considered an earlier version of this bill, President Obama was actively working to open the Cuban market to U.S. travelers. The current President has slammed that door shut.

To take up precious legislative time on a bill that singles out one country when Secretary Kelly has said that the threat to aviation is “sophisticated and very real” and TSA is working expeditiously to put new security measures in place at ALL last departure airports, including those in Cuba, is inane. I urge Members to vote “NO” on H.R. 3328.

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Media contact: Adam Comis at (202) 225-9978

