

MAR 22 2005

Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland
Security**

The Honorable Jerry F. Costello
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Costello:

Thank you for your letter regarding the efforts by the Department of Homeland Security and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to create a cooperative center on microbial risk assessment.

The award process for this center is a highly competitive process and since the competition on this center is currently underway, this letter serves as an interim response.

The most meritorious proposals from university-based consortium are first reviewed for scientific merit and mission-relevancy of the specific program of work proposed. Additionally, through a site review, DHS and EPA confirm the strengths and weaknesses found in the initial review, leading to an award recommendation and ultimate selection. This review process ensures that the proposal submitted by the University of Chicago, as well as proposals from all other applicants, receives a fair assessment.

Please be assured that upon completion of the selection process, you will receive a final reply announcing the designated university.

I appreciate your interest in the Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If I may be of further assistance, please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-4412.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela J. Turner".

Pamela J. Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

J. DENNIS HASTERT
14TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

THE SPEAKER

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1314

February 10, 2005

The Honorable Tom Ridge
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20393

Dear Secretary Ridge:

We write as Members of the Illinois Congressional delegation to convey our support for the proposal submitted by the University of Chicago, on behalf of a consortium of Midwestern research universities to establish a Microbial Risk Assessment Center (MRAC).

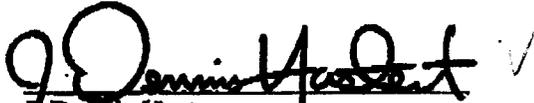
The MRAC will combine teams of risk analysis professionals, epidemiologists, infectious disease physicians, environmental scientists and genomic analysts who will work together with experts in microbiology to analyze the current knowledge of disease transmission and particle dispersion of Category A infectious agents. Included in the consortium are researchers from the University of Chicago, Argonne National Laboratory, Northwestern University and Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the University of Cincinnati, the Mayo Clinic, and the University of Wisconsin.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the University of Chicago and the Argonne National Laboratory have become deeply committed to enhancing homeland security for our nation. The MRAC proposal follows successful applications by the University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory for the Great Lakes Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease Research; a Level-3 Regional Biocontainment Laboratory at Argonne National Laboratory; and a National Microbial Pathogen Data Resource Center.

Taken together, these investments have established the University of Chicago as the Midwest's leader in national biodefense and homeland security research efforts. Funding of the MRAC proposal will strategically leverage these prior investments and augment the critical mass of expertise already aggregated through prior federal funding initiatives.

We support this proposal and respectfully request you give it every consideration for approval and funding. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request.

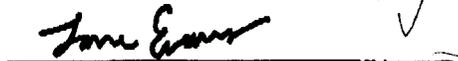
Sincerely,


Dennis Hastert
Speaker

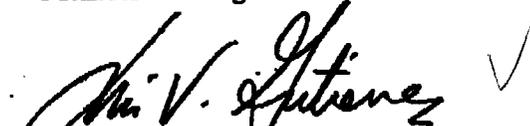

Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator


Barack Obama
U.S. Senator

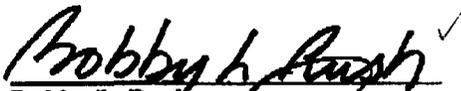

Henry J. Hyde
Member of Congress

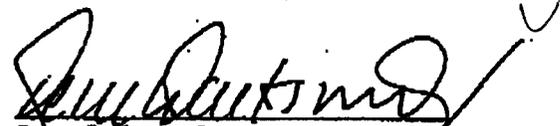

Lane H. Evans
Member of Congress

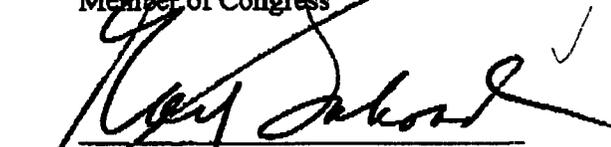

Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress

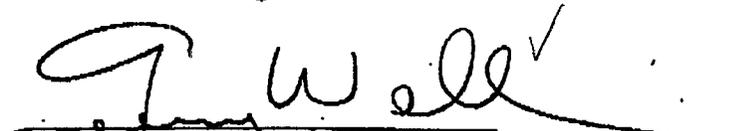

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress


Donald A. Manzullo
Member of Congress


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress


Ray H. LaHood
Member of Congress


Jerry Weller
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Danny K. Davis ✓
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

John M. Shimkus
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Judy Biggert ✓
Judy Biggert
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Jarice D. Schakowsky
Jarice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Timothy V. Johnson ✓
Timothy V. Johnson
Member of Congress

Mark S. Kirk ✓
Mark S. Kirk
Member of Congress

Rahm Emanuel ✓
Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress

Melissa L. Bean ✓
Melissa L. Bean
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski ✓
Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

J. DENNIS HASTER
14TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

THE SPEAKER

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1314

Office of Congressman J. Dennis Hastert

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Secretary Ridge

FROM:

- Bill Koetzle
- Anthony Reed
- Amy Tenhouse
- Jake Abel
- Chris Sarley
- Sally Stackhouse
- Pete Eskew
- _____

FAX #: 202-772-9734

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 4

COMMENTS:

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Rep. J. Dennis Hastert
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2976
Fax: (202) 225-0697

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2005

Ms. Pamela Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Ms. Turner,

My constituent, (b) (6), contacted my office concerning an issue with the Department of Homeland Security. Enclosed you will find information surrounding his case.

Your assistance in addressing this matter is greatly appreciated. (b) (6), one of my staff members, is in contact with (b) (6) and will apprise him of your findings. If you have any questions surrounding this matter or require further information, please contact (b) (6).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-3506

BO/dlb

JUL 27 2005

Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland
Security**

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senator
230 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 2005, on behalf of your constituent, (b) (6)
(b) (6)

The Department of Homeland Security has forwarded this letter to the Science and Technology Directorate and will provide you with a reply as soon as possible. Please accept this interim letter as acknowledgement of receiving your correspondence.

I appreciate your interest in the Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If I may be of further assistance, please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 205-4412.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela J. Turner".

Pamela J. Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 3, 2005

Ms. Pamela Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, District of Columbia 20528

Dear Ms. Turner:

The enclosed correspondence was received by my Chicago office from my constituent, (b) (6)
(b) (6). I hope this information is of use to you.

If you require any further assistance or have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact (b) (6) at (312) 353-7770.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

NOV 07 2005

Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland
Security**

(b) (6)

Assistant Director, Congressional Affairs
Federal Bureau of Investigations
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear (b) (6)

The enclosed communication was forwarded to the Department of Homeland Security from Senator Barack Obama on behalf of (b) (6) regarding a Muslim male named (b) (6).

I believe this matter falls within your agency's jurisdiction. I would appreciate it if appropriate inquiries could be initiated on this individual's behalf, and a full response prepared for Senator Obama.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "PJT".

Pamela J. Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

cc: Senator Barack Obama

BARACK OBAMA
ILLINOIS

703784

COMMITTEE:
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 15, 2006

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Like all Americans, I am grateful for the work of the British intelligence service, combined with the swift response by authorities across the globe, to prevent what could have been a major terrorist attack last week. Unfortunately, in the more than two years since the bipartisan 9/11 Commission released its report, the Administration has failed to implement many of its most important recommendations and still seems to suffer from the "failure of imagination" that the 9/11 Commission identified. As a result, there are too many glaring gaps in our security efforts here at home.

From improving security for our rail and transit systems and our chemical plants, to increasing cargo screening in our airports and ports, the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission have been underfunded, or worse, ignored. Indeed, the 9/11 Commission gave the Administration dismal marks – 5 F's and 12 D's – on the implementation of the Commission's recommendations for homeland security.

Over the past year and a half, I have joined my Democratic colleagues in the Senate on numerous occasions to fight for funding to ensure that Americans are protected from the next generation of terrorist attacks. However, our efforts have been consistently thwarted by the party controlling the White House and Congress:

- In July 2005, just a week after the London subway bombings, Sen. Byrd proposed adding \$1.2 billion for transit security grants and \$265 million for rail security to the FY 2006 Homeland Security appropriations bill. Sen. Schumer also offered amendments to improve the screening of air cargo and to track the shipment of hazardous materials. All three amendments were rejected by Senate Republicans.
- In March 2006, during the consideration of the FY 2007 Budget Resolution, Sen. Lieberman offered a comprehensive amendment to increase homeland security spending that included \$1 billion for rail and transit security, \$752 million for aviation security, and \$150 million for chemical security. This amendment was rejected by Senate Republicans. Sen. Menendez also offered an amendment to increase funding for port security by \$965 million. This, too, was rejected by Senate Republicans.
- And just last month, during the consideration of the FY 2007 Homeland Security appropriations bill, Sen. Schumer and Sen. Biden offered amendments to increase

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funding for rail and transit security, but these amendments were also rejected by Senate Republicans.

In short, Congress' failure to adequately fund homeland security has left our nation vulnerable to attacks.

The Administration also has submitted budgets that have called for decimating programs for first responders. This year, the Administration's budget proposed eliminating the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program and cutting funds for Emergency Management Performance Grants, both critical sources of homeland funds for our communities.

I am also disappointed that the Administration has not taken a lead in pushing for balanced and robust chemical plant security legislation, as Sen. Lautenberg and I have proposed. Five years after September 11, our nation's unguarded chemical plants remain tempting targets for terrorists.

In the days after 9/11, the nation was prepared to join together to shore up our defenses and fight the very real terrorist threat we are facing. Unfortunately, that strong sense of national purpose has been tossed aside in favor of partisanship and political brinkmanship. As a result, we are woefully unprepared today on a number of fronts, including rail, port, chemical plant, and cargo security.

Now more than ever, we need to come together to address the real security needs of the nation. I hope the White House and Congress can work to immediately address the 9/11 Commission recommendations and provide adequate funding to guard against terrorist attacks.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

DEC 11 2006



**Homeland
Security**

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senator
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter to President George W. Bush regarding implementation of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. The White House forwarded your letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for response.

Rest assured that DHS has made every effort to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission pursuant to its Congressional and Presidential mandates and will continue to do so in the future. DHS has made significant progress during the three years it has existed, and strives to prioritize diverse responsibilities and implement all recommendations as soon as time, manpower and budget restrictions allow.

The DHS Infrastructure Protection Program (IPP) is an important component of the Administration's larger, coordinated efforts to strengthen the security of America's critical infrastructure. The Department awarded nearly \$400 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 IPP, which incorporates seven programs that support major critical infrastructure sectors. Programs include the FY 2006 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP), FY 2006 Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP), FY 2006 Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP), FY 2006 Intercity Passenger Rail Security Grant Program (IPRSGP), FY 2006 Trucking Security Program (TSP), FY 2006 Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP), and FY 2006 Chemical Sector Buffer Zone Protection Program (Chem-BZPP). In your letter, you cite what you perceive to be inadequacies on the Department's behalf in the way of securing the nation's infrastructure. The following programs are evidence of the Department's continued focus on preparedness and the security of the nation.

- More than \$136 million was awarded to owners and operators of the nation's critical transit infrastructure through the TSGP. TSGP-eligible rail, intracity bus and ferry systems were divided into two tiers based on risk formulas encompassing threat, vulnerability, and consequences. Since FY 2003, the TSGP's combined programs have awarded nearly \$388 million.
- The Department awarded more than \$168 million under the FY 2006 PSGP, which provides funds to enhance the security of the nation's ports and port facilities. The FY 2006 PSGP emphasizes protection from improvised explosive devices, unconventional methods of attack, and increased domain awareness in the port environment. The nation's 100 most critical seaports identified by the

United States Coast Guard, plus one additional seaport eligible in FY 2005, were eligible to apply for funding under the FY 2006 PSGP. It should be noted that since FY 2002, the PSGP has awarded nearly \$779 million to qualified applicants.

- The FY 2006 IBSGP provided \$9.5 million for intercity bus security grants. The IBSGP provides financial assistance to owners/operators of fixed-route, intercity bus services to protect the bus system and traveling public from terrorist and other threats. Since FY 2003, IBSGP has awarded approximately \$49 million to the nation's intercity bus providers.
- The FY 2006 IPRSGP awarded more than \$7.2 million to Amtrak to continue security enhancements for intercity passenger rail operations in Amtrak's hub in Chicago; between Washington, DC and Boston, Massachusetts; and in key high-risk urban areas, including Seattle, Portland, Sacramento, Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Technical assistance funding will enable DHS to facilitate and enhance these efforts. Since FY 2005, Amtrak, the only eligible recipient of IPRSGP funds, has been awarded \$13.6 million.
- The FY 2006 TSP awarded nearly \$5 million in funds to the American Trucking Association (ATA). The FY 2006 program emphasizes awareness training, reporting of suspicious incidents, and information analysis. The ATA, the only eligible recipient of TSP funds, has been awarded \$50.7 million since FY 2003.
- The FY 2006 BZPP provided nearly \$48 million to states to support the implementation of Buffer Zone Plans outside the perimeter of identified critical infrastructure and key resource sites. The list of eligible sites within each state remains classified for security purposes. These plans are intended to develop effective preventive and protective measures that make it more difficult for terrorists to conduct surveillance or launch attacks within the immediate vicinity of high priority critical infrastructure targets. They also increase the preparedness capabilities of local jurisdictions responsible for the security and safety of the surrounding communities. Since the 2004 inception of the BZPP, the Department has awarded nearly \$139.3 million to states in an effort to secure these critical sites.
- The Chem-BZPP is a targeted effort that provides funds to build security and risk-management capabilities at the state and local level for chemical sector critical infrastructure from acts of terror and other hazards. Based on results of Department analysis, \$25 million was divided among specific areas with chemical infrastructure within nine states: Michigan, California, Illinois, Indiana, Texas, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Each state was eligible to participate in and receive funding under the FY 2006 Chem-BZPP. Specific sites and their locations are sensitive; however, the DHS Preparedness Directorate has provided each state with information regarding identity and location of specific high-risk sites in respective borders.

The 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill provided authority for the Department to implement risk-based security standards for chemical facilities that present high levels of security risk. The measure allows DHS to recognize significant investments that responsible facilities have made in security, while giving the Department authority to ensure high-risk facilities have adequate safeguards in place. This important authority was urgently needed, and Secretary Chertoff applauded the efforts of members of the House and Senate authorizing and appropriations committees.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) have been designated by HSPD 7 to be sector specific agencies (SSA) for the transportation sector. TSA is responsible for rail service security. USCG is responsible for port security and the cargo the ports receive. They are currently working together to develop the Transportation Sector Specific Plan (TSSP), which is directed by the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.

The TSSP is being developed with both private and public security partners' consensus. It will address security issues within all modes of transportation, including the rail, port and cargo infrastructure areas addressed in your letter. Utilizing current protection programs, while developing pilot programs that incorporate current and future security research and development advances, will strengthen current security and provide a strategic plan for the future.

Currently, there are many government-sponsored and -operated programs that focus on rail, port, or cargo security. Below are examples of many in use that will be included in the sector specific security plan. This list does not include private sector programs that will be included in the TSSP that also address security concerns that may be posed by America's adversaries. Information pertaining to past, current and future security program funding can be obtained from DHS Office of Grants and Training.

- TSA Corporate Security Review
- Vulnerability Self Identification Self-Assessment Tool
- Transit Risk Assessment Module Toolkit
- Toxic Inhalation Hazard Tank Car Consequence Analysis and Validation
- Site Assistance Visits
- Risk Analysis and Management for Critical Asset Protection
- Multi-Modal Criticality Tool
- Maritime Security Risk Assessment Model
- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points Methodology
- Freight Analysis Framework
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Bridge & Tunnel Vulnerability Workshops
- FHWA Statewide and Project-Specific Vulnerability Assessments
- International Ship & Port Security Code
- 33 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter H Maritime Security, Parts 101, 103-105, & 106

Lastly, the Department must disagree with your statement that the Administration's FY 2007 budget request eliminated funds for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Protection Program (LETTP), and cut funds for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG).

Under the President's FY 2007 budget request, \$400,000 was specifically identified for LETTP grants. Rather than representing a decrease, the designation of \$400,000 is equal to the amount appropriated by Congress in FY 2005 (\$400,000) and higher than the post-rescission amount of \$396,000 appropriated by Congress in FY 2006. Similarly, the President's FY 2007 budget request identified \$170 million for EMPG. Rather than a decrease, this is the exact amount requested for EMPG under the President's FY 2005 and FY 2006 budget requests.

I appreciate your interest in Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If I may be of further assistance, please contact the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 447-5890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Kent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald H. Kent
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

(b)(2)low

October 4, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

I am writing to express my concerns about administrative and managerial problems at United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Specifically, changes in screening, training, and staffing policies may be weakening the effectiveness of our customs agencies and may make our ports and citizens less secure.

As you know, Chicago is a major hub of international travel and commerce. More than 11 million international travelers fly through O'Hare and Midway airports every year. The Port of Chicago is the transportation hub of the Midwest, linking the Mississippi River and Great Lakes with major highway and rail lines. Chicago is also home to hundreds of your department's employees who protect not only the great city of Chicago, but also the entire country. Chicago personnel were responsible for some of the highest profile terrorist arrests in recent memory. Jose Padilla was arrested at O'Hare airport. Zacarias Moussaoui's examination at O'Hare airport helped lead to his arrest. Many of these employees have approached my office with reports of significant bureaucratic problems at the Department of Homeland Security. A number of disturbing trends emerge in their reports.

CBP employees have observed that in screening international passengers, there has been a managerial shift of focus from enforcement and thoroughness to speed and efficiency. Personnel are pressured to clear a flight-load of passengers within one hour so as not to inconvenience travelers or cause delay. This restricted time frame limits an officer's ability to conduct follow-up inspection and secondary interviews. At the same time, the number of analysts used to prescreen flights has decreased. Combined, these two factors have led to reduced screening for suspected false claims to citizenship, as well as decreased numbers of drug seizures.

I appreciate your interest in the Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If I may be of further assistance please call the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 447-5890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Kent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Donald H. Kent
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

NOV 14 2006



Homeland
Security

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

On behalf of Secretary Chertoff, thank you for your letter of October 4, 2006, regarding perceived administrative and managerial problems at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

As the nation's single unified border agency, CBP enforces the law to prevent prohibited items and inadmissible people from entering the United States, while facilitating the flow of legitimate trade and travel. To achieve this dual mission, CBP must minimize delays and wait times for law-abiding people, yet accurately determine admissibility. Further, CBP must determine when additional inspections are warranted to ensure the safety of the country and its people.

CBP employs a layered approach to enforcement at the ports of entry. This approach includes advance targeting, analysis units, and rover teams. The Port of Chicago has officers specifically assigned to passenger analysis, as well as Counter-Terrorism Response teams that analyze advance passenger information to identify individuals of interest prior to their arrival. Upon entry, all passengers are screened to determine their admissibility and whether a greater degree of inspection is warranted.

If further inspection is warranted, passengers are referred to secondary screening. CBP's process of acquiring advance information, which is essential in targeting international passengers before their arrival at a U.S. airport, may not be widely known, but it is an integral component of its overall strategy and is mandated by law. The Department would be pleased to brief you at your convenience on the critical aspects of its international passenger screening strategy, including the National Targeting Center.

With respect to training, all CBP Officers must satisfy rigorous program requirements prior to reporting for duty at their assigned port. CBP Officers graduate from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) only after completing 72 days of professional classroom training that equips them to conduct passenger processing. Upon returning to their port, CBP Officers undergo a regimented two-year training program that includes classroom, systems, and on-the-job training.

CBP has constructed and distributed cross-training modules, each with a variety of teaching techniques, which focus on admissibility, baggage inspection, as well as cargo

and agricultural procedures. In addition to cross-training, there are many specialty courses that train CBP Officers in Anti- and Counter-Terrorism tactics and the detection of fraudulent documents. Classes have also been developed to address the policies and issues associated with secondary inspection. Most recently, an Advanced Admissibility Training course was developed and delivered at the CBP Academy at the FLETC in Glynco, Georgia.

CBP recognizes that the detection of fraudulent documents is a critical part of the homeland security mission. Currently, CBP Officers at Chicago O'Hare International Airport receive intelligence on fraudulent documents from both CBP's Fraudulent Document Analysis Unit and Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Forensic Document Lab. This intelligence, in addition to the training, assists CBP Officers in detecting fraudulent documents when presented at the port of entry.

Further, CBP is providing state-of-the-art document verification workstations to ports of entry with high numbers of fraudulent document intercepts. The Port of Chicago will soon receive a workstation to better detect fraudulent documents presented for entry into the United States. The ultimate solution to this challenge is having a standardized secure ID and citizenship document requirement to travel to the United States, as recommended by the 9/11 Commission, and required by the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

CBP monitors and tracks staffing needs at its ports of entry and facilities to ensure there are sufficient resources to accomplish its mission. The Port of Chicago's staffing allocation is on target. To make the most efficient use of its resources, CBP managers schedule staff according to safety, workload, and risk management requirements. The implementation of a six- or seven-day workweek is dependent on port operational needs, and CBP Officers are scheduled in accordance with functional requirements. Operational needs, staffing levels, and changes to the national threat alert level all affect the work schedules of CBP Officers. However, CBP Officers are not regularly assigned to work 16-hour days. If any CBP Officer believes that a work schedule is causing fatigue that affects his/her ability to perform his/her duties, he/she has an obligation to immediately notify his/her supervisor, who can make other arrangements.

During initial training on using biometric scanning equipment, CBP Officers are instructed to have passengers use their own skin oil to obtain quality prints. This reduces the requirement to frequently clean the equipment due to heavy wax buildup. As a result, the maintenance downtime is diminished, ensuring that the equipment is prepared for operation at all times.

CBP works to ensure that CBP Officers have the correct tools and technology to perform their duties. Currently, CBP is planning to improve radio transmission inside the Port of Chicago. A new radio system should be in place by the end of this year. When operational, this system will enable all radio users to reach any other user, as well as the Orlando National Law Enforcement Communications Center.

Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, specialization that used to accompany Customs and Border Protection Officers' training has been replaced by more broad-based training. As a result, immigration training is now extremely limited. For instance, officers are reportedly only trained once in the recognition of fake passports, visas, and permanent residence cards, despite the fact that evolving technology is producing more sophisticated and convincing imitations every day.

This lack of adequate training has real-world implications to our nation's security. Earlier this year, Colombia arrested 19 members of a passport-forging ring with links to Islamic militant groups Hamas and Al-Qaeda that enabled foreign nationals to travel in the United States under false documents.

Changes in personnel policies are also having a negative effect on CBP effectiveness. For instance, CBP is changing its shift scheduling and overtime procedures to limit employee input. Mandatory overtime shifts can be scheduled back-to-back with regular shifts, meaning that employees can end up working 16 hours straight. The longer an employee is on duty, the greater chance that fatigue can negatively impact job performance.

Finally, employees have reported shortages in equipment such as radios and basic office equipment. I have received reports that because employees do not have wax fingerprint pads for biometric scanning, they have to ask passengers to rub their foreheads, noses or behind their earlobes to give fingertips the oily consistency required for the scanning machine. Clearly, this is no way to control the flow of foreigners into the country. As a result of these developments, employee morale is decreasing. There are reports that CBP is having trouble retaining personnel, robbing the agency of the experience needed to protect our citizens.

With many people around the world trying to do harm to America, CBP personnel should be given the resources and procedures to thoroughly examine the passengers and cargo that are entering this country. Accordingly, I request that you provide a response to the concerns I have raised by October 27, 2006. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Barack Obama', written in a cursive style.

Barack Obama
United States Senator

Barack Obama

2008 JAN 28 PM 6:08

RECEIVED BY DHS EXEC SEC

January 28, 2008

The Honorable Secretary Chertoff
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

I am writing to request protection for my wife, Michelle Obama from the United States Secret Service.

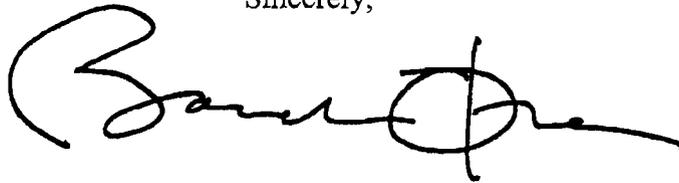
Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3056 (a)(7), the Secret Service is authorized to provide protection to "major presidential" candidates as identified by an advisory committee consisting of the House Speaker, House Minority Speaker, Senate Majority Leaders, and one additional member. On May 3, 2007 the advisory committee met and you decided I was a "major presidential" candidate. I have been receiving protection since that time and pursuant to the same statute would also request that my wife receive the same protection.

If Secret Service is authorized to provide protection to my wife, she will accept this protection as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

Please contact my campaign manager, David Plouffe at (312) 819-2440 or director of scheduling and advance, [REDACTED] at (213) 819-2479 if you have any questions.

b(6)

Sincerely,

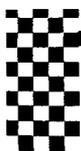


Barack Obama



Obama for America • PO Box 8210 • Chicago, IL 60680 • BarackObama.com

Paid for by Obama for America



om:

01/28/2008 14:59

#127 P.001/002



233 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1100
Chicago, IL 60601
P: 312-819-2008
F: 312-819-2088 F: 312-819-2089

Fax Cover Page

To: Executive Secretary of Homeland Security, Fred Schwien

Fax #: 202-282-9188

Total Pages (including cover page): 2

Date: 1/28/08 Time: 2:00pm CST

RECEIVED BY DHS EXEC SEC
2008 JAN 28 PM 6:08

From:



b(6)

Director of Scheduling and Advance, Obama for America

Fax #: _____

Additional Information:

Please see the attachment from Senator Barack Obama.

Please confirm receipt at _____ or 202-213-9845

b(6)

Thank you!!

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland
Security**

January 30, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for your letter of January 28, 2008, in which you requested United States Secret Service protection for your wife. While the operative statute, 18 U.S.C. § 3056(a)(7), specifies that spouses of major Presidential candidates may receive Secret Service protection 120 days before the general election, the President may direct Secret Service protection in advance of the statutory date. The President has authorized such protection, and I have instructed the Secret Service to initiate it.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Fred L. Schwien, the Department of Homeland Security Executive Secretary, at (202) 282-8221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Chertoff", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Chertoff