



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

September 21, 2016

Chairman Michael McCaul
Committee on Homeland Security
United States House of Representatives
131 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 202515

Michael Gronstal
*Senate Majority Leader
Iowa
President, NCSL*

Raúl E. Burciaga
*Director
Legislative Council Service
New Mexico
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William T. Pound
Executive Director

Dear Chairman McCaul,

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) I write in support of H.R. 5859, also cited as the Community Counterterrorism Preparedness Act. NCSL appreciates the federal government's efforts to provide an additional \$39 million for each of fiscal years 2017-2022 to support state and local emergency response providers in training and response exercises to respond to most likely terrorist threat scenarios.

State and local governments are the primary funding source for the front line defenders who are responsible for the communities they serve. The threat of violent attacks on local communities is complex, multi-faceted and adaptive, requiring collaborative and innovative approaches to detect, prevent, and respond to specific incidents. In order to better prevent and deter such incidents, emergency response providers, law enforcement and state and local leaders need systems in place to communicate and effectively implement response plans. Bill H.R. 5859 will support emergency responder efforts to address the most likely threat scenarios in their communities.

NCSL is committed to working with you and your staff on this bill as it makes its way through the Senate. Please contact NCSL staff Susan Parnas Frederick (202) 624-5400 susan.frederick@ncsl.org or Danielle Dean (202) 624-5400, danielle.dean@ncsl.org with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures