

We agree that expecting the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to report to more than 100 congressional committees, subcommittees and other groups is:

“Duplicative and wasteful”¹
 “Byzantine”²
 “Antiquated”³
 “Balkanized and dysfunctional”⁴
 A “failure”⁵

As a result,

“The nation is not as safe as it could and should be.”⁶

Congress oversees homeland security with a tangle of overlapping committees, leading to political paralysis and making our nation vulnerable to cyberthreats, biohazards, and small boats and planes carrying unknown cargo.

We endorse the recommendation made by the 9/11 Commission in 2004 and echoed by the Sunnylands–Aspen Institute Task Force in 2013.

CONGRESS SHOULD:

Cut the number of committees overseeing the Department of Homeland Security and consolidate primary oversight under one committee in the House and one in the Senate with coordinated jurisdiction.⁷

SECRETARIES, DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Tom Ridge
(2003–2005)

Michael Chertoff
(2005–2009)

Janet Napolitano
(2009–2013)

9/11 COMMISSION

Thomas Kean
Chairman

Lee Hamilton
Vice-chairman

Richard Ben-Veniste
Member

Fred Fielding
Member

Jamie Gorelick
Member

Slade Gorton
Member

Bob Kerrey
Member

John Lehman
Member

Timothy Roemer
Member

James Thompson
Member

John Farmer
Senior Counsel

OTHER SIGNATORIES

Arif Alikhan
Asst. Secretary for Policy Development, Dept. of Homeland Security (2009–2010)

Thad Allen
Admiral, USCG (Ret.); Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard (2006–2010)

Norm Augustine
Under Secretary of the Army (1975–1977); Member, Hart–Rudman Commission

Stewart Baker
Asst. Secretary for Policy, Dept. of Homeland Security (2005–2009)

Bradford Berenson
Assoc. Counsel to the President (2001–2003)

Howard Berman
Representative from California (1983–2013)

Steven Bradbury
Acting Asst. Attorney General, Dept. of Justice (2005–2007)

James Carafano
Member, Homeland Security Advisory Council

Frank Cilluffo
Director, Homeland Security Policy Institute, The George Washington University

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Acting General Counsel, Dept. of Homeland Security (2007–2009)

David Dreier
Representative from California (1981–2013)

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Senior Fellow, Homeland Security Advisory Council

Josh Filler
Director, Office of State and Local Government Coordination, Dept. of Homeland Security (2003–2005)

Ivan Fong
General Counsel, Dept. of Homeland Security (2009–2012)

Dan Glickman
Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture (1995–2001); Representative from Kansas (1977–1995)

Bob Graham
Senator from Florida (1987–2005); Governor of Florida (1979–1987)

Gary Hart
Senator from Colorado (1975–1987); Co–Chair, Hart–Rudman Commission

Michael Hayden
General, USAF (Ret.); Director, CIA (2006–2009); Director, NSA (1999–2005)

Greg Hill
Chief of Staff, House Committee on Homeland Security (2012–2014)

Bruce Hoffman
Professor, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

Michael Jackson
Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security (2005–2007)

Daniel Kaniewski
Special Asst. to the President for Homeland Security (2007–2008)

Mike Leiter
Director, National Counterterrorism Center (2007–2011)

Carie Lemack
Director, Homeland Security Project, Bipartisan Policy Center

James Loy
Admiral, USCG (Ret.); Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Homeland Security (2003–2005)

Jane Holl Lute
Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Homeland Security (2009–2013)

Walter McNeil
President, International Association of Chiefs of Police (2011–2012)

Richard Myers
General, USAF (Ret.); Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (2001–2005)

Rick “Ozzie” Nelson
Director, Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies (2009–2013)

Leon E. Panetta
Secretary, Dept. of Defense (2011–2013); Director, CIA (2009–2011)

Paul Rosenzweig
Professorial Lecturer in Law, The George Washington University

Paul Schneider
Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Homeland Security (2008–2009)

Jeffrey Smith
General Counsel, CIA (1995–1996)

Erroll G. Southers
University of Southern California

John Tanner
Representative from Tennessee (1989–2011)

Lydia Waters Thomas
Member, Homeland Security Advisory Council

Richard Thornburgh
Attorney General (1988–1991); Governor of Pennsylvania (1979–1987)

Frances Fragos Townsend
Homeland Security Advisor (2003–2008)

Jim Turner
Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Committee (2003–2004)

Pam Turner
Asst. Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Dept. of Homeland Security (2003–2006)

Vincent Vitkovsky
Partner, Seiger Gfeller Laurie LLP

Caryn Wagner
Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Dept. of Homeland Security (2010–2012)

Kenneth Wainstein
Homeland Security Advisor (2008–2009); Asst. Attorney General for National Security (2006–2008)

William Webster
Director, Central Intelligence (1987–1991); Director, FBI (1978–1987)

Joe Whitley
General Counsel, Dept. of Homeland Security (2003–2005)

Benjamin Wittes
Sr. Fellow and Research Director in Public Law, The Brookings Institution

Juan Zarate
Deputy Asst. to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor (2005–2009)

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