



## U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/>

For Immediate Release: October 17, 2007

Contact Byrd Press Office: (202) 224-3904

### **Chairman Byrd: Bush's Obstinace on Homeland Security Funding Threatens Safety of the American People**

Washington, DC – Senator Robert C. Byrd, D.W.Va., Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, responded to President Bush's comments earlier today at the White House. Bush, who accused Congress of delaying the enactment of appropriations legislation, has threatened to veto 9 of 12 appropriations bill, including the Homeland Security bill, which invests in key areas that will protect Americans from terrorist attack.

*"The American people want to know that our professionals have the tools necessary to defend the...it's our most solemn duty."* – President George W. Bush.

Senator Byrd's statement is below:

---

Once again, President Bush is presuming to lecture this Congress on our responsibility to protect the American people. At the same time, the President is threatening to veto the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, which passed the Senate 89-4. This is irresponsible. In fact, it is downright dangerous. For far too long, the Bush Administration has funded DHS with spare change rather than real dollars. An overwhelming majority of the Senate agrees that the Homeland Security legislation we have crafted sets us on course to fill significant gaps in our national security and to protect us from future terrorist attack.

Threatening to veto this bill is delaying vital investments in first responder grants, port security, border security, and explosives detection. That is unacceptable. The President's obstinance is putting American lives at risk. He may not understand the need to strengthen our nation's homeland security in these vital areas, but this Congress does.

According to the Administration's own July National Intelligence Estimate, "We judge the U.S. homeland will face a persistent and evolving threat. The main threat comes from Islamic terrorists groups driven by their undiminished intent to attack the homeland."

Today, the President said, "The American people want to know that our professionals have the tools necessary to defend them. It's our most solemn duty." I could not agree more. I hope the President will back up his words with real action, cease his over-blown rhetoric, and realize that homeland security cannot be gotten on the cheap.

###