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 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

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.

SECRETARIES, DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY


9/11 COMMISSION

Thomas Keen Chairman Lee Hamilton Vice-chairman Richard Ben-Veniste Member Fred Fielding Member Jamie Gorelick Member Bob Kerrey Member Thomas Kean Member Thad Allen Member Arif Alikhan Acting General Counsel, Dept. of Homeland Security (2007–2008)

OTHER SIGNATORIES
