

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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

David Dreier
Representative from California (1981–2013)
 Mohamed Elibiyari
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)

To learn more visit:
annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/dhs/

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
JUSTICE & SOCIETY
 PROGRAM

THE ANNENBERG
 PUBLIC POLICY CENTER
 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA