

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 1, 2015

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson:

As a follow up to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing entitled "*Lessons from the Paris Terrorist Attacks: Ramifications for the Homeland and Refugee Resettlement*" on November 19, 2015, we encourage you to hold a hearing examining the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) work with first responders, state and local law enforcement, individuals and communities to prepare for coordinated terrorist attacks.

As the lead homeland security agency, DHS is uniquely positioned to help first responders before, after and during a terrorist attack, as well as provide training and organizational assistance to help entities prepare for attacks. In light of the evolving terrorist threat, we believe a hearing focusing on how DHS is helping to strengthen the preparedness of first responders for terrorist attacks would be beneficial to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) and the nation overall. Providing HSGAC members with an opportunity to hear from DHS on how it is taking lessons learned from recent attacks, including Paris, and applying those lessons to first responder preparedness initiatives would provide a crucial opportunity to learn about areas in need of improvement. Also, such a hearing would provide HSGAC members an opportunity to hear how DHS is building and maintaining relationships with first responders and leveraging existing resources to meet its first responder preparedness goals.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss potential witnesses and other areas of focus for the hearing. Thank you for your time and attention to this critically important matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Heidi Heitkamp  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs  
and Federal Management



Senator Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Federal Spending  
Oversight and Emergency Management