



Senators of Both Parties Agree: Don't Shut Down the Department of Homeland Security

Senator Tom Carper: “To my colleagues who want to do what we can right now to protect our country from the kind of attacks we’ve been seeing around the world of late, I say support a clean D.H.S. funding bill. To our colleagues who want reforms at the U.S. Secret Service, support a clean D.H.S. funding bill ... To my colleagues whose states need to recover from this week’s blizzards or prepare for the next storm, let me just say support a clean D.H.S. funding bill.” [GPO, [1/29/15](#)]

Senator Lindsay Graham: “To my Republican colleagues, we’re playing with fire here. We need a robust homeland security budget now. All of the intelligence eyes and ears are beginning to be deaf and blind because of sequestration.” [CNN, [01/12/15](#)]

Senator Richard Blumenthal: “My hope is we will debate immigration policy ... but that we will keep the lights on at the Department of Homeland Security, that we will shine the light on threats to our security that need to be exposed and pursued, that we will further the security of this Nation and protect the public by making sure the DHS funding as a clean bill is approved right away and that we move forward to make sure DHS continues its vital service to the American people.” [GPO, [1/28/15](#)]

Senator Mark Kirk: “I’m hoping better angels of our nature come forward and we fund the Department of Homeland Security, especially after the Charlie Hebdo attack. I want to make sure that there are no interruptions of essential security services for our nation.” [McClatchy, [01/13/2015](#)]

Senator Patty Murray: “Funding the Department of Homeland Security doesn’t only keep the lights on the DHS headquarters, that funding protects our country from terrorist attacks at a time when the world is as dangerous and volatile as ever. It protects our country and American businesses from cyber attacks ... It supports basic security measures at our airports, at our seaports, and along the border. It is clear the House bill will not pass the Senate, so I truly believe it is time for the majority leader to show, as he has promised, that he will let the Senate and Congress work efficiently. It is time for the majority leader to bring a clean DHS appropriations bill to the floor. Let’s get it done, passed, and move on to the work that is so important to us.” [GPO, [1/28/15](#)]

Senator John Cornyn: “[The GOP will address and defund executive action], but we’re not going to take any chances with the homeland.” [CNN, [01/12/15](#)]

Senator Charles Schumer: “In short, I am perplexed as to why Republicans are playing this game of chicken with DHS funding because the only possible outcome that could come from withholding of a clean DHS bill is the shutdown of several critical post- 9/11 programs within the DHS and the furlough of thousands of workers paramount to our Nation’s security and disaster preparedness. At a time when we need all hands on deck to keep America safe,

Republican efforts to politicize our security would tie DHS's hands behind their back. So I urge my Republican colleagues in the House and Senate to drop this fool's errand and put a clean DHS funding bill on the floor as soon as possible." [GPO, [1/28/15](#)]

Senator Susan Collins: "We do, in order to preserve our institutional role, need to have some response [to executive action on immigration]. I would be concerned if the funding restrictions affected the ability of the Department of Homeland Security to carry out its vital functions." [McClatchy, [01/13/15](#)]

Senator Bob Menendez: "The bottom line is clear: Republicans are doing all of this just to prevent a clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill from being sent to the President, a critical funding bill that the President has rightfully promised to veto should it include their anti-immigration amendments, a veto which Congress will not override. It is a fool's political errand that is neither good policy nor particularly humane." [GPO, [1/28/15](#)]

Senator Barbara Mikulski: "More than any other specific increase, enacting a clean Homeland Security bill shows the Congress and the Nation value. We do value security, and we value the men and women who work every day to provide us with that security. Uncertainty jeopardizes security. We value them. I urge my colleagues to put their money where their mouths are to enact a clean homeland security bill, and not to get into this whole debate with immigration. I look forward—as we wrap up the debate on the Keystone Pipeline, we then take up Homeland Security and we take up a clean bill." [GPO, [1/29/15](#)]

Senator Chris Murphy: "Fortunately, thanks to the leadership of Senator Mikulski and Senator Shaheen, there is a path forward. Yesterday they introduced a clean, full year funding bill that has been endorsed by every Democratic Senator. This is the same bipartisan, bicameral bill that was negotiated by the House and the Senate last year. This agreement includes critical assistance, critical increases in funding for our border security, cyber security, air and maritime surveillance, and biological and explosive detection at our borders. All of these things keep us safe at a time when we know that terrorism is a more real threat than ever, not just to the United States but to our partner countries all around the world." [GPO, [1/29/15](#)]

Senator Richard Durbin: "In light of the terrorist threat we currently face, it would be the height of irresponsibility to shut down the Department of Homeland Security as threatened by the House Republicans. That is one of the key government agencies charged with protecting Americans. Today I am calling on the Senate majority leader for a clean appropriations bill that we moved forward on the calendar this morning. Let's pass this bill. Let's make sure we do it in a timely way. Let's fund this Department." [GPO, [1/28/15](#)]

Senator Jeanne Shaheen: "The best way forward is to provide certainty and stability for the men and women who fulfill homeland security's mission to protect the United States from harm. To ensure our local communities and our States that we are providing the resources they need, we need to pass a clean bill—a clean bill that was agreed to last December. Lurching from funding crisis to funding crisis is a terrible way to govern. It is an especially terrible way to govern when our Nation is dealing with major threats. The clean bill that was agreed to by the House and Senate last December provides a good budget that strengthens our Nation, protects against known threats, properly supports homeland security and those who serve on the front lines of protecting this country." [GPO, [1/27/15](#)]