



**Thomas H. Kean and Lee H. Hamilton, former Chair and Vice Chair of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9-11 Commission) today released the following statement:**

We are deeply gratified by today's vote in the House of Representatives to approve legislation to implement recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. We look forward to a vote shortly by the Senate, clearing this measure for the President's signature.

This conference report implements a substantial portion of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations with respect to the Executive branch. It includes the essential authorities necessary for a strong and effective Director of National Intelligence and National Counterterrorism Center. It contains not only major reforms of the intelligence community, but significant measures to improve aviation and border security, law enforcement, and emergency preparedness and response. It addresses foreign policy, public diplomacy, and transitions between administrations. It creates an independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Board to provide a check and balance to new authorities provided to the Executive branch.

We want to thank all the conferees. We especially thank Senator Collins, Senator Lieberman, and Representatives Hoekstra and Harman, and Speaker Hastert. They did not give up. They refused to fail. This conference report is a testament to their dedication and effort. Congressional leaders in both chambers on both sides of the aisle worked constructively and promptly to bring this legislation forward.

Within the House, we note especially the efforts of Representatives Shays and Maloney and all members of the 9/11 Caucus. Within the Senate, we have many to thank, especially Senator McCain.

We thank President Bush. He, the Vice President and Chief of Staff Card made clear their interest in passage of this legislation, and worked hard on its behalf. The White House helped forge a key compromise, opening the way to today's vote on final passage.

Finally, we thank the families of 9/11. Their presence and dedication inspired all of us to do the very best we can to make a difference, to protect the American people.

A bill as far-reaching and complex as this one will require careful oversight to insure its effective implementation. It will require refinement, over time, as lessons are learned. We remain dedicated to carrying out the reforms recommended by the 9/11 Commission, to make our country safer and more secure.

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