



**January 5, 2005**

**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:**

Last month the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress performed a great service to our country. It passed, and President Bush signed, legislation to update our nation's intelligence and counterterrorism capabilities to meet the threats of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This week Congress had an opportunity to make itself a more effective partner in this endeavor by reforming its own operations.

The House rules package did create a permanent Homeland Security Committee, as we recommended in our report. But the new Committee will not have exclusive jurisdiction over the Department of Homeland Security.

Multiple committees will remain responsible for overseeing parts of the Department, leaving none ultimately responsible for holding it to account. Similar conditions continue to exist in the Senate. Congress's reluctance to reform its internal structures means that Tom Ridge's successor will still be reporting to scores of committees and subcommittees.

In addition, the rules package did not strengthen the intelligence committee in accord with our recommendations.

Until meaningful reform of Congressional oversight occurs, our national security will suffer.

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