



The United States Conference of Mayors

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STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO, PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

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“The nation’s mayors believe the state of the union can only be strong if our cities are strong and safe. Our people need jobs; our states need a hand from Washington; and our cities need the resources we were promised more than one year ago.

“Nationally, cities have spent more than \$2.6 billion on local homeland security needs. Yet, 16 months after the tragedy of 9/11, our first responders have still not received any significant federal assistance to secure our cities. The President and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge understand the importance of providing critically needed resources to our nation’s first responders. We continue to urge them and the Congress to provide these funds directly to cities and to do so as soon as possible.

“Economic security and homeland security go hand in hand. U.S. metropolitan areas lost nearly 700,000 jobs last year and slow job growth is predicted for this year. Mayors support an economic security/stimulus package that would invest directly in cities and create jobs. Specifically, we urge Congress and the President to make strategic investments in homeland security, transportation and housing. We also back general economic assistance to local governments and fiscal relief to the states, whose economies directly impact our cities. We commend members of Congress who have put forward proposals to help our cities and we urge the Administration to support these efforts.

“More than 300 mayors from across the country meeting in Washington last week agreed on these urgent priorities. We look forward to working with Congress and the President to help our cities and their residents.”

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation’s 1,183 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. More information about the Conference is available at www.usmayors.org.

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