

To all 9/11 FSA members and friends:

On Friday October 8, the US House of Representatives passed by a vote of 282 to 134 HR 10, the 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act. The purpose is to enact into law ALL the reforms recommended by the 9/11 Commission. It is fair to say that 9/11 Families for a Secure America with the help of Numbers USA played a role in this success.

Currently, our country commits dangerously few resources to keeping terrorists from crossing our borders illegally and to finding and expelling those already here. Despite the critical situation, Members of both Houses who oppose any increase in border or driver's license security introduced the Collins-Lieberman-McCain bill in the Senate and the Shays-Maloney bill in the House which addressed *only* the reorganization of our intelligence gathering agencies and ignored border and identification security entirely, or included sham reforms in attempt to throw a bone to reformers.

These opponents of border security exploited the fears of many 9/11 family members by telling them that if the final bill effectively addressed terrorist travel and ID that the Senate would kill any implementation bill. This made 9/11FSA's forceful, public support for the House version all the more important. We made clear that those Members who oppose border security could not blackmail us.

In contrast to the Senate's Collins-Lieberman-McCain bill, HR 10 does include significant provisions that will *start* the process of regaining control of our borders and stopping illegal immigration into the US. Thus, HR10 will make it far more difficult for future 9/11 terrorists to sneak across our borders and will also make it far more difficult for those already here to remain.

If the Senate adopts the provisions of HR 10 and the President signs the final bill our security will be greatly improved.

Many people deserve credit for this important bill being passed by the House. Most importantly are: Speaker Dennis Hastert; Majority Leader Tom DeLay; Majority Whip Roy Blunt; Chairman James Sensenbrenner of the Judiciary Committee; Chairman Tom Davis of the Government Reform Committee; Rep. John Hostettler, Rep. Deborah Pryce Rep. Ed Royce, and many others.

At the request of Members of the House, 9/11 FSA sent letters to Speaker Hastert, Chairmen Davis and Sensenbrenner, sponsors of helpful provisions such as Rep. Royce and many others stating our strong support for individual strengthening amendments and also to oppose amendments that would have weakened the bill. These letters were read in full or in part to the relevant House Committees.

Major House Victory for Border Security and Anti-Terrorism Efforts

In addition to writing letters, 9/11FSA members went to Washington to amplify our support of HR 10.

On October 1, a 9/11FSA family member addressed a meeting of staffers of the House Immigration Reform Caucus on Oct. 1. urging that they carry the message of our support to their Members.

On Oct. 5, at the invitation of the House Leadership, nine members of 9/11 FSA participated in a press conference with Speaker Hastert, Majority Leader DeLay, Majority Whip Blunt, and Representatives Hoekstra and Pryce. With fifty members of the press attending, Colette Lafuente, a 9/11FSA member, made a very powerful statement explaining our opposition to the McCain-Lieberman Bill. She made it very clear that Collins-Lieberman-McCain would leave our borders just as open to terrorists as they have been since long before 9/11. Members of the House who attended said that Colette's statement was an exceptionally effective moment in the press conference.

Later that day 9/11 FSA members confronted Rep. Carolyn Maloney and others who supported the Senate version, demanding to know why they would support a bill with no border security provisions. (Rep. Maloney of Manhattan represents a district with many major banks headquartered in or near it, and has fully supported the banks' attempts to have consular ID cards recognized for US banking purposes despite the FBI's testifying that these cards are a threat to US security.)

On the evening of Oct. 7, when Reps. Robert Menendez and Smith of New Jersey introduced an amendment that would have replaced HR 10 with the Collins-Lieberman-McCain bill, Rep. Sensenbrenner read a letter from 9/11 FSA supporting HR 10 in its strongest form. Fortunately, the Menendez amendment was killed.

Finally, on Oct 8, Rep Luis Gutierrez made one final attempt to completely destroy HR 10 in a procedural maneuver. Rep. Hostettler responded by reading another letter from 9/11 FSA.

The House then voted overwhelmingly for HR 10.

We believe that the role of 9/11 FSA has been important. However, we acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of Rosemary Jenks, Rikki Horton, and their boss Roy Beck of Numbers USA. The connections between Members of the House and 9/11 FSA resulted from their devotion to US security and our cause. To whatever degree we participated in the process of passing HR 10, that role would not have been possible without them, or without the support of the United to Secure America coalition.