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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

May 2, 2013

The Honorable John McCain
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McCain and Ayotte,

Thank you for your recent letter to Chairman Carper regarding the Committee's plans in response to the terrorist attacks in Boston two weeks ago. Like you, we were saddened to see four lives cut short, and more than 250 people wounded, many severely. Our prayers are with those affected by this tragedy. We find hope in the many acts of selflessness and bravery exhibited by the citizens, first responders, medical workers and law enforcement personnel who acted heroically in responding to the attack.

Given that our Committee led the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the National Counterterrorism Center, and the Director of National Intelligence, we believe it is important that we understand what lessons can be learned from these attacks, particularly as it relates to the actions of DHS and its interactions with federal, state, and local government partners, so that our nation will be better able to anticipate, prevent, or – if necessary – respond to the next terrorist threat. As you may have heard from our recent announcement, as part of the Committee's overall inquiry into these matters, we fully intend to hold one or more hearings on this issue. We want to work constructively with our Congressional colleagues, the Administration, DHS and others to enhance our nation's security efforts moving forward.

The Committee has already begun conducting thorough and thoughtful oversight, so we can learn what officials did well and what could have been done better – both in the time leading up to the Boston Marathon bombings and in the immediate aftermath. To this end we have already requested additional information regarding events prior to the bombing, as well the government's response to the attack.

We are committed to working with you and other members of the Committee on this important oversight. Thank you for your commitment to our nation's security. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these critical issues.

With best personal regards we are,

Sincerely yours,



Thomas R. Carper
Chairman



Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
Ranking Member