



STRONGER AMERICA ★ SECURING OUR NATION

★ COMBATING GLOBAL TERROR BY WORKING WITH ALLIES & COMBATING ONLINE RADICALIZATION ★

PROBLEM: Our first responsibility is to keep Americans safe. That means a tough and smart national security strategy to combat terrorism at home and abroad and to eliminate ISIS.

SOLUTION: Democrats are advocating a tough and smart national security strategy that is focused on global terrorism, particularly eliminating ISIS. This is the nation's most critical national security challenge. Democrats recognize that a close collaboration with our allies, including our allies in the Middle East, is critical for the success of our efforts. Our counterterrorism efforts are the most effective when we are working closely together with our key allies. In addition, close collaboration with our allies will greatly benefit our intelligence agencies and their effectiveness. Democrats are also calling for more aggressive steps to combat online radicalization here in the United States. We need to use the best minds in our technology companies to help us more effectively counter this dangerous online threat.

★ ENSURING OUR MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY OFFICIALS HAVE THE RESOURCES TO ELIMINATE SECURITY THREATS ★

PROBLEM: Rather than have our military budgets and strategies be dictated by the largest, wealthiest defense contractors and their requests, we need to focus our military and homeland security assets particularly on global terrorism and the security threats to Americans both at home and abroad created by this terrorism. In recent years, with sequestration, we have failed to focus enough on the resources that homeland security officials need to keep us safe.

SOLUTION: Democrats are committed to ensuring that our military and homeland security officials have the resources they need to keep us safe and eliminate security threats. Democrats are calling for the lifting of sequestration, paid for by responsible savings and closing tax loopholes – which would allow us to make new investments in strengthening our homeland security efforts and closing gaps in security. We need to strengthen our homeland security at our airports, in our transit systems, and at our critical infrastructure, as well as to strengthen our cybersecurity.

★ INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE FBI'S COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS ★

PROBLEM: The number of terrorism threats disrupted by the FBI grew from 214 in FY 2014 to 440 in FY 2015. As threats grow, the FBI needs increased resources to hire and sustain the agents and intelligence analysts who disrupt these plots.

SOLUTION: Democrats are calling for increased resources to fully fund the FBI's counterterrorism efforts, in order to stop domestic terror attacks. This increased funding would be used to increase the size of the FBI's counterterrorism workforce, including the hiring of more Special Agents. Additional funding would also be used to increase the FBI's watchlisting and information sharing effort at the Terrorist Screening Center. Finally, additional funding would also be used to boost the FBI's surveillance capabilities, by hiring additional critical personnel. An increased threat environment is increasing demand for surveillance support. Physical surveillance is a critical and essential tool in detecting, disrupting, and preventing acts of terrorism.

★ KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS WITH "NO FLY, NO BUY" AND BACKGROUND CHECKS ★

PROBLEM: If you're too dangerous to fly, you're too dangerous to buy a gun. And yet, under current law, the FBI and the Attorney General are not allowed to prevent suspected terrorists from buying lethal firearms. According to a report by the General Accountability Office, since 2004, nearly 2,500 suspects on the FBI's Terrorist Watch List have successfully purchased weapons in the United States. Indeed, 91 percent of all suspected terrorists who attempted to

purchase guns in the last 12 years walked away with the weapon they wanted.

SOLUTION: Democrats are committed to passing the following two bipartisan commonsense gun safety measures:

- Democrats will fight to pass the **bipartisan “No Fly, No Buy” bill (H.R. 1076)**, which would close the dangerous loophole that allows terrorist suspects to legally buy deadly weapons. This legislation has the support of 85 percent of the American people.
- Democrats will also fight to pass the **bipartisan King-Thompson Background Check Bill (H.R. 1217)**, which closes the background check loophole by requiring background checks for all commercial gun sales such as those made over the internet or at gun shows. Currently, it is estimated that about 40 percent of commercial sales are done without a background check. This legislation has the support of 92 percent of the American people.

★ IMPROVING THE SECURITY AT AIRPORT PERIMETERS AND THE SCREENING OF INCOMING AIRLINE PASSENGERS ★

PROBLEM: Recent terrorist incidents in the unsecure areas of airports have raised questions about just how secure airports are. In March, two bombs were detonated at the ticket hall in the Brussels Airport, killing 32 people. In late June, a bomb was detonated and a shooting occurred inside the entrance of the airport in Istanbul, killing 45 people. Furthermore, the United States needs to have its best-trained Department of Homeland Security personnel stationed at overseas airports for the thorough vetting and screening of passengers before they get on a plane bound for the United States.

SOLUTION: Democrats are calling for two key steps to improve aviation security:

- Democrats are calling upon the TSA to follow the recommendations of GAO and develop a plan for securing the parts of airports outside the formal security zone that passengers must pass through to board an aircraft – commonly known as the airport perimeter. Once this plan is developed, Democrats are calling for resources to be devoted to investing in this enhanced security at airport perimeters, including an increase in the number of security personnel.
- Democrats will also fight to pass the **Expanding DHS Overseas Passenger Security Screening and Vetting Operations Act (H.R. 5256)**. To prevent terrorists and other dangerous people from entering the United States, this bill would strengthen DHS overseas operations by stationing significantly more well-trained DHS personnel at overseas airports to conduct thorough screening and vetting of all passengers boarding planes to the United States.