

NEWS ALERT



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Homeland Security Committee

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson

H.R.6193: “The Improving Public Access to Documents Act of 2008”

June 10, 2008 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 6193: “The Improving Public Access to Documents Act of 2008”:

“Almost eight years after 9/11, we are still in need of more and better ways to share information. That means not only from agency to agency, but also with the private sector and the public.

If we’re going to be a nation that is free of fear, we must know what the threats are and prepare for them. Because most people don’t have security clearances, the best way to get folks up to speed is by sharing unclassified information. I am pleased to hear that the White House has finally approved Ambassador McNamara’s long awaited Controlled Unclassified Information Framework.

The elimination of over a hundred Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) designations will make it easier to share information. It will also help end the ongoing confusion caused by a lack of standards.

I’m equally pleased by your consultation with privacy, civil liberties, and government oversight experts as part of your drafting process. Their involvement ensures your bill will have the broad support it needs inside and outside of government to succeed.”

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