



U.S. Senator
Mary L. Landrieu
Louisiana



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Senate Appropriations Committee Passes Homeland Security Bill

Key Landrieu provisions for LSU, police and fire stations and FEMA included in legislation.

WASHINGTON -- The Senate Appropriations Committee today passed the fiscal year 2009 Homeland Security Appropriations bill containing two amendments authored by United States Senator Mary Landrieu, D-La. The first is a provision for the reconstruction of police stations, fire stations and criminal justice facilities in areas affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the failure of the federal levee system. The second Landrieu-authored amendment provides \$3.2 million for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to improve its temporary workforce. The overall bill contains \$41.3 billion for the Department of Homeland Security.

"This bill contains considerable benefits for Louisiana and many provisions that I am happy to support," Sen. Landrieu said. "Notably, I am pleased to have secured funding that will simplify the rebuilding process for our fire stations and law enforcement facilities, so that they are able to receive a single FEMA payment for reconstruction in place of having to sort through a bureaucratic nightmare as they struggle to recover.

"It is also great news that FEMA will be receiving the funding it requires to create a standardized training and credentialing process for 140 different positions within its reserve workforce. With this protocol in place, temporary workers will be better prepared and more consistent in their decision making."

The amendment for police and fire station reconstruction was passed through the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on April 10. It also eliminates FEMA-imposed penalties on local governments that improve police and fire station structures as they rebuild, rather than merely replicating a hurricane-destroyed building.

The underlying legislation further supports our first responders by fully restoring funding for first responder grants, which the President proposed to cut by half. These include grants for firefighter equipment and personnel, port security, bus/transit/rail security, emergency planning, and interoperable communications.

Sen. Landrieu also secured \$22 million in the Homeland Security bill for a project for Louisiana State University's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training,

which is part of a consortium of schools and national centers that works to enhance the preparedness of federal, state, local and tribal emergency responders.

"I'm both pleased and proud that LSU's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training is scheduled to receive \$22 million as a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium," said LSU Chancellor Dr. William L. Jenkins. "On behalf of the university, I would like to thank Senator Landrieu for her tireless efforts, which resulted in this unprecedented show of support.

"With this additional funding, NCBRT will surpass \$150 million since the program was first established 10 years ago. NCBRT plays a vital role in fulfilling LSU's commitment to public service. First responders across the nation are better prepared than ever to face threats because of what they have learned through LSU's NCBRT."

The bill provides \$2.7 million for the Gulf Coast Coordinator's office, and more than \$200 million to add 57 new permanent Public Assistance positions within FEMA. This funding is accompanied by Landrieu language that stresses the need to use full-time employees in the Public Assistance Program and provide significantly better training to its temporary workforce.

Other provisions in the bill include:

- \$750 million for border fencing and technology, and funding for 2,200 new border patrol agents, 143 new customs officers, 125 new worksite enforcement officers and 1,400 new detention beds.
- \$160 million to deport illegal aliens who are violent criminals.
- More than \$1 billion for the Coast Guard's Deepwater Acquisitions to modernize their air and sea assets, as well as funding for 328 new Coast Guard personnel and 36 new patrol boats.

The bill now goes to the full Senate for its consideration.