

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Stephen Piepgrass (Pence) (202) 225-3021
Neil Bradley (RSC) (202) 226-9717

RSC FORMS TASKFORCE TO MONITOR NEW HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT

*Republican Study Committee's Security First Taskforce will ensure
new department is consistent with President's vision*

WASHINGTON, DC – The Republican Study Committee today announced the formation of the Security First Taskforce to monitor the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. The Taskforce will seek to ensure the new department remains true to President Bush's vision of improved homeland security without creating a bloated new bureaucracy.

As the President's proposal makes its way through the legislative process in the House and Senate, the Security First Taskforce will analyze whether each committee's recommendation remains true to the President's vision.

The criteria for the Taskforce's evaluation system are as follows:

- 1) Does the recommendation actually strengthen homeland security, as the President proposed?
- 2) Does the recommendation hold the line on the federal budget and the size of the bureaucracy, as the President proposed?
- 3) Does the recommendation include adequate protections for civil liberties, as the President proposed?
- 4) Does the recommendation include reasonable measures to ensure accountability and flexibility, as the President proposed?

The Security First Taskforce includes the following Members:

Rep. Mike Pence (chairman)
Rep. Ernest Istook
Rep. Melissa Hart
Rep. Jeff Flake
Rep. Roscoe Bartlett
Rep. Jim Ryun

Rep. Bob Barr
Rep. John Culberson
Rep. Pat Toomey
Rep. Van Hilleary
Rep. Tom Tancredo

"I am pleased to announce the formation of the Security First Taskforce," said Taskforce Chairman Mike Pence. "The creation of the new Department of Homeland Security provides an historic opportunity to provide a higher level of security for the American people. Unfortunately, all too often, Congress has used similar 'overhauls' as an excuse to expand an already bloated federal bureaucracy and make unwarranted intrusions into the lives of citizens. It is our hope that the Security First Taskforce will shed light on potential excesses and prevent them from being included in the legislation authorizing this new department."