

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Noem,

We are writing to urge the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to immediately publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program, as required under current law.

Through the UASI program, FEMA provides critical assistance to urban areas to help them prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other disasters. These grants have been particularly important to supporting Southern Nevada's emergency preparedness and counterterrorism capabilities.

On October 1, 2017, a mass shooting at the Route 91 Harvest festival in Las Vegas tragically claimed the lives of 60 people. To this day, it remains the deadliest mass shooting in United States history. According to an analysis conducted by FEMA in 2019, the agency's preparedness grants, including UASI, played a significant role in the Las Vegas urban area's ability to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to the mass shooting.

For example, prior to the Route 91 Harvest festival, the Las Vegas urban area and the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management/ Homeland Security used UASI funds to purchase 298 sets of ballistic personal protective equipment (PPE). During the incident on October 1st, these PPE vests allowed fire and EMS personnel to access the "warm zone" of the incident to help the wounded and extract survivors.

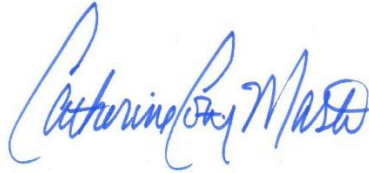
Given the track record of these grants keeping our constituents safe, we are deeply concerned that the Department of Homeland Security has missed the statutory deadline to publish a NOFO for UASI, the first step in administering these grants. Section 303 of Division C of Public Law 118-47 requires FEMA to make applications for Federal Assistance grants, including UASI, available to eligible applicants no later than 60 days after the enactment of the law. According to that timeline, the grants should have been made available by May 16, 2025. This critical assistance cannot and should not be delayed any further. The safety and security of our communities are on the line.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus
United States House of
Representatives



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate



Susie Lee
United States House of Representatives



Steven Horsford
United States House of Representatives