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Chairman's Statement on Enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Bill

WASHINGTON, DC (October 7) – *House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Silvestre Reyes of Texas issued the following statement after the President signed H.R. 2701, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010:*

“Today, with his signature, the President ended a six-year gap in enacting intelligence authorization bills into law. This bill, now signed into law, includes several critical reforms that enhance congressional oversight, encourage fiscal responsibility, and promote greater accountability in the Intelligence Community.

“In the years since the enactment of the 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and many key intelligence agencies identified shortfalls in that legislation and other much-needed modifications to assist them in their mission to keep our nation safe. In the absence of authorization bills, Congress has been unable to change laws and alter important policies.

“After months of bipartisan discussions between the House and Senate Intelligence Committees, the congressional leadership, and the White House, we have succeeded in delivering a law with reforms that will far outlast the fiscal year. As one leader in the Intelligence Community told me, the signing of this bill will have an immediate impact on information sharing.

“The enactment of H.R. 2701 puts the intelligence committees back in the business of authorizing. It represents substantial gains for congressional oversight of national security. More importantly, this law gives the Community the tools it needs to keep America safe.”

H.R. 2701, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, provides policy guidance for the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the 16 agencies of the Intelligence Community. The version of the bill enacted into law does not include a classified annex or schedule of authorizations. The legislative provisions in the bill make changes to permanent law.

H.R. 2701 was agreed to by unanimous consent in the Senate on Monday, September 27th, and the House approved the bill, as amended by the Senate, with a vote of 244-181 on Wednesday, September 29th. Chairman Reyes attended today's official signing ceremony, which was held in the Oval Office of the White House.