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## **Experts Praise Nuclear Security Funding; Call on Congress to Resist Pressure for Cuts**

Washington, DC - Nuclear security experts praised initial congressional action on the President's budget request for nuclear security, but warned that election year pressure might result in cuts to programs that help keep vulnerable nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists.

Alexandra Toma, Program Director at the Connect U.S. Fund and Co-Chair of the Fissile Materials Working Group (FMWG) said, "It is unnerving to consider that pressures posed by the 2010 congressional elections may potentially lead to compromises in the nuclear security funding that the Administration has proposed to make Americans safer."

Both the House and the Senate Armed Services Committees approved measures that fully funded the Obama administration's \$2.7 budget request for Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation programs, but members are likely to face pressure to divert funds towards more domestically popular programs in an election year.

"The actions last week by the Senate Armed Services Committee and the full House of Representatives in providing full funding for the nuclear proliferation programs of the Energy Department are important steps in meeting the administration's goal of securing all vulnerable bomb-grade nuclear material in four years," said David Culp, Legislative Representative for the Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quakers) and a member of the FMWG. "The next test will be the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, where nonproliferation goals will be competing with domestic energy, science, and water programs."

A nuclear terrorist attack anywhere in the world would have a ruinous impact on the U.S. and global economy. Any response to a successful attack will cost billions, dwarfing the proposed budgets for preventing it. In 2010, U.S. nuclear security spending represents about one-third of 1% of total defense spending.

In an [op-ed published in today's edition of The Hill](#), Toma and FMWG Co-Chair Kenneth Luongo, urge Congress to "to act on that request to ensure nuclear materials stay out of the hands of terrorists."

The Fissile Materials Working Group (FMWG) is a coalition of more than 40 leading experts and NGOs in nuclear security. It was formed to support and help implement the goal of securing all vulnerable fissile materials as quickly as possible.

For more information, visit [www.fmwg.org](http://www.fmwg.org).

