

Rothman Statement On House Passage of Intelligence Reform Bill

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Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today issued the following statement regarding passage in the House of an intelligence reform bill. Rothman voted for the measure, but pledged to continue fighting for even more reforms.

"The intelligence reform bill I voted for and helped pass in the House today will aid in our efforts to prevent another terrorist attack against the United States. Among other things, the measure creates a national intelligence director, establishes a national counterterrorism center, and improves border security, all of which are critical to successfully defending our country. While these improvements are very much needed, I believe we could and should do more to safeguard this nation.

"Last night, the House voted on a Democratic version of an intelligence reform bill that was based on the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and endorsed by the group representing the families of 9/11 victims, as well as the 9/11 Commission Congressional Caucus of which I am a member. I voted for that bill. Unfortunately, that measure failed in the House by a vote of 203 to 213. By the way, that bill was identical to the Senate intelligence reform bill that had passed the Senate yesterday by a vote of 96-2. Today, the intelligence reform bill advocated by a majority of the House differed from the House Democrat and Senate bills. I voted for today's House measure even though I believe a stronger, more comprehensive intelligence reform bill is needed. Fortunately, Members of the House-Senate Conference Committee will now have the opportunity to work together to reconcile the differences of the two measures and produce a final intelligence reform bill that improves upon and incorporates the strengths of each version."

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