

General Talking Points Against Mr. Flake's -- #16 Amendment Concerning the Over-the-Road Bus Grant Program

- This amendment will strike the section for over-the-road bus grants.
- This is not a new program. Over-the-road bus security grants have been appropriated every year since 2002, including \$12 million in FY07.
- Almost 800 million people ride over-the-road buses annually.
- Over 3,000 communities have daily, fixed route service, and non-fixed route operators serve virtually all tourism destinations in the country.
- Fixed route, intercity buses serve 16 Canadian and Mexican border crossings with 359 daily schedules and at least as many charter and tour buses cross those borders every day.
- Bus passengers have been the victims of many security incidents. Buses and bus terminals continue to be a primary target of suicide

bombers in Iraq, Israel, Pakistan and elsewhere in the world. Worldwide, over the last 80 years, 47% of surface transportation terrorist attacks have involved buses.

- Buses and bus terminals tend to be the most publicly accessible of any passenger transportation mode. Since 9/11, Greyhound alone has experienced dozens of driver attacks and other serious security incidents.
- Bus companies have invested heavily in upgrading bus security, but Federal funding provided to date has been essential to supplement the efforts to make this critical transportation mode secure.
- Those Federal funds have enabled companies to screen millions of passengers, install driver shields and/or emergency communications systems on thousands of buses, upgrade security infrastructure at dozens of terminals and garages, and provide security training for thousands of employees.

- The funds authorized by the bill, \$12 million in FY08 and \$25 million annually in FY09-FY11, will enable those vital efforts to continue.