



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4302
June 23, 2016

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20050

Mr. President:

I am writing today to inquire about the status of a report required by law, according to Section 704 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (P.L. 114-113). This provision required a report on the U.S. government's counterterrorism strategy to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat the Islamic State, al-Qaeda, and their affiliated groups no later than June 18, 2016.

In August 2014, following ISIS' notorious announcement of the establishment of its so-called caliphate in Iraq and Syria, you told the American public that "We don't have a strategy yet," to defeat the terrorist group. Two years later, as ISIS built up over 40 global affiliates, Marine Lt. Gen. Thomas Waldhauser testified to Congress that the Administration still lacks "any overall grand strategy at this point." As a result of our seemingly unstructured and ad-hoc efforts to counter ISIS, CIA Director John Brennan testified earlier this month that "our efforts have not reduced the group's terrorism capability and global reach." My deep concern is that in the absence of a coherent and comprehensive strategy to defeat ISIS, we could well be in the same position two years from now.

That is precisely why the Omnibus passed last December required a report detailing such a comprehensive strategy. I respectfully ask you to explain exactly why this statutory reporting requirement was not met, especially in light of its importance to U.S. national security. Additionally, please indicate who has been tasked to produce the required strategy to defeat ISIS, a status update of what has been done to date and what remains to be done, and a date by which the report in question will be delivered to Congress.

Mr. President, since the Omnibus became law in December 2015, at least a dozen ISIS inspired attacks have targeted Western countries, including two targeting the U.S. that killed dozens of Americans. I fear that our inability to effectively craft a strategy to defeat this international menace will only mean more attacks on the homeland and more American casualties. I respectfully ask that you abide by the law and provide the American people with a strategy to defeat ISIS, al Qaeda, and their affiliated groups. Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Ted Poe
Member of Congress