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Contact: Kira Maas (Reyes): 202-225-4831 (office), 202-225-2912 (cell)

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FY2008 Intelligence Authorization Conference Report Cleared for Floor

Washington, D.C. – Chairman Silvestre Reyes, D-TX, of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, released the following statement on the successful filing of the House-Senate conference report of H.R. 2082, the fiscal year 2008 Intelligence Authorization Act, clearing the bill for consideration on the floor of the U.S. House:

“This is strong legislation that provides full funding for our intelligence professionals,” said Chairman Reyes. “It makes critical investments in human intelligence, counterterrorism operations, counterproliferation, analysis, and language skills. It promotes sound personnel practices, diversity within the intelligence community and accountability to Congress. This conference report deserves bipartisan support and I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to support it.”

FUNDING

For the first time, this Intelligence Authorization conference report authorizes both the Intelligence Community (IC) base budget and a full year of supplemental funding. It also:

- Fully funds activities to accelerate key global counterterrorism activities, including the pursuit of Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda and other terrorists;
- Adds significant additional funding for Advanced Research and Development to help the Intelligence Community maintain its technical edge, and includes funds to pursue research into global climate change;
- Funds initiatives to repair and replace aging and inadequate infrastructure; and
- Adds funds to improve training and education of linguists, analysts and Human Intelligence collectors.

OVERSIGHT

The conference report enhances the oversight of the IC by:

- Creating a statutory, Senate-confirmed IC Inspector General with the authority to inspect, audit and investigate activities across the IC;
- Requiring Senate confirmation for Directors of the National Security Agency and National Reconnaissance Office;
- Requiring a report on compliance with the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005 and related provisions of the Military Commissions Act of 2006 regarding detentions and interrogations, as well as Justice Department legal opinions related to these activities; and
- Mandating semi-annual reports on the nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea.

MANAGEMENT

The conference report will provide important enhancements to IC acquisition and personnel management tools, including provisions designed to:

- Increase accountability in the acquisition and development of major systems;
- Prevent excessive cost growth of major systems;
- Increase accountability for and limits on the use of contractors;
- Grant IC agencies the ability to convert contractor positions to full-time government positions;
- Improve workplace diversity and foreign language proficiency; and
- Help better protect the identities of intelligence officers and agents.