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Washington, D.C. -- Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, Ranking Member Jane Harman (D-CA) and seven other members of the House Intelligence Committee introduced H.R. 4104, the Intelligence Transformation Act, today to improve the Intelligence Community's leadership, management, and performance on the new threats of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

"Winning the war on terror is the most important challenge facing our country and to do this the reform of the Intelligence Community must be undertaken immediately," said Eshoo, D-Palo Alto.

The following are key portions of the Intelligence Transformation Act:

- Establishes a Director of National Intelligence (DNI) separate from the CIA Director with new authorities to manage resources, classification and personnel security clearances. The DNI will serve as the principle intelligence adviser to the President, with authority to coordinate the activities of all 15 agencies that make up the entire Intelligence Community. Currently, the CIA Director does not have this authority.

- Creates an Alternative Analysis Unit, or "Red Team" to challenge the conclusions of the Intelligence Community, helping ensure that outdated assumptions or ideological biases don't tarnish our National Intelligence Estimates or other key intelligence products.

- Requires the creation of common databases, networks, and sources from which all intelligence agencies from the CIA to the Department of Homeland Security will be able to draw on for information. The failure to share information across agencies has been identified as central to allowing at least two of the September 11th hijackers to live openly in the United States for months before the attacks.

- Creates a Joint Tasking Organization to establish priorities for collection, analysis and dissemination for all elements of the Intelligence Community. This will help break down the stovepipes that prevented intelligence agencies from cooperating effectively prior to September 11th and the Iraq war. Similar reforms of the military in the 1980's led to direct improvements in the services' abilities to fight jointly.

- Creates a WMD Proliferation Threat Integration Center with the mission of providing a thorough analysis and close collaboration on the WMD proliferation threat. Such a center could have helped us assess the WMD threat from Iraq

more effectively before going to war.

"We cannot and should not wait until after the November elections or sometime in 2005 to begin making the critical changes to improve our national security which protects the American people," Eshoo said.

The introduction of the Intelligence Transformation Act coincides with a letter sent to President Bush by Rep. Eshoo and the other co-sponsors calling on the Administration to acknowledge shortcomings in pre-war Iraq intelligence and to implement ten immediate steps to improve intelligence collection and analysis capabilities.

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