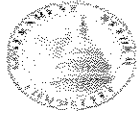


United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

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**** MEDIA ADVISORY ****

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Contact: Robert Briggs

Shays to Convene Hearing on Vulnerabilities of Visas

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations today announced the Subcommittee will convene an oversight hearing to identify steps the Department of State and Homeland Security have made since 9/11 to address gaps and vulnerabilities in the visa process.

The hearing, entitled, "Combating Terrorism: Visas Still Vulnerable," will take place on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building.

At the hearing, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) will issue a new report entitled, "Border Security: Strengthened Visa Process Would Benefit from Improvements in Staffing and Information Sharing." Other witnesses will include representatives from the Department of State Office of Inspector General and the Departments of State and Homeland Security.

Witness List

Panel I

Mr. Jess T. Ford

Director, International Affairs and Trade Division
U.S. General Accounting Office

Ambassador John E. Lange

Deputy Inspector General
U.S. Department of State

Mr. Tony Edson

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Visa Services
Bureau of Consular Affairs
U.S. Department of State

Ms. Elaine Dezenski

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy
Border and Transportation Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Panel II

The Honorable Clark Kent Ervin

Director, Homeland Security Initiative
Aspen Institute

Dr. James J. Carafano

Senior Fellow
The Heritage Foundation

Ms. Susan Ginsberg

Former Senior Counsel
National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States
("9/11 Commission")

Mr. John Daniel Morris

Retired Consul General
U.S. Mission to Beijing, China