

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 13, 2007

Mr. Corey Gruber
Acting Deputy Administrator
National Preparedness Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, Building 410
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Gruber:

We are writing in support of the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System's (ILEAS) application for a homeland security training center in Urbana, Illinois. Funding from the Department of Homeland Security would allow ILEAS to conduct national and regional level training for a wide variety of law enforcement agencies.

ILEAS is the largest statewide law enforcement mutual aid organization in the United States, representing over 90% of Illinois' law enforcement agencies, including the Chicago Police Department and the Illinois State Police. Recently, Champaign County, where ILEAS is located, vacated a 120,000 square foot nursing home located on 23 acres of land. Funding from this program would specifically allow ILEAS, in conjunction with members of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, to convert this nursing home into a training center for law enforcement, emergency medical providers, public works and waters providers, and private security corporations. ILEAS has the strong support of the State of Illinois.

We hope you will give the ILEAS application careful and close review. If you require additional information, please contact Clarisol Duque, Senator Durbin's State Director at (312) 353-4952 or Ruchi Bhowmik of Senator Obama's staff at (202) 224-2854. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Barack Obama
United States Senator