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Washington, DC - The House unanimously passed the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (H.R. 5959) yesterday to authorize classified amounts of funding for U.S. intelligence agencies and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. government, announced Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS). A motion to recommit aimed to prevent a vote on the Act was unsuccessful.

"It is important to pass meaningful legislation without giving in to partisan political tactics," said Congressman Travis Childers. "The Intelligence Authorization Act will protect the American people from the global threat of terrorism by authorizing funding to over 16 intelligence authorities throughout the federal government. National security should always come before politics, and I'm proud that Congress has passed this important legislation."

H.R. 5959 authorizes funding for various intelligence agencies, including the Office of the National Intelligence Director, the CIA, and the National Security Agency (NSA), as well as foreign intelligence activities of the Defense Department, FBI, State Department, and Homeland Security Department.

Details of the bill, including funding levels, are classified. However, according to the Intelligence Committee, the overall spending level of the bill is the highest ever.

The measure authorizes increased investment in U.S. human intelligence (HUMINT) activities, particularly in Asia, Africa and Latin America, according to the Intelligence Committee. The measure also increases funding for monitoring communications by modernizing signals intelligence (SIGINT) capabilities.

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