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COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3226

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The Honorable Peter King
Chairman
House Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman King:

Like all Americans, I was greatly troubled to learn of last week's attempted bombing of the Federal Reserve Bank in our home state of New York. As you know, the suspect charged with planning this attack entered the United States on a student visa. It is my hope the Committee on Homeland Security will fully examine the details of this case in order to strengthen our defense against terrorism and prevent similar abuses of the student visa program in the future.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, I write to respectfully request that you convene a hearing to explore any security vulnerabilities in the student visa program exploited in preparation for this attack, as well as any reforms necessary to enhance this program. To fulfill the Committee's mission of providing congressional oversight and protecting the American people from terrorism, I believe we must fully scrutinize the suspect's admission into our country, the approval of his subsequent transfer between schools, and any other instances where decision makers at the State Department, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or other federal agencies may have erred.

I know you share my pride in our nation's institutions of higher learning, which continue to attract and welcome the best and brightest students from around the world. Without a doubt, the overwhelming majority of these students make positive contributions to our nation in their pursuit of knowledge, liberty, and opportunity. In order to safeguard our country and preserve the ability of American colleges and universities to educate international students, we must work to eliminate any and all security gaps in the student visa program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. Hochul
Member of Congress