



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3222

June 29, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of the State of New York  
State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**Re: New York's Failure to Pursue State Border Security Reinforcement Fund (SBSRF) Grant Funding (DHS-26-GPD-159-00-99)**

Dear Governor Hochul:

I write today to express grave concerns that your Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services (DHSES) does not intend to apply for funding through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) State Border Security Reinforcement Fund (SBSRF) grant program. This funding provides critical resources to support state and local law enforcement in protecting our borders and keeping New Yorkers safe. With the application window closing on July 6, 2026, I urge you to immediately reverse course and apply for these funds to keep New Yorkers safe.

The SBSRF, authorized in H.R. 1 (Public Law 119-21) and administered by DHS through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), makes available nearly \$10 billion across up to 50 awards to reinforce the nation's borders and empower states and local governments to meet evolving security challenges<sup>1</sup>. State governments are eligible applicants for the purposes of distributing to local law enforcement within their states, and the application period closes July 6, 2026. New York is eligible to apply for this critical funding, but the Director of Grants Program Administration at New York's DHSES informed local law enforcement in June that New York will not do so.

The U.S.-Canada border is the longest international border in the world, and New York State law enforcement and the local law enforcement in New York's 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District play a significant role in safeguarding our nation. While efforts by President Trump and Congress have succeeded in securing our borders, the continuing work of detecting and interdicting illicit substances and apprehending illegal aliens must continue to protect New Yorkers. Currently, state and local law enforcement departments across New York must expend their limited funding on these important missions without sufficient federal support. That is why the SBSRF was

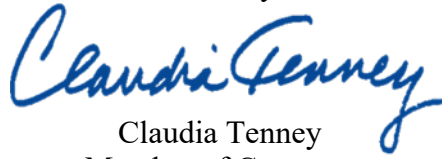
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<sup>1</sup> <https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/0a561768-4ab7-4d50-934a-7e039da03f68>

created: to provide additional resources to local law enforcement agencies to keep our communities safe.

Refusing to apply for this grant deprives our law enforcement officers of valuable resources to support the work they are already doing and jeopardizes public safety. I urge you to direct your administration to prepare and submit a complete SBSRF application by the deadline and to stand with local law enforcement by supporting any federal funding opportunities. The people of New York's 24th Congressional District and New Yorkers across the state deserve law enforcement equipped with every available tool to keep our communities safe from dangerous substances and individuals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claudia Tenney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress