

Rep. Anh “Joseph” Cao
Talking Points
H.R. 3348 Amendment to the Digital Television Transition and
Public Safety Act of 2005

- In 2005, Congress established the Digital Transition and Public Safety Fund. This was a grant program that could pay out up to \$1,000,000,000 to states to help them upgrade, and in the case of Gulf States, repair their emergency communications systems.
- Since its inception, a number of states have been drawing from this fund. However, several states (particularly in the Gulf Region) have struggled to meet the program’s requirement for matching funding and project completion deadlines.
- Many need more time to develop and complete infrastructure and training projects eligible for funding under the program.
- Rep. Cao has introduced H.R. 3348, an amendment to the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 which will extend the deadline of the public safety interoperable communications grant program from FY2010 to FY2012.
- This will give state homeland security agencies the time needed to access grant funds and complete communications projects.
- The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed this amendment and determined that it does not entail additional expenditures. It merely shifts the program’s original budget forward.
- This bill has the support of the International Fire Chiefs Association, The National Emergency Management Association and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials.
- For more information or to co-sponsor, please contact Rep. Cao’s Legislative Assistant, Monica Sanders at Monica.sanders@mail.house.gov or 202-225-3118.