

LARSON RESPONDS TO STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — "The nation stands solidly behind our president during this time of war. The president and his Cabinet have earned the support of all Americans. Their performance in response to September 11 has united us as a nation.

"I am proud to work with the president to ensure our homeland defense needs are met on the front lines, beginning with firefighters, police officers, emergency medical responders, hospitals and municipal governments. These responders represent our first line of defense against acts of terrorism, and require expanded training, equipment and a commonality of communications in order to deal with threats of or future terrorist acts.

"America speaks with one voice against terrorists and their supporters; we know that no act of terrorism or threat of violence will weaken our determination or change our course. America is united as one to protect and preserve our freedom. We will go to whatever lengths necessary to win this war.

"While it is incumbent upon us to stand with and support the troops and the president in the war on terrorism, we have an obligation to examine the Administration's priorities on the domestic front. As we wage this war overseas, we must not forget the needs here at home. The promises made on prescription drug coverage, jobs, education, pension security and energy independence cannot be postponed. The nation needs to hear the details on the Administration's plans in these areas. The massive tax cut of last year, the pending deficit spending, and their impact on Social Security and Medicare are important policy debates that require all of us working together to address these issues, as well as the threat of terrorism."

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