



## JOHN DOE BILL OK'D BY DEMS

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July 26, 2007 -- WASHINGTON - People who tip off authorities to potential terrorists would be shielded from lawsuits under new anti-terrorism legislation that has won agreement from key lawmakers.

"It's absolutely essential that we have public-spirited citizens report suspicious activity to law enforcement," said Rep. Peter King (R-L.I.), the top Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee.

"One of the main things we learned on Sept. 11 is you can never have enough police officers or FBI agents . . . We need the eyes and ears of millions and millions of good Americans," he added.

The so-called "John Doe bill" would protect the tipsters as long as they acted in good faith and didn't knowingly make false statements.

King pushed for the provision after an incident at the Minneapolis airport where six Muslim passengers got kicked off an airplane and later sued the passengers who reported their supposedly suspicious activity.

Democrats agreed to add the provision in negotiations over a House and Senate-passed homeland-security measure, which also implements many 9/11 commission recommendations.

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