

MARKLE FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

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At Key Congressional Hearing Thursday, July 30, 2009

Markle Task Force Member to Testify on Information Sharing with Recommendations to Strengthen National Security, Protect Privacy

Webcast available at www.markle.org

Washington, DC, July 29, 2009 — Jeffrey Smith, an expert on information sharing and a Member of the Markle Task Force on National Security in the Information Age, will testify Thursday (7/30) at 10:00am before the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment. Representative Jane Harman will chair the hearing "Beyond ISE Implementation: Exploring the Way Forward for Information Sharing."

Smith will bring to the Subcommittee recommendations made by the Task Force to meet the 21st century threats America faces, focusing on how to strengthen America's national security by improving information sharing in ways that protect privacy and civil liberties.

The Task Force has provided critical leadership to Congress and the Executive Branch, with many of its proposals already adopted into law or executive orders. The Task Force's latest report, *Nation At Risk: Policy Makers Need Better Information to Protect the Country*, offers a critical roadmap for the way forward on information sharing. Its recommendations include:

- Strong sustained leadership from the Executive Office of the President (EOP) and Congress to drive improved information sharing.
- New ways to make government information relevant to national security discoverable and accessible to authorized users while also creating mechanisms to audit use to ensure accountability.
- Enhanced government-wide privacy and civil liberties policies.

A live webcast of the hearing will be available from the Markle website at www.markle.org.

About the Markle Task Force

Since April 2002, the Markle Task Force on National Security in the Information Age, a diverse and bipartisan group of experienced former policymakers from the Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and Bush administrations, senior executives from the information technology industry, and privacy advocates, has recommended ways to improve national security decisions by transforming business processes and the way information is shared. Its recommendations informed the 9/11 Commission Report and were subsequently included in two laws: the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, and Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007.

Over the last few months, a Steering Committee of Markle Task Force members has interviewed numerous officials in the Executive Branch and the Congress on the state of information sharing in order to identify priorities for the new administration, which now includes several former Markle Task Force members.

More information about the Markle Task Force, including a full list of members, is available at www.markle.org/markletaskforce.

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