

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **October 18, 2001**

## There's only one way to protect the U.S. against anthrax terrorist attacks

Let's take away the murderous terrorists' rationale for targeting us

**WASHINGTON, DC** — The outbreak of anthrax on Capitol Hill is ultimate proof that nothing can protect Americans from unpredictable terrorist attacks — and that the only long-term solution is to move towards a “Protect America First” foreign policy, which would deprive terrorists of their rationale for targeting us, the Libertarian Party said today.

“With these anthrax attacks, terrorists have demonstrated that they have the ability to attack and injure Americans in grisly ways no one predicted, and in ways that are *impossible* to protect against,” said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director.

“That's why, even as we pray for the men and women in Washington, DC who have been infected by this deadly disease, we must point out: A non-interventionist foreign policy is the *only* real protection against whatever vicious and evil future attacks such terrorists might conceive.”

This week, 31 Congressional staffers and police tested positive for anthrax exposure, causing panic on Capitol Hill and prompting the U.S. House to temporarily shut down. The anthrax is believed to be the same strain that caused outbreaks in at least two other states and killed one man, leading the FBI to speculate that the attacks are the work of terrorists.

If that is indeed the case, the anthrax assault is evidence that law enforcement can never completely stop unconventional terrorist attacks, said Dasbach — since it is impossible to individually defend 280 million Americans from such threats.

“**Who knows what the terrorists might do next:** Plant anthrax spores in food products in your local supermarket? Put smallpox bacteria in a public swimming pool? Or launch some other kind of deadly offensive we can't even predict?” he said.

That's why the only viable long-term solution is to deprive terrorists of their rationalization for killing Americans, said Dasbach. And the only way to accomplish that is to adjust our foreign policy to steer clear of foreign conflicts, hatreds, and feuds.

“**Our foreign policy should have *one* simple goal:** To defend Americans in the United States against the risk of attack from foreign powers,” he said.

“Unfortunately, our current policy puts our military at risk in countless foreign conflicts, inspires waves of anti-Americanism across the globe, and gives deranged terrorists an excuse to target us for retribution.

“Our foreign policy *must* change if we want to protect Americans against future anthrax attacks — or against whatever depraved evil that terrorists may think up next.”

# # #