

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 25, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Director Wray:

As members of the Senate and House Bipartisan Task Forces for Combating Antisemitism, we write to express our concern about the increase in antisemitic threats and incidents targeting Jewish Americans and Jewish organizations here in the United States. Unfortunately, following Hamas' recent terrorist attacks in Israel, antisemitism is on full display in cities around the country, as well as on college and university campuses. Free speech is always protected in the public square, but speech inciting violence, as well as threats and acts of terrorism and violence, must be taken seriously. Given these pressing threats, we support an increase in funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) in any upcoming supplemental funding legislation.

While we appreciate the joint public safety notice¹ issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to faith and community leaders on October 10, government agencies have a responsibility to continue to prioritize the safety and security of individuals and organizations vulnerable to violence, especially violence motivated by antisemitism, in real time, as the threat landscape evolves. As this effort continues, it is vital to prioritize information sharing to the maximum extent possible with targeted communities as well as state and local law enforcement partners. As you will recall, in May 2021, as violence perpetrated by Hamas against Israel escalated, antisemitic violence rose across the country.² It is imperative that we work to prevent further targeted, antisemitic violence in the wake of the current conflict.

As such, we urge you to continue the work you have been undertaking to ensure the physical safety and security of Jewish Americans, religious institutions, and organizations, including synagogues, schools, and Jewish community centers. This includes taking additional steps to allocate sufficient resources toward and generate increased awareness of DHS' NSGP. As you know, NSGP provides critical funding to support physical security and planning enhancements to keep at-risk nonprofits, including religious organizations and houses of worship, safe from violence.

Ensuring the safety of Jewish Americans also requires increased coordination to prevent and respond to threats of violence. Such coordination is not only necessary between federal law enforcement agencies like DHS and the FBI, but also other federal agencies, including the National Security Council and the Department of Education, as well as local governments, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders. Many individual agencies play a role in countering antisemitism, and close coordination between them is needed now more than ever to ensure that they can share data,

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/10/10/resources-and-information-faith-and-community-leaders-regarding-situation-israel>


² Anti-Defamation League. (2022) Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2021. https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2022-05/ADL_2021%20Audit_Report_042622_v11.pdf

intelligence, and best practices. Increasing federal interagency coordination and collaboration underscores America's firm commitment to fighting antisemitism.

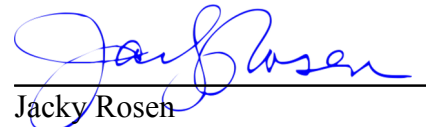
We believe that implementation of Pillar 2 of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism released earlier this year should be focused on the principal threats to the safety and security of Jewish communities, particularly incitement to violence. We believe this is the time to work together to implement several important aspects of this strategy.

We appreciate the critical role that your agencies play in protecting our nation. We stand ready to work with you to safeguard the physical safety and security of Jewish Americans who are facing increased threats. To support this work, it is important that Members of Congress are made aware of the current threat landscape, and any specific antisemitic threats and acts of violence. As such, we request an unclassified member briefing no later than October 31, 2023 detailing the current threat assessment, interagency coordination efforts, and preparedness and resilience measures your agencies have in place to prevent and respond to such violence.

Sincerely,



James Lankford
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress




Kathy Manning
Member of Congress

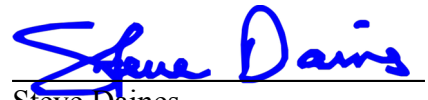


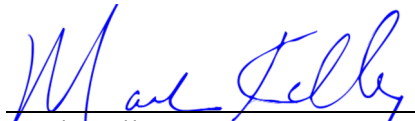
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

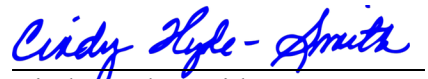


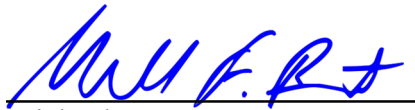
Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

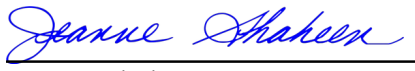

Steve Daines
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator

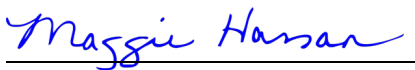

Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

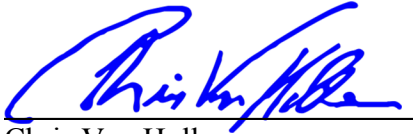

Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator


Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

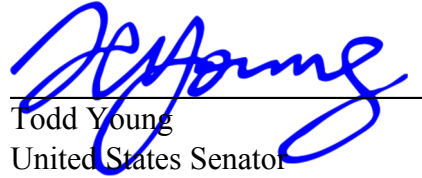

John Boozman
United States Senator


Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

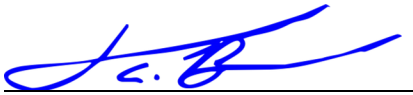

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



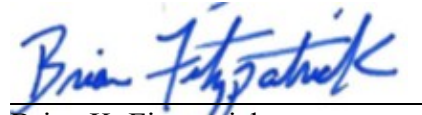
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress



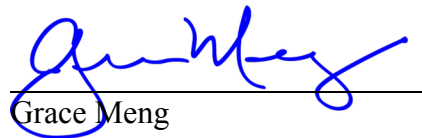
Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



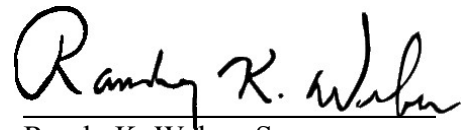
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



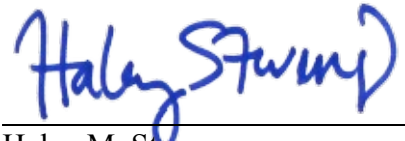
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



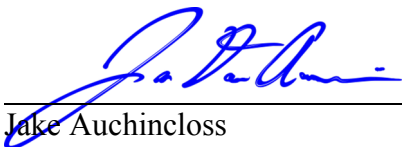
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



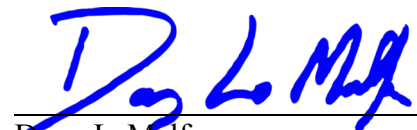
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Max L. Miller
Member of Congress



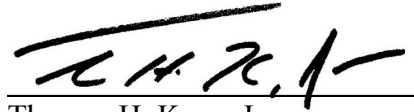
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



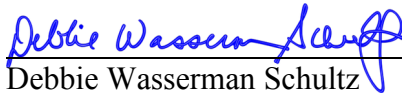
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



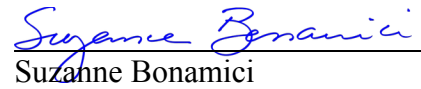
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



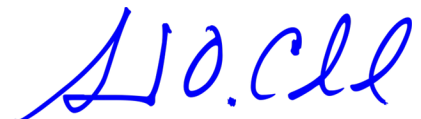
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



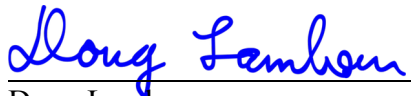
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



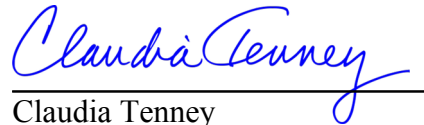
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress




Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



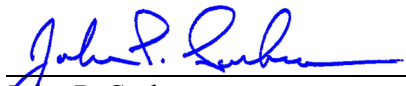
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



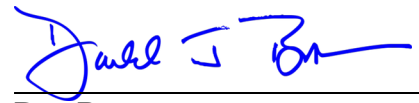
Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



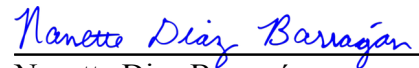
David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress