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July 11, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Grassley, Feinstein, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

We are writing on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (“Orthodox Union”)—the nation’s largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization — to express support for [S. 2946](#), the “Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act” and encourage the Senate Judiciary Committee to advance this legislation when it comes before your committee at tomorrow’s Executive Business Meeting.

The Orthodox Union supported the Anti-Terrorism Act when it passed in 1992. This legislation gave U.S. citizens a right to sue terrorists for terror attacks that occurred against these U.S. citizens anywhere in the world.

Unfortunately, since 1992, the number and severity of terrorist attacks against American citizens increased around the world. In 2004, a lawsuit brought by American families against the Palestine Liberation Organization (“PLO”) and Palestinian Authority (“PA”) for their role in such attacks was successful in the Southern District of New York, which found the PLO and PA liable for multiple terrorist attacks. However, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals subsequently threw the verdict out on personal jurisdiction grounds and the Supreme Court has denied a review of the verdict.

To address this issue legislatively, a bi-partisan group of Senators and Representatives introduced the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act. This legislation would restore Congress’ intent from the 1992 “Anti-Terrorism Act” that by accepting U.S. foreign assistance, certain defendants—including the PLO and PA—consent to jurisdiction in cases brought under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The Orthodox Union joins a large coalition to ask you to stand for the rights of victims of terrorism. Please vote in favor of S. 2946, the “Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act,” to ensure that American victims of terrorism—regardless of where the terrorism occurs—are ensured access to their day in an American court.

Sincerely,

Nathan Diament

Jerry Wolasky