



MARK (MOISHE) BANE
President

March 16, 2017

ALLEN FAGIN
Executive Vice President

The Honorable Brian Mast
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

JERRY WOLASKY
Chairman, Advocacy

NATHAN J. DIAMENT
Executive Director

Dear Representative Mast:

MAURY LITWACK
Director of State
Political Affairs

On behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (Orthodox Union)—the nation’s largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization—we thank you and members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management for holding today’s hearing on “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: The National Preparedness System.” The Orthodox Union is particularly interested in the essential role the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) plays for our community.

HOWARD FRIEDMAN
Chairman, Board of Directors

In 2005, the effort to create the NSGP was spearheaded by the Orthodox Union (together with the Jewish Federations of North America) and the support of many coalition partners and bipartisan leaders in Congress. Since that time, Congress has appropriated nearly \$200 million for the program, and awarded over 2,000 grants to at-risk nonprofit organizations, including Jewish Community Centers, Synagogues, and Jewish Day Schools. These grants have provided for the acquisition and installation of critical security improvements including fencing, lighting, surveillance, metal detection equipment, blast proofing doors, windows and more at hundreds of synagogues and schools in the United States.

In recent months, Jewish organizations have been the target of over 100 threats in the United States. The NSGP enables Jewish and other at-risk nonprofit organizations to equip themselves with the tools they need to be more secure.

Since its inception, the NSGP has been the foundation for Jewish community (and other nonprofits) making our buildings secure. The NSGP has led the field and prompted some states and localities to take complementary action to keep our communities safe.

The continued operation and funding of the NSGP is essential, as it will not only keep our community safer, but will be a statement of solidarity and support in the face of such threats.

We urge you and your colleagues to support the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Nathan J. Diament