

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 3, 2017

The Honorable John Carter  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

Thank you for your work in helping to ensure adequate resources are available to protect our communities from threats and disasters. As you craft the Fiscal Year 2018 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, we respectfully ask you to fund the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) at \$50 million.

These funds are especially important in light of the most recent United States Intelligence Community's assessment of threats to U.S. national security, which found that homegrown violent extremists, who draw inspiration from ISIL or other Sunni extremist organizations, continue to pose the most significant terrorist threat to the homeland. The increasing ability of ISIL to utilize sophisticated social media to inspire and motivate homegrown violent extremists from afar diminishes our ability to deter, detect, and disrupt an attack from happening. Moreover, US counterterrorism experts have assessed that homegrown violent extremists are now increasingly favoring softer civilian targets, such as places of worship.

According to a report released by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the number of hate groups in the United States rose in 2016, and least 550 of the 917 groups are anti-Semitic in nature. The report details groups active in 2016, which include 99 categorized as neo-Nazi, 100 as white nationalist, 130 as Ku Klux Klan and 21 as Christian Identity, a religious movement that says whites are the true Israelites and Jews are descended from Satan. Extremists come in many forms and extremist violence, whether inspired by ISIS, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or carried out in the name of white supremacy, still remains a serious threat to communities across our nation.

The severity of homegrown violent extremism came into focus during the August 2006 deadly attack at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. It was followed by the deadly attack at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in June 2009, and, then the April 2014 deadly attacks at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City and the Village Shalom retirement community. In January 2017 an unknown arsonist burned down the Islamic Center in Victoria, Texas, which had previously experienced vandalism and a break-in. This level of extreme violence has extended to attacks on churches, mosques, and other religious centers in recent years.

Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, at least 116 Jewish communal institutions, including community centers, schools places of worship, and others have received more than 160 bomb threats in 39 states. These incidents illustrate the many credible threats against non-profit institutions across the country and must be taken seriously.. With the rise of hate groups in our nation, now more than ever Congress needs to strengthen the NSGP program.

The NSGP program was designed to provide physical target hardening measures to protect against the threats the Department of Homeland Security has identified as of most concern to at-risk nonprofit institutions. These include: explosive device, arson, active shooter, assassination/kidnapping, chemical/biological agents and cyber-attacks. The NSGP program supports the physical target hardening measures necessary to protect these facilities against threats and to mitigate the effects of an attack, including the installation of access controls, barriers, blast-proofing, monitoring and surveillance capability, and cyber security enhancements.

The recent JCC bomb threats illustrate a growing record of plots, attempted attacks, and deadly occurrences targeting the Jewish community at home, a rise in anti-Semitic hate groups organizing, and an assessment by US counterterrorism experts that violent homegrown extremists are prioritizing 'soft targets,' such as Jewish communal institutions and other religious centers. For these reasons, we respectfully encourage you to increase funding for the UASI NSGP to \$50 million in addition to funds otherwise provided for UASI, so our nation can do all it can to prevent against direct threats to Jewish communities and protect at-risk nonprofit institutions from our country's greatest enemies.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Dan Donovan  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



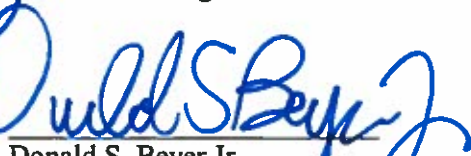
Nanette Barragan  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress




Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



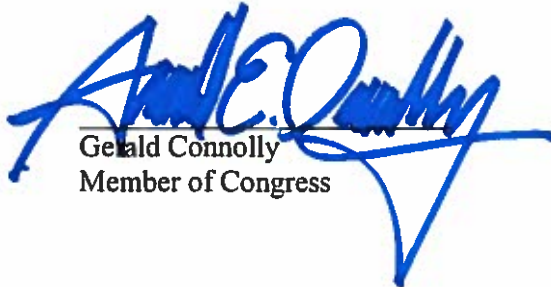
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



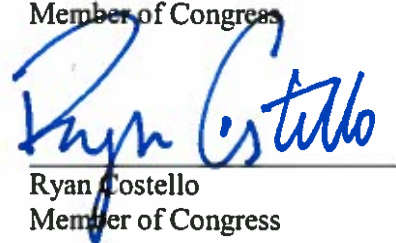
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress




Gerald Connolly  
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress

  
Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

  
Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress

  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

  
Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress

  
Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress


  
Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

  
Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

  
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

  
John Faso  
Member of Congress

  
Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

*Bill Foster*

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

*Josh Gottheimer*

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress

*Alcee Hastings*

Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress

*Eleanor H. Norton*

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

*Hakeem Jeffries*

Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

*William R. Keating*

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

*Joseph P. Kennedy III*

Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress

*Peter King*

Peter King  
Member of Congress

*Marcia L. Fudge*

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

*Al Green*

Al Green  
Member of Congress

*Denny Heck*

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

*Sheila Jackson Lee*

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

*John Katko*

John Katko  
Member of Congress

*Robin L. Kelly*

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

*Ruben J. Kihuen*

Ruben J. Kihuen  
Member of Congress

*Adam Kinzinger*

Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress

*Leonard Lance*

Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress

*John B. Larson*

John Larson  
Member of Congress

*Brenda L. Lawrence*

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

*Barbara Lee*

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

*Sander Levin*

Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

*John Lewis*

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

*Ted W. Lieu*

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

*Daniel W. Lipinski*

Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress

*Frank A. LoBiondo*

Frank LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

*Zoe Lofgren*

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

*Tom MacArthur*

Tom MacArthur  
Member of Congress

*Sean Patrick Maloney*

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

*Carolyn B. Maloney*

Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress

*A. Donald McEachin*

A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

*James McGovern*

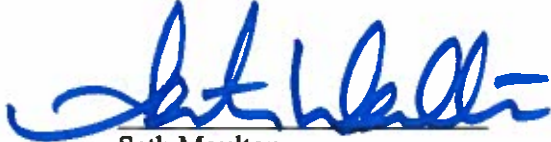
James McGovern  
Member of Congress

*Patrick Meehan*

Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



Greg Meeks  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



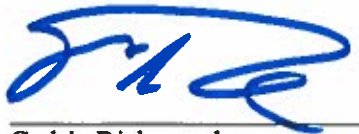
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress



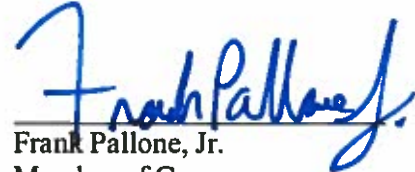
Peter Roskam  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



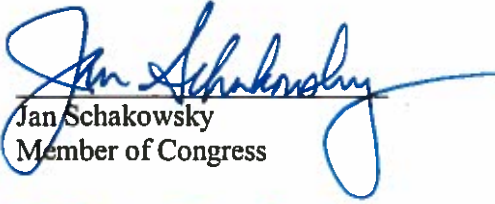
Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress

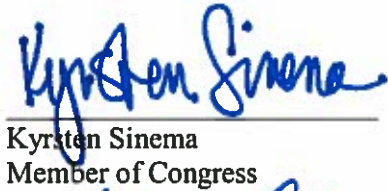


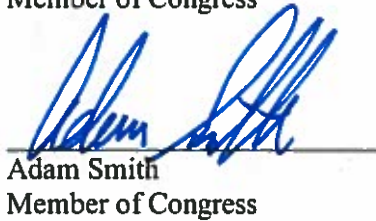
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

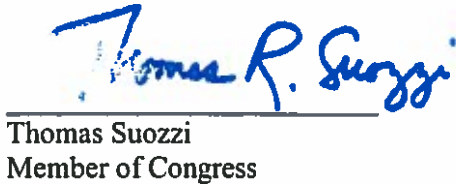
  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
David Scott  
Member of Congress

  
Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress

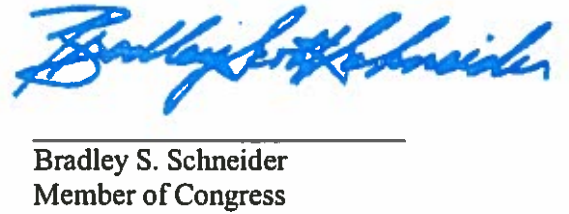
  
Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress

  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Thomas Suozzi  
Member of Congress

  
Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress

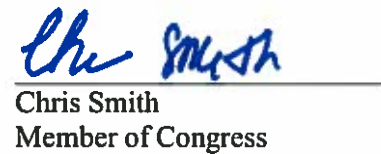
  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

  
Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress

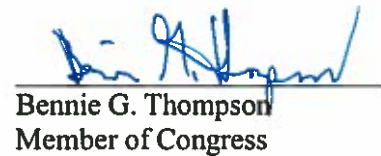
  
Robert "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

  
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

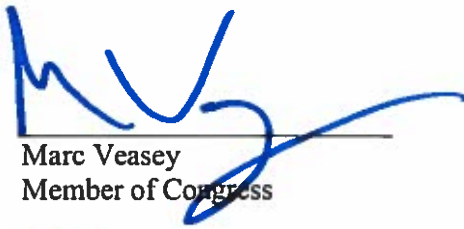
  
Chris Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress





---

Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



---

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



---

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress




---

Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress



---

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



---

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress