

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
2065 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
2372 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Joyce and Ranking Member Cuellar:

Thank you for your continued support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). As you work to complete the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, we respectfully ask you to fund the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) at \$180 million and \$180 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) NSGP. As you know, these accounts provide critical security resources to at-risk faith-based and nonprofit institutions located in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Security investments acquired through the NSGP program include physical security enhancements, emergency preparedness planning, training and exercises, and enhanced engagement and collaboration between public and private community representatives as well as their state and local homeland security and emergency management government agencies. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recognized the serious nature of these threats in the two most recent National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletins, which warned that acts of extremist-motivated violence are likely to continue against faith-based institutions, schools, and racial and religious minorities. Nationwide reporting on related threat incidents just over the past month underscore the frequency, complexity, and geographic breadth of these concerns:

- On September 20, it was reported that jury selection will begin on April 24, 2023, in the capital murder trial of Robert Bowers, who is accused of attacking the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh on October 27, 2018, killing 11 worshipers in the deadliest attack on Jews in US history.
- On September 17, it was reported that in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray, US Attorney General Merrick Garland and Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke, Congressman Ritchie Torres (D-NY) called on the FBI and US attorney general to investigate and do more to respond to New York City's surging antisemitism. The NYPD has confirmed 149 anti-Jewish hate crimes between the start of the year and June 28, representing an incident every 29 hours on average.
- On August 30, it was reported that antisemitic crimes in New York City were up 114% over the previous year.<sup>i</sup>
- On August 30, it was reported that Jonathan Warren, 22, of Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 147 months in Federal prison for committing a drive by shooting into the Masjid E Noor Mosque in Indianapolis, where multiple worshipers were observing the Eid al-Fitr holiday.<sup>ii</sup>

- On August 26, it was reported that the Las Vegas Police arrested Andrew Gorrellick, 48, on charges of making false terrorist threats to kill Jewish people in more than 40 tweets associated with his Twitter account.<sup>iii</sup>
- On August 25, it was reported that the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights issued a warning that antisemitic incidents were on the rise in the commonwealth and have “become a statewide and dangerous issue.” The warning reflected a jump from just two incidents reported in 2019 to hundreds of incidents reported this year.<sup>iv</sup>
- On August 15, it was reported that Federal authorities sought to reincarcerate white supremacist Benjamin Thomas Samuel McDowell of Conway, South Carolina, for violating the terms of his supervised release for his 2018 conviction for plotting to attack the Temple Emanu-El synagogue in Myrtle Beach “in the spirit of” the 2015 racially-charged massacre of nine black parishioners at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC.<sup>v</sup>
- On August 8, it was reported that Cody Steven Rush admitted to threatening to blow up the Central Reform Congregation, in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2021, while the synagogue was holding services.<sup>vi</sup>
- On August 5, the nation recognized the 10th anniversary of the mass attack at an Oak Creek, Wisconsin, Sikh temple, where an armed white supremacist killed seven people.<sup>vii</sup>
- On August 4, Gavin Lee Casdorph, 23, of Anchorage, Alaska, was sentenced to more than five years in prison for making online terrorist threats to detonate several bombs across the campus of Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, a nonprofit institution. Casdorph made these threats while pledging allegiance to ISIS.<sup>viii</sup>

The NSGP program is a critical component to the nation’s response to domestic and international threats targeting the nonprofit sector, but the program is significantly over-subscribed. This year’s (FY 2022) NSGP award results made this clear. FEMA reviewed almost 3,500 grant applications but was able to fund only approximately 1,800. The total security investments requested amounted to almost \$450 million, but FEMA had only \$250 million to invest, including the important 5% that Congress provided to strengthen the agency’s program management. In response, DHS recommended Congress appropriate more funding to the FY23 NSGP program to align the program closer to the level of demand. As we have seen, the need has continue to grow for these federal funds which will become more apparent as the FY23 NSGP application process unfolds.

Unfortunately, today’s threat environment provides a compelling public interest in protecting against attacks on the nonprofit sector that would disrupt the vital health, human, social, cultural, religious, and other humanitarian services and practices they provide to communities, and which threaten the lives and well-being of millions of Americans who operate, utilize, live, and work in proximity to them. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to strengthen the Nonprofit Security Grant Program by funding the UASI NSGP at \$180 million and \$180 million for the SHSGP NSGP.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
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Julia Brownley  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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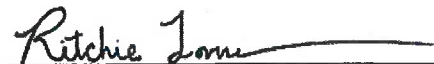
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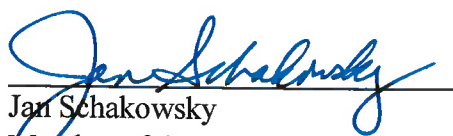
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
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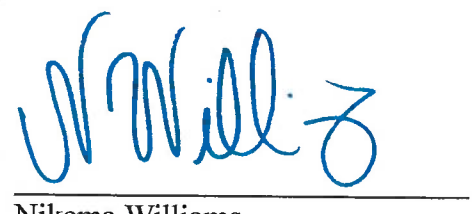
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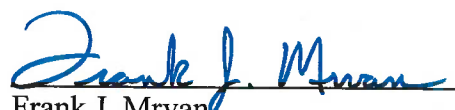
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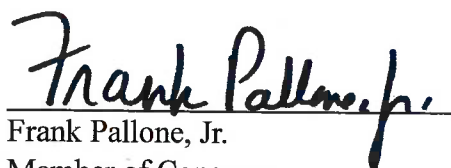




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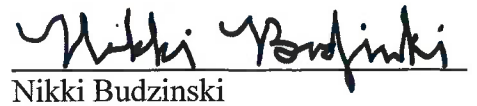


Dan Goldman  
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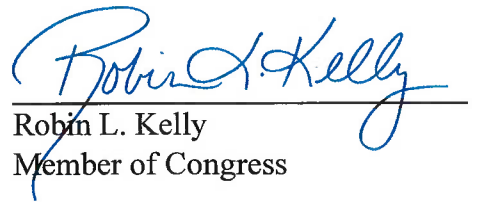
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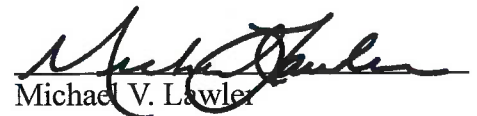
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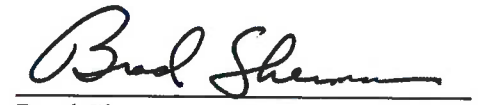


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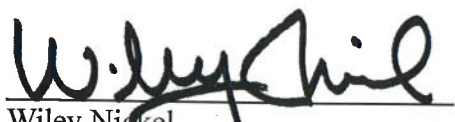
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Wiley Nickel  
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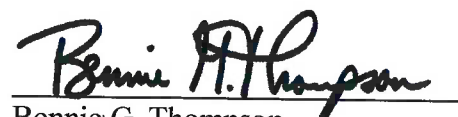
  
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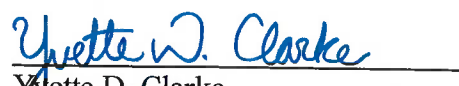
  
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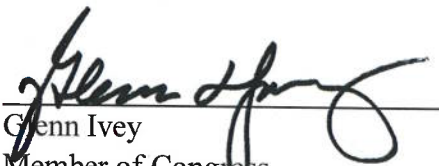
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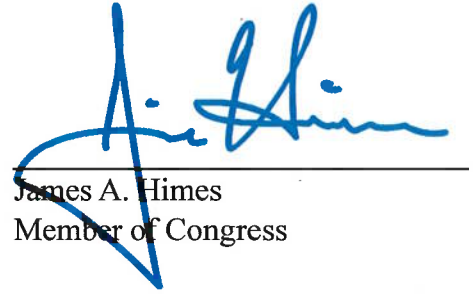
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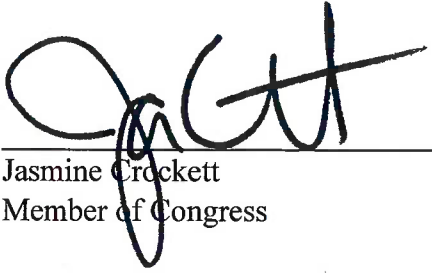
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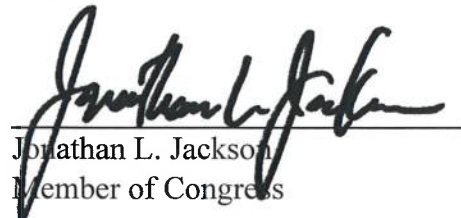
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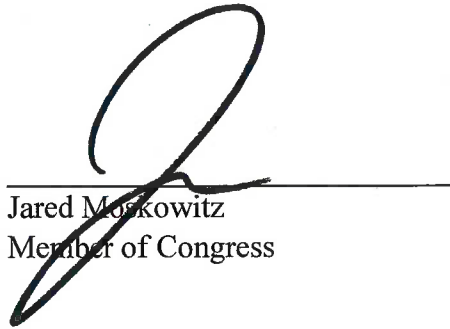
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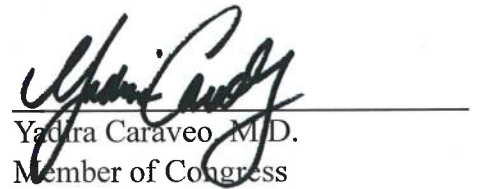
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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



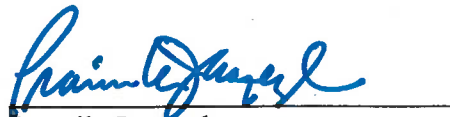
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Brian Fitzpatrick  
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Madeleine Dean  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress




  
James E. Clyburn  
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*André Carson*

André Carson  
Member of Congress

  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

  
Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress

  
Abigail Davis Sponberger  
Member of Congress

- <sup>i</sup> New York Jewish Week
- <sup>ii</sup> DoJ/US Attorney's Office, Southern District of Indiana
- <sup>iii</sup> Jerusalem Post/7 Israel National News Arutz Sheva
- <sup>iv</sup> NBC LEX 18 Lexington
- <sup>v</sup> CBS affiliate WBTV News 13
- <sup>vi</sup> DoJ/US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Missouri
- <sup>vii</sup> CNN
- <sup>viii</sup> DoJ/US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania