

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
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 Mark Amodei
Chair
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
104 Cannon 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 Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Amodei and Ranking Member Cuellar:

Thank you for your continued support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). As the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill is drafted, we respectfully ask that \$385 million of funding be allocated for NSGP. It is well known that the program provides critical security resources to at-risk faith-based and nonprofit institutions located in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

The security investments acquired through the NSGP program include physical security enhancements, emergency preparedness planning, training exercises, and enhanced engagement and collaboration between public and private community representatives, as well as state and local homeland security and emergency management government agencies. The investments are pivotal to our national security, as DHS recognized the serious nature of the threats in its National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletins, which warns that acts of extremist-motivated violence are likely to continue against faith-based institutions, schools, and racial and religious minorities. Notably, the most recent bulletin signaled an increased threat landscape since Hamas brutally attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, alerting that extremists have called for violence and celebrated attacks against the Jewish community. It continued, warning that lone actors could seek to disrupt or escalate violence at religious locations, with Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Arab communities as potential targets¹. There has also been an increase in hoax bomb and active shooter threats targeting houses of worship across the country, intended to disrupt services and intimidate congregants.

In the three months following October 7, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recorded an alarming 3,291 antisemitic incidents across the United States – an average of 34 anti-Jewish acts daily, and a 360% increase in antisemitic incident reports. Nationwide reporting on specific incidents underscores the frequency, complexity, and breadth of the threats our religious communities face:

- On March 26, 2023, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office reported a shooting of two individuals outside a Sikh Temple following a physical altercation.²
- On March 27, 2023, a woman entered a Nashville, Tennessee, Christian elementary school and shot and killed six people, of which three were children.³

¹ <https://www.ic3.gov/Media/Y2023/PSA231212>

² <https://www.kcra.com/article/sacramento-sikh-temple-shooting-sunday/43421542#>

³ <https://www.npr.org/2023/03/27/1166268762/nashville-school-shooting-covenant>

- On July 31, 2023, a man opened fire outside a Jewish school in Memphis, Tennessee.⁴
- On December 7, 2023, a man in Albany, New York, fired a shotgun twice outside of a synagogue just hours before the start of Hanukkah.⁵
- More than a dozen synagogues in greater Philadelphia received bomb threats on the last day of Hanukkah, prompting evacuations and mass law enforcement responses.⁶
- On January 3, 2024, a Newark, New Jersey, Imam was shot and killed outside of his mosque.⁷
- On January 30, 2024, a man open fired at a San Francisco Catholic Church.⁸
- On February 11, 2024, a woman forced her way inside a Texas Christian megachurch and open fired.⁹
- On February 17, 2024, police in Broward County, Florida, arrested a man for beating a 69-year-old Rabbi who was walking home from synagogue on Shabbat.¹⁰

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. The most recent NSGP award results made that clear. According to FEMA's data, it reviewed almost 5,200 grant applications but were only able to fund 2,201 – less than half of the submissions. Although the total funding requested was \$678 million, FEMA had \$305 million to allocate; a record figure, but not enough to meet rising demands.

In FY2023, there was a 97% increase in NSGP-State applications. The increase of over 1,700 applications was more than FEMA received in the entire program in FY2020. All 55 eligible states and territories applied under NSGP-S for the first time in the history of the program. As we have seen, the need has continued to grow for federal funds, which is expected as the FY2024 NSGP application process unfolds. And with \$274.5 million available in FY2024, \$30.5 million less than last year, many worthy grant applications will not be fulfilled.

Unfortunately, today's threat environment provides a compelling public interest in preventing attacks that would disrupt the vital health, human, social, cultural, religious, and other humanitarian services to society. Such threats terrorize the lives and well-being of millions of Americans who operate, utilize, live, and work in their communities. Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to strengthen the NSGP by properly funding the program at \$385 million in FY2025.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

⁴ https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/31/us/memphis-margolin-hebrew-academy-shooting?cid=ios_app

⁵ <https://apnews.com/article/jewish-temple-shots-albany-new-york-hanukkah-cd1c44c4829e699a42eaa87ef0e5373>


⁶ [Bomb threats reported at 13 synagogues across Philadelphia and suburban counties - 6abc Philadelphia](#)

⁷ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/crime-courts/son-slain-new-jersey-imam-arrested-gun-charge-rcna136233>

⁸ <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/peninsula/south-san-francisco-church-shooting/3438520/>

⁹ <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/02/14/us/lakewood-church-shooting-joel-osteen-texas/index.html>


¹⁰ [Suspect arrested for attack on man leaving Chabad synagogue in Florida - The Jewish Chronicle \(thejc.com\)](#)



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



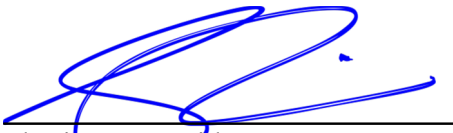
Dina Titus
Member of Congress




Greg Landsman
Member of Congress




Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress




Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress




Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress




Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



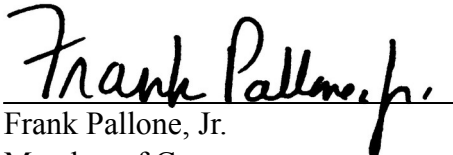
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress





Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

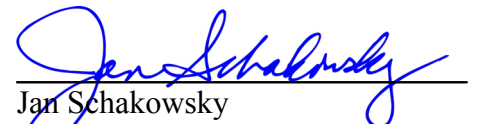


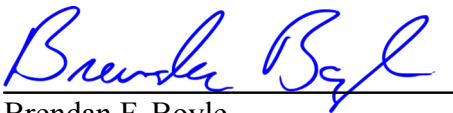
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

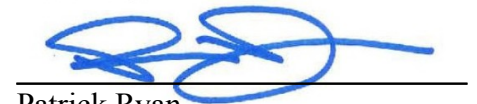

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

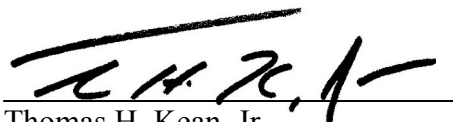

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress


Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress

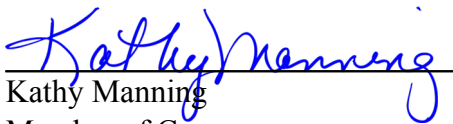

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress


Robert Garcia
Member of Congress

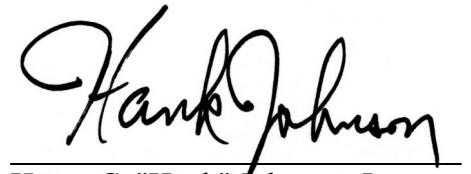

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress

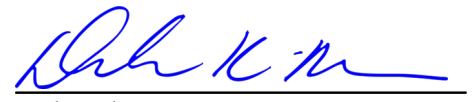

Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress

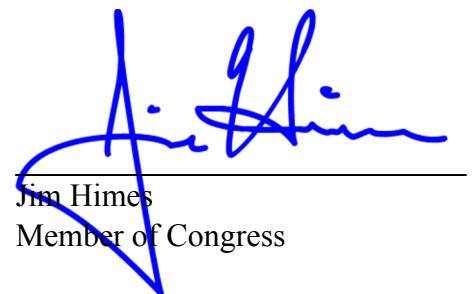

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

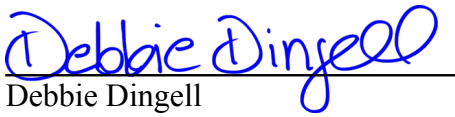

Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

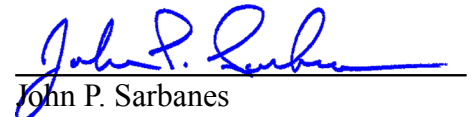

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress

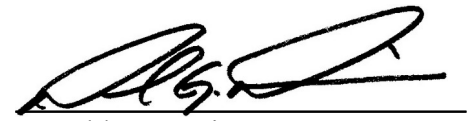

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

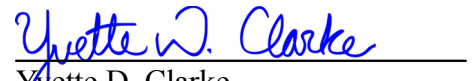

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress


John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress


Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

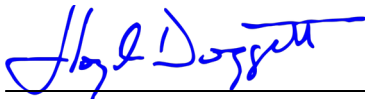

Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress


Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

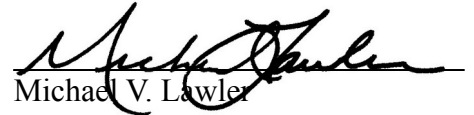

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress


Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



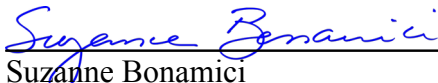
Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



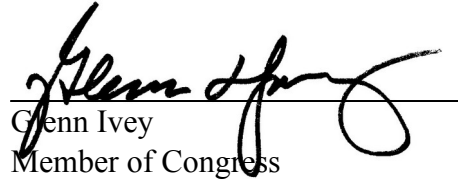
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



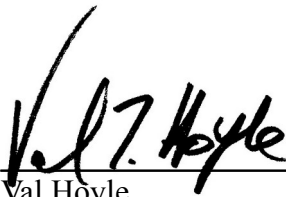
Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



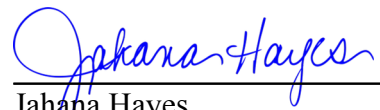
Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



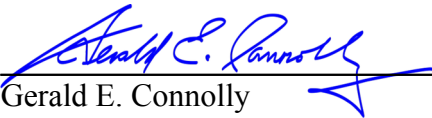
David Scott
Member of Congress



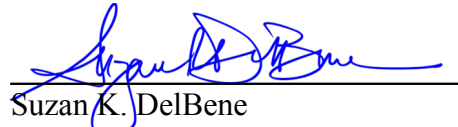
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



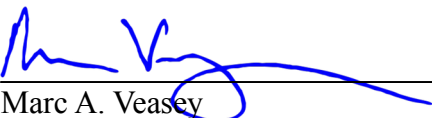
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



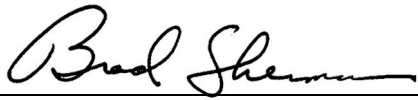
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



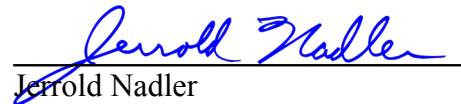
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



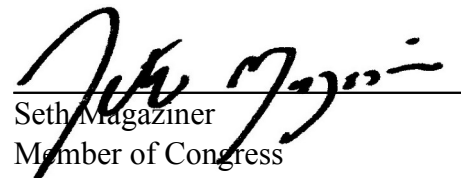
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



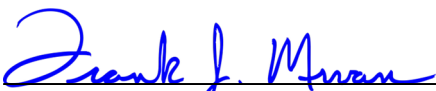
Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



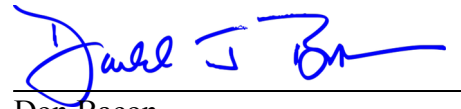
Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



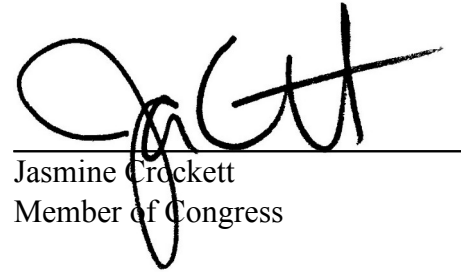
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



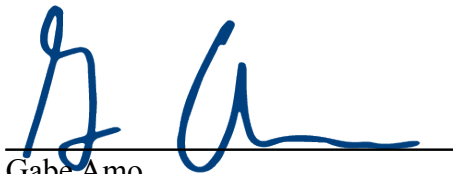
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



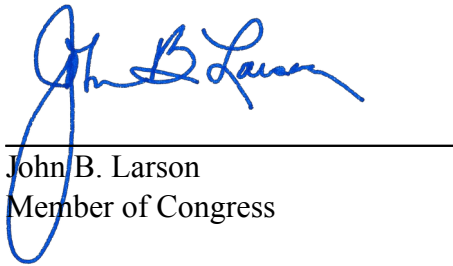
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



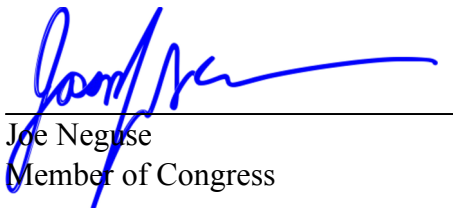
David Kustoff
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



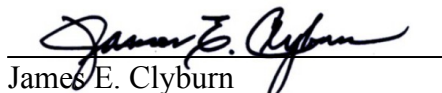
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



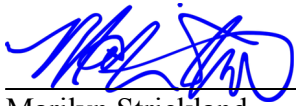
Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



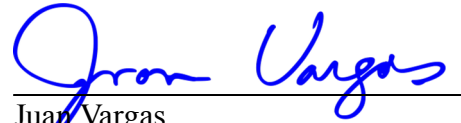
James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress (SC-06)



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spunberger
Member of Congress



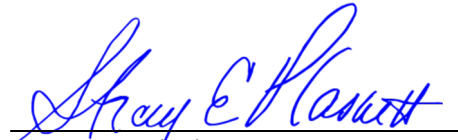
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



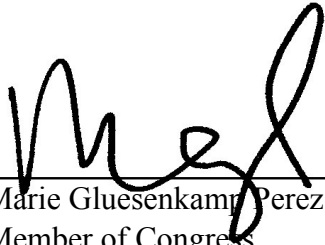
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



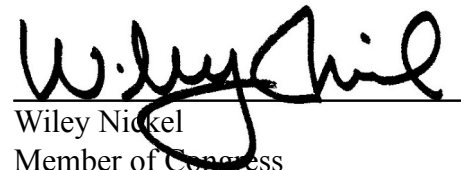
Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress