

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

Thank you for your continued support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). As you know, the NSGP provides needed funding to nonprofit organizations at high risk of a terrorist attack. As you draft the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) 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.

The NSGP supports critical security investments, such as 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) has recommended these types of investments to secure these targets within the faith-and community-based sector because DHS recognizes their vulnerability to attack is elevated and nonprofit institutions often lack the needed resources to invest in protective measures.^[1] In today's quickly evolving threat environment, these investments are needed more than ever. Over the past year:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security and National Counterterrorism Center jointly assessed that Domestic Violent Extremists and Racially/Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists (RMVEs) will continue to pose a lethal threat to faith-based communities, particularly the Jewish community, in the Homeland and remain concerned about the difficulty of detecting lone offenders due to the individualized nature of the radicalization process.^[2]

- FBI Director Christopher Wray testified before Congress that the number one threat the nation faces from domestic violent extremists stems from RMVEs, who are considered the most lethal of all domestic extremists in the post-911 environment.^[3] To illustrate his point, Director Wray recounted the arrest last November of Richard Holzer on federal domestic terrorism and hate crime charges for attempting to blow up a historic synagogue in Pueblo, Colorado and provoke "a racial holy war."^[4]
- The Nation's Homeland Security agencies assessed that domestic extremists, such as white supremacists, have advocated for violence against faith-based and minority

communities, including Asian-Americans—in response to the COVID outbreak, and have called for infected individuals to intentionally spread COVID-19 in religious institutions such as mosques and synagogues.

- The Nation’s Homeland Security agencies assessed that domestic extremists were using the Covid-19 pandemic to recruit members to their ranks and to incite violence against Jewish and other minority communities.^[5]
- The Nation’s Homeland Security agencies warned that if the Government of Iran were to perceive actions of the United States Government as acts of war or existential threats to the Iranian regime, Iran could act directly or enlist the cooperation of its proxies, such as Lebanese Hizballah, to commit attacks in retribution, with little to no warning, including against US-based Jewish individuals and interests, among likely targets.^[6]
- Additionally, hate crimes rose to their highest numbers in a decade, including a 14% increase in anti-Jewish incidents over the previous year and constituted more than 60% of all anti-religious bias crimes reported.^[7] This constituted the 23rd consecutive year where the Jewish community was the number one target of all faith-based hate crimes reported.^[8]

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 this request.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress

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Troy Balderson
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^[1] Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; December 18, 2020; Link: https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Mitigating%20Attacks%20on%20Houses%20of%20Worship%20Security%20Guide_508.pdf

^[2] Joint Intelligence Bulletin, “Continued Interest in Targeting Jewish Communities in the Homeland by Domestic Violent Extremists,” 3 January 2020 (IA-41058-20)

^[3] Senate HSGAC Hearing, “Worldwide Threats,” 24 September 2020; Link: <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Testimony-Wray-2020-09-24.pdf>

^[4] DoJ/US Attorney’s Office, District of Colorado, 4 November 2019; Link: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-co/pr/southern-colorado-man-charged-federal-hate-crime-plotting-blow-synagogue>

^[5] DHS Counterterrorism Mission Center, “Terrorists Exploiting COVID-19 Pandemic in an Attempt to Incite Violence,” 23 March 2020 (IA-43383-20)

^[6] Joint Intelligence Bulletin, “Escalating Tensions Between the United States and Iran Pose Potential Threats to the Homeland,” 8 January 2020 (IA-41117-20)

^[7] FBI, “2019 Hate Crimes Statistics;” Link: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2019>

^[8] FBI Hate Crimes Statistics (1995 – 2019); Link: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/>