

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
H-307
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwomen DeLauro and Roybal-Allard and Ranking Members Granger and Fleischmann,

Thank you for your continued support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). The Congress appropriated a historic \$250 million in funding for the NSGP in FY 2022, which was a critical step towards meeting the high level of demand for these lifesaving measures. However, the increasing and extraordinary needs of at-risk populations continues to grow exponentially. Therefore, as you draft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we respectfully ask you to fund the UASI Nonprofit Security Grant Program at no less than \$180 million and no less than \$180 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) NSGP.

Earlier this year, another mass attack occurred on a faith-based institution which Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has labeled a "terrorism-related" matter. Because of the work of law enforcement agencies, the armed hostage event at the Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, did not end tragically. Nevertheless, the attack underscored the rising threat to our Jewish communities and to other ethnic and minority groups.¹ It is one of many incidents reported just this past year of racially and ethnically motivated violence that targeted mosques and Islamic centers, historically black colleges and universities, Jewish synagogues and community centers, churches of varied denominations, and other faith- and community-based organizations. Shooting, arson, bombing, assault, and property damage were all documented.²

We are grateful for the FBI's hostage rescue team and the state and local law enforcement and first responders who successfully ended the Colleyville armed hostage crisis, as well as for law enforcement's dedicated work to protect our communities. But the enormity and trauma of the Colleyville attack, much of it live-streamed to the world, and the insular nature of

¹ Washington Post, "FBI investigating Texas synagogue attack as terrorism as U.K. takes two teens into custody," January 17, 2022.

² Jewish Federations of North America, "Annual Threat Chronology," January 3, 2022.

violent extremists that makes them difficult for law enforcement to identify and disrupt before an attack,³ reverberated in communities across our country. Experts warn these types of events serve as a catalyst to energize and embolden other extremists and terrorist groups to commit violence.⁴ Even before the Colleyville attacks, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) advised that faith-based communities are in a heightened threat environment, facing increased volatility, unpredictability, and complex threats.⁵

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program is perhaps our greatest weapon to meeting this threat. 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. Because the faith-based community and nonprofit institutions often lack the needed resources required to deter, detect, and prevent violent extremist attacks alone, DHS has strongly advised government investments to fill the gap.⁶

Congress established NSGP to make these investments by improving the physical security of at-risk faith-based and charitable organizations. Unfortunately, today's threat environment provides a compelling public interest in protecting our religious communities and nonprofit groups. Successful attacks not only damage the vital health, human, social, cultural, religious, and humanitarian services and practices these institutions provide, but they seed incalculable anguish in every freedom-loving American.

These collective costs to our country underscore the value of efficient NSGP investments and our room for growth. Indeed, DHS reports that the NSGP is consistently oversubscribed in context of the total program amount requested versus annual program appropriations (by as much as \$220 million in FY2021). Increasing the program's funding will allow the program to reach more at-risk non-profit organizations both in high-risk urban areas and in more rural parts of the nation.⁷ For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to strengthen the Nonprofit Security Grant Program by funding the UASI NSGP at no less than \$180 million and no less than \$180 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program NSGP.

We look forward to working together to protect our at-risk and vulnerable communities and nonprofits from today's increasing extremist and hate-motivated threats. Our Congress cannot fail to rise to this moment. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

³ Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Threats to the Homeland: Evaluating the Landscape 20 Years After 9/11," September 21, 2021.

⁴ Washington Post, "Texas synagogue standoff ends with hostages freed, suspect dead," updated January 16, 2022.

⁵ DHS National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin, Feb. 07, 2022.

⁶ 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

⁷ Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency Budget Overview FY 2023 Congressional Justification, Pages 251-252.



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Member of Congress



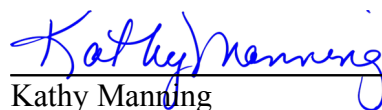
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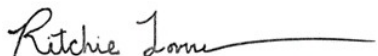
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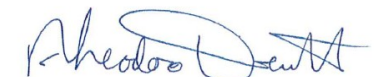
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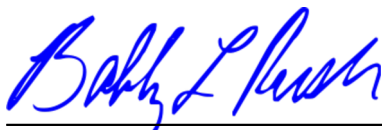
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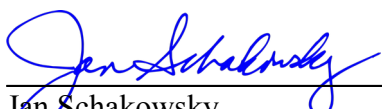
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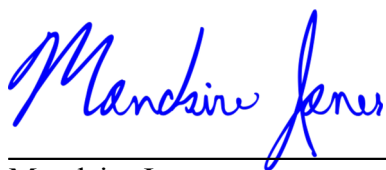
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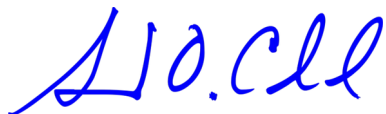
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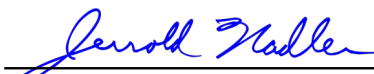
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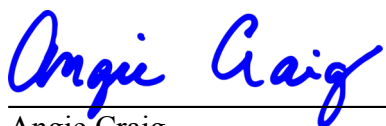
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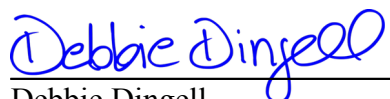
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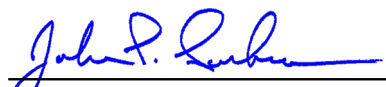
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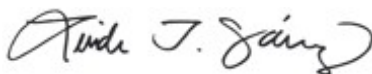
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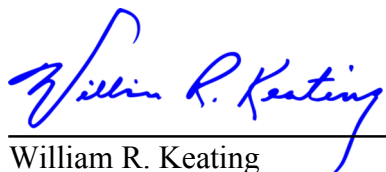
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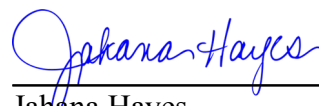
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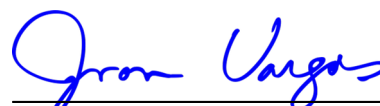
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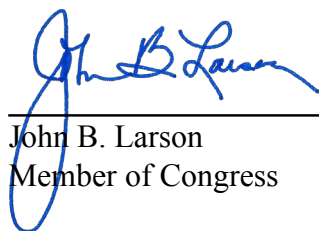
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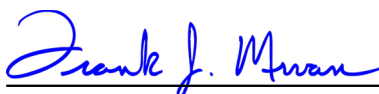
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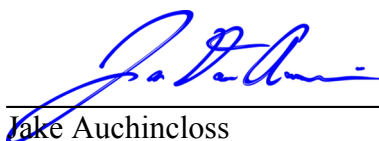
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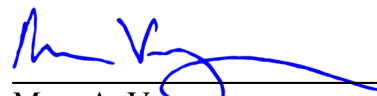
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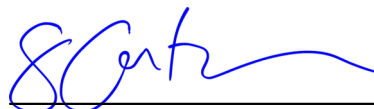
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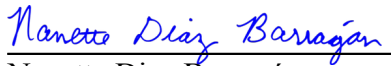
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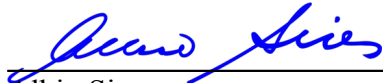



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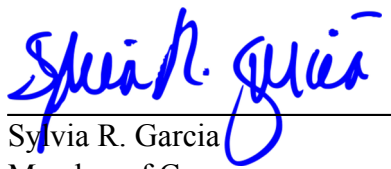

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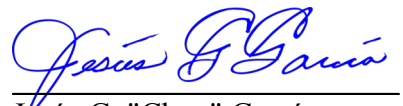

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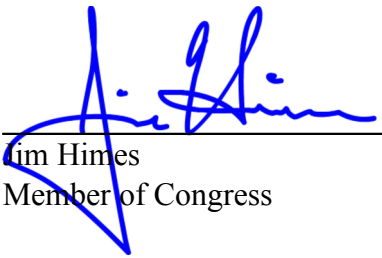

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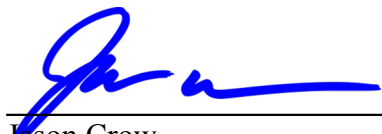

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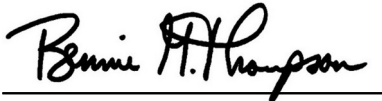
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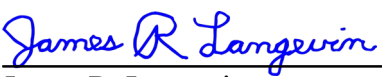
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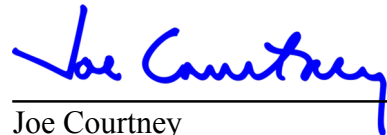
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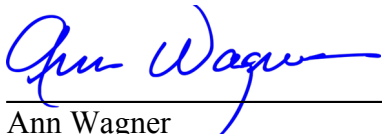
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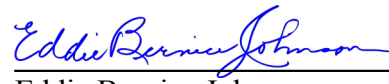
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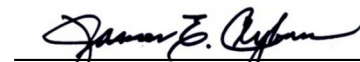
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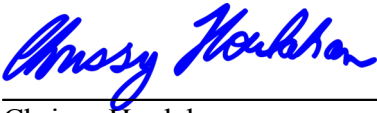
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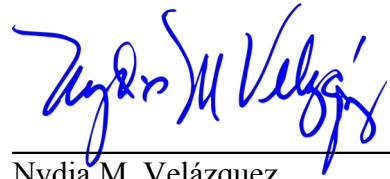
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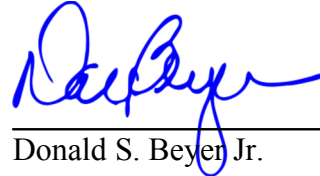
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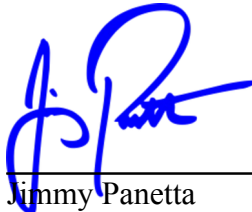
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