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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4602

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FEDERAL LANDS

October 12, 2023

Chairman Dave Joyce
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Henry Cuellar
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Chris Murphy
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Katie Britt
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Joyce, Chairman Murphy, Ranking Member Cuellar, and Ranking Member Britt,

I write to you today to express support for robust funding of the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. As you know, NSGP provides funding to nonprofit organizations to harden and protect against terror attacks, including houses of worship such as synagogues. I am pleased that the current iteration of H.R. 4367, the FY24 Homeland Appropriations bill, funds NSGP at \$315 million, which is \$10 million above FY23 levels. However, I am concerned that S. 1600, the Senate counterpart to the House bill, cuts the program substantially.

Given the recent terror attacks initiated by Hamas against Israel, which include the rape, beheading, and kidnapping of civilians and captured military personnel, the security environment for Jewish people has significantly deteriorated. Amidst these attacks, Hamas leaders have called for a “global jihad” to begin this Friday, October 13th, seeking to send a “message of rage to Zionists and to America” with “blood and souls.”

Prior to this atrocious violence against Israel, attacks on synagogues in the United States have been on the rise in recent years. In 2022 alone, there were 91 bomb threats against Jewish institutions and schools - the most since 2017.¹ Additionally, at least 160 migrants whose identities match those on the FBI’s terrorist watchlist have been apprehended at the US-Mexico border in FY23.² These trends are extremely concerning.

The Freedom of Religion is a fundamental right provided to all American citizens in the Constitution. Any threat to this right is an attack on one of the core pillars of our democracy and must be confronted. In

¹ ADL. (2023). *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2022*.

² DHS. (2023). *Homeland Threat Assessment 2024*. Page 12.

order for the United States to continue to stand with the Jewish people, we must ensure that they can safely gather free of fear in their places of worship.

As we determine the budget for Fiscal Year 2024 budget, I ask that you advocate for robust funding for this program as Congress works to fund the federal government in FY24. These are priorities that are important to the Jewish communities of Virginia and the United States.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me on my staff at 202-225-4215 should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.K.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jen Kiggans
Member of Congress