



One Hundred Nineteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2025

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Secretary Noem and Director Patel:

We write about deeply concerning reports that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are scaling back efforts to counter domestic terrorism, including by firing personnel and canceling programs dedicated to addressing the deadliest terrorism threat to Americans.

Since 2010, there have been over 200 domestic terrorism plots and attacks, with more than 154 people killed.¹ Former FBI Director Christopher Wray stated that 2019 was the deadliest year for domestic terrorism since the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995.² In 2019, FBI was managing nearly 1,000 domestic terrorism investigations.³ At the end of fiscal year 2022, the FBI's domestic terrorism caseload was closer to 2,700 pending investigations.⁴ Between fiscal years 2016 and 2021, FBI's domestic terrorism cases have increased by 490 percent.⁵ Given the continued increase in domestic terrorism cases, we are baffled by the Trump administration's recent actions, including the termination of 30 percent of DHS's terrorism prevention personnel,⁶ transfer of FBI agents and intelligence analysts out of the Domestic Terrorism Operations Section,⁷ and cancellation of a national domestic terrorism incident database.⁸

¹ GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, *Domestic Terrorism: Further Actions Needed to Strengthen FBI and DHS Collaboration to Counter Threats* (Feb. 22, 2023), <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-104720>; DHS OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS, (U//FOUO) *US Domestic Violent Extremists Diversifying Targets 2022–2023*, (April 1, 2024).

² Testimony of Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Christopher A. Wray, *Worldwide Threats Hearing before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security* (Sep. 24, 2020).

³ Testimony of Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Christopher A. Wray, *Worldwide Threats to the Homeland: Hearing before the House Committee on Homeland Security* (Oct. 30, 2019).

⁴ FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, *Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Data on Domestic Terrorism* (June 2023), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/23_0724_opa_strategic-intelligence-assessment-data-domestic-terrorism.pdf.

⁵ GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, *Domestic Terrorism: Further Actions Needed to Strengthen FBI and DHS Collaboration to Counter Threats* (Feb. 22, 2023), <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-104720>.

⁶ Megan Norris, *DHS Center for Prevention Programs & Partnerships Reduced by 30%*, HOMELAND SECURITY TODAY (Mar. 14, 2025), <https://www.hstoday.us/federal-pages/dhs/dhs-center-for-prevention-programs-partnerships-reduced-by-30/>.

⁷ Andrew Goudsward and Sarah N. Lynch, *Exclusive: FBI scales back staffing, tracking of domestic terrorism probes, sources say*, REUTERS (Mar. 21, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/fbi-scales-back-staffing-tracking-domestic-terrorism-probes-sources-say-2025-03-21/>.

⁸ Ellie Silverman, *Trump administration cuts national database tracking domestic terrorism*, THE WASHINGTON POST (Mar. 25, 2025), https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/03/25/domestic-extremism-database-trump-cuts/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=3/25/25%20%20PM:.

This canceled database identified more than 1,800 domestic terrorism and targeted violence events from 2023-2024, which impacted every State, more than 900 cities, and included 400 incidents targeting schools.⁹ The fact that nearly 80% of the incidents targeting schools were disrupted¹⁰ is a testament to DHS, FBI, State, local, Tribal, and Territorial law enforcement officers and prevention practitioners using the data and acting to thwart violent plans. The termination of the database, coupled with the fact that your agencies have failed to produce and publish domestic terrorism data for fiscal year 2023 as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92), makes us concerned about law enforcement's ability to detect and deter violent extremist attacks.

As you know, data and intelligence should drive policy decisions, and the data and intelligence from your agencies is clear – domestic terrorism is a grave threat to Americans' safety. Yet, your policy decisions indicate that you have decided to ignore the threat – risking American lives – in fear of running afoul of President Trump's executive orders to disregard racism and racial inequities in America, which experts have warned fuel domestic terrorism.

Not only do these policy decisions make no sense given the threat picture, but some of them directly conflict with each other and the Trump Administration's stated priorities. For example, on January 29, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order to Combat Anti-Semitism.¹¹ Yet, DHS is considering terminating grant programs that have helped Jewish institutions across the country prevent and mitigate the "vile anti-Semitic attacks" that the executive order speaks to.¹² Additionally, at the same time that senior FBI officials have reportedly discussed disbanding the Domestic Terrorism Operations section in its entirety,¹³ the FBI launches a domestic terrorism task force to crack down on attacks against Tesla vehicles.¹⁴ The administration should not be playing politics – or winging it – when it comes to protecting Americans' lives.

We urge you to comply with the law, Section 5602 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92), and publish the domestic terrorism data for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. We also ask that you respond to the following requests and questions by April 23, 2025:

1. Regarding DHS Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) personnel –
 - a. How many have been terminated?
 - b. How many of those terminated were probationary employees?
 - c. How many have resigned?
2. Regarding the Terrorism and Targeted Violence (T2V) database project –
 - a. How much money was spent on the T2V project from 2020-2023 when the project was being implemented as a contract?
 - b. How much money was spent on the T2V project from 2024-2025 when the project was being implemented as a grant?
 - c. How much money remains to be spent on final T2V project costs?
 - d. What does DHS intend to do with the data already collected under the T2V project given that the project no longer "effectuates Department priorities?"

⁹ UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR THE STUDY OF TERRORISM AND RESPONSES TO TERRORISM, *Statement on the cancellation of T2V* (Mar. 2025), <https://www.start.umd.edu/t2v>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ President Donald Trump, *Executive Order 14188 of January 29, 2025, Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism*, THE WHITE HOUSE (Jan. 29, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/additional-measures-to-combat-anti-semitism/>.

¹² Rachel Frazin, *Trump considers axing FEMA grants over immigration*, THE HILL (Mar. 28, 2025), <https://thehill.com/newsletters/energy-environment/5221071-trump-fema-grants-immigration/>.

¹³ Goudsward and Lynch.

¹⁴ Matthew Rehbein, et al., *FBI launches task force targeting anti-Tesla 'domestic terrorism'*, CNN (Mar. 25, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/25/us/fbi-task-force-tesla-attacks-hnk/index.html>.

- e. Please explain in detail why the T2V project no longer “effectuates Department priorities.”
 - f. Please provide the notice of the intent to terminate and notice of termination of the T2V project.
3. Please provide a list of the terminated National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE) contract actions related to research to understand how terrorists exploit emerging technologies, like artificial intelligence and the AR/VR metaverse, and explain in detail why those contracts were cancelled.
4. Have other DHS contracts, co-operative agreements, or grant-funded projects related to domestic terrorism been paused or terminated since January 20, 2025? If so, please provide a list of the paused or terminated contracts, co-operative agreements, or grant-funded projects.
5. DHS’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis identified domestic terrorism threats to the homeland and critical infrastructure as a priority 1 intelligence topic in the Homeland Intelligence Priorities Framework for Fiscal Year 2025.
 - a. Has DHS deprioritized or is DHS planning to deprioritize domestic terrorism as an intelligence topic?
 - b. Please provide the intelligence assessments that justify any change in the prioritization of domestic terrorism as an intelligence topic.
 - c. Have any staff been terminated or reassigned as a result of any change, or any planned change, in the prioritization of domestic terrorism as an intelligence topic? If so, how many staff have been terminated? How many have been reassigned?
6. Has FBI deprioritized or is FBI planning to deprioritize domestic terrorism as an intelligence topic?
 - a. Please provide the intelligence assessments that justify any change in the prioritization of domestic terrorism as an intelligence topic.
 - b. Have any staff been terminated or reassigned as a result of any change, or any planned change, in the prioritization of domestic terrorism as an intelligence topic? If so, how many staff have been terminated? How many have been reassigned?
7. As of the end of fiscal year 2022, the FBI’s domestic terrorism program included approximately 2,700 pending investigations.
 - a. Has FBI deprioritized or is FBI planning to deprioritize domestic terrorism investigations?
 - b. Have any staff been terminated or reassigned as a result of any change, or any planned change, in the prioritization of domestic terrorism investigations? If so, how many have been terminated? How many have been reassigned?
8. Under Section 5602 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, DHS and FBI are required to produce data on domestic terrorism, including the number of domestic terrorism-related intelligence products and assessments or investigations. DHS and FBI failed to produce this report for fiscal year 2023.
 - a. At the end of fiscal year 2023, how many domestic terrorism-related intelligence products did DHS publish?
 - b. At the end of fiscal year 2023, how many domestic terrorism-related intelligence products did FBI publish?
 - c. At the end of fiscal year 2023, how many domestic terrorism-related assessments or investigations did FBI have open?
 - d. At the end of fiscal year 2023, how many referrals of possible domestic terrorism incidents did the FBI receive from state and local law enforcement?
 - e. Has the FBI stopped collecting this data from state and local law enforcement?
 - f. When can Congress expect the publication of the mandated report for fiscal year 2023?

- g. Are your agencies in the process of compiling the report for fiscal year 2024 and can we expect it to be published, in compliance with the law, by June 2025?
9. In a January 21, 2025, Department of Justice (DOJ) memo, FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) were directed "to coordinate with DHS, as well as state and local members, to assist in the execution of President Trump's immigration-related initiatives."
- Have any FBI special agents supporting JTTFs been directed to pause or stop terrorism investigations – foreign or domestic – to prioritize immigration-related initiatives?
 - Have any FBI special agents been reassigned from JTTFs as a result of the deprioritization of domestic terrorism?
 - Have any FBI special agents been reassigned from JTTFs as a result of the January 21, 2025 DOJ memo to assist in the execution of immigration-related initiatives?
 - Since the issuance of the January 21, 2025, DOJ memo, how many hours are FBI special agents supporting JTTFs spending on terrorism investigations vs. immigration-related initiatives?
10. Have your agencies deprioritized or are your agencies planning to deprioritize foreign-inspired – or homegrown violent extremism – as an intelligence topic?
11. Has FBI deprioritized or is FBI planning to deprioritize foreign-inspired – or homegrown violent extremism – investigations?
12. How many personnel from your agencies have been assigned to the task force to investigate and respond to attacks against Tesla vehicles?
- From what divisions/offices were they pulled from?
 - How many hours have such personnel spent on investigating and responding to attacks on Tesla vehicles?

We thank you for your attention to these requests.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member



Seth M. Magaziner
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and
Intelligence