



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

August 29, 2023

The Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Hon. Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Director Wray:

We are incredibly disturbed by the continued threats against historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The gunman in Saturday's horrific shooting at a Dollar General in Jacksonville, Florida, where three African Americans were killed, arrived on the campus of Edward Waters University – an HBCU – prior to carrying out his deadly attack.¹ In April, a suspect was arrested at another HBCU, the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, with a coterie of weapons and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.²

As you know, HBCUs have experienced an unprecedented number of threats of violence – particularly bomb threats – over the course of last year. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the first in a related series of bomb threats occurred on January 4, 2022. Following the January 4 threat, there were 28 total bomb threats targeting Black academic institutions over the span of one month. In February 2022, there were at least another six bomb threats at HBCUs, including Howard University. In total, more than a third of all HBCUs in the Nation were targeted in 2022.

These ongoing threats to HBCUs have left thousands of students waking up to shelter-in-place warnings, bomb sniffing dogs, and campus sweeps. It is an unacceptable burden uniquely borne by the students of HBCUs and by the institutions themselves, and the time has come to accelerate interagency efforts to confront this terrible pattern of violence and harassment against HBCUs.

To this end, we are requesting a briefing to receive an update by September 12, 2023 on the Department of Homeland Security's and FBI's assessment of threats to HBCUs and efforts to stop

¹ Brittany Shammas, Cate Cadell, and Maham Javaid, "Jacksonville shooter tried to enter HBCU before Dollar General," **THE WASHINGTON POST**, Aug. 27, 2023,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2023/08/27/jacksonville-shooter-dollar-general-florida/>.

² "Heavily armed man arrested on North Carolina A&T campus," **ABC 11 NEWS**, April 4, 2023, <https://abc11.com/north-carolina-at-armed-man-on-campus-nc-greensboro/13079622/>.

this persistent, dangerous harassment. Particularly, we are interested in how the two agencies have been integrating resources to provide information and guidance to schools, and training that is specific to the needs of each campus.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

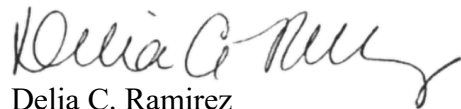
Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Emergency Management
and Technology



Delia C. Ramirez
Vice Ranking Member



Seth Magaziner
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,
Law Enforcement, and Intelligence

CC: The Honorable Mark E. Green, MD
Chairman

The Honorable Michael Guest
Vice Chairman

The Honorable Anthony D'Esposito
Chairman
Subcommittee on Emergency Management
and Technology

The Honorable August Pfluger
Chairman
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,
Law Enforcement, and Intelligence