



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

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

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

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Roybal-Allard and Ranking Members Granger and Fleischmann:

Last week, the Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “The Dynamic Terrorism Landscape and What it Means for America” where we received compelling testimony that the current terrorism landscape is complex, diffused, and dynamic, while heavily motivated by elements of white supremacy.<sup>1</sup> The hearing took place in the midst of a spate of bomb threats to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), predominantly Black churches, and synagogues across the country and just weeks after a terrorist held congregants hostage at a Texas synagogue. Given the threat landscape, we urge you to take urgent action to respond to the dynamic terrorism threat environment and provide significant new funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

The NSGP provides support to at-risk institutions to bolster security, allowing congregants and the public to access them securely and safely. The importance of this vital program was underscored during the January 15 attack on Congregation Beth Israel in Texas, when the rabbi and congregants were able to escape, in part due to security trainings funded by NSGP.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Dynamic Terrorism Landscape and What it Means for America: Hearing Before the Comm. on Homeland Security*, 117<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2022) (testimony of Dr. Cynthia Millier-Idriss).

Like synagogues, Black churches, Sikh temples, and mosques, HBCUs and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) are acutely at risk in the current threat landscape, as white supremacists and antigovernment extremist groups pose the most pressing threats to Americans.<sup>2</sup> FBI Director Christopher Wray testified in March 2021 that the number of domestic terrorism investigations has doubled since he took office in 2017 — to more than 2,000 — and the number of investigations into white supremacists has tripled.<sup>3</sup>

And just this week, the Department of Homeland Security issued a National Terrorism Advisory System bulletin that warned that the primary terrorism-related threat to the homeland comes from individuals or small groups motivated by grievances culled online and the “convergence of violent extremist ideologies, false or misleading narratives and conspiracy theories continue to contribute to a heightened threat of violence.”<sup>4</sup> The bulletin goes on to say “threats directed at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other colleges and universities, Jewish facilities, and churches cause concern and may inspire extremist threat actors to mobilize to violence.”<sup>5</sup> Given the ever-expanding list of potential targets, the need for NSGP is significant and growing.

This request for additional funding for the NSGP is made with great appreciation for all the Committee on Appropriations has done in recent years to expand the program. We heralded the doubling of program funding in FY 2021<sup>6</sup>, but even with this significant increase the demand has never been greater. In FY 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reports it received applications from 3,361 institutions that, in total, sought roughly \$400 million, or more than double the available funding.<sup>7</sup> In addition to urging significant new funding for the NSGP, we would encourage the Appropriations Committee to support enhancing administration of the program within FEMA and by the States.

We appreciate your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

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<sup>2</sup> Department of Homeland Security. “Homeland threat assessment” (August, 2020). Available at: [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2020\\_10\\_06\\_homeland-threat-assessment.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2020_10_06_homeland-threat-assessment.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> *Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: the January 6 Insurrection, Domestic Terrorism, and Other Threats: Hearing Before the Comm. on the Judiciary*, 117<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2022) (testimony of Christopher Wray).

<sup>4</sup> *National Terrorism Advisory System Alert*, DEP’T OF HOMELAND SEC., Feb.. 7, 2022, <https://www.dhs.gov/ntas/advisory/national-terrorism-advisory-system-bulletin-february-07-2022>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> FEMA, Briefing Slide Obtained During Staff Briefing on July 22, 2021.

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