

January 18, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chairwoman Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As representatives of the Jewish community in the United States, we firmly believe in the right of all people to worship and congregate without fear. As you continue negotiating final funding agreements, we join together in urging you to include \$500 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) in the final FY2024 appropriations bill and the highest possible funding for NSGP in any national security emergency supplemental. This will provide much-needed protection of Jewish and other faith based and at-risk communal institutions across the nation.

The current war between Israel and Hamas has led to an unprecedented wave of antisemitic threats and attacks. Recent data from ADL's Center on Extremism indicates antisemitic incidents have skyrocketed, reaching a total of 3,283 incidents between October 7, 2023, and January 7, 2024. This represents a 360-percent increase compared to the same period one year prior, which saw 712 incidents. The preliminary three-month tally is higher than the total number of antisemitic incidents tracked in any year in the last decade, except for calendar year 2022. There has been a rise in threats and violence against Muslim and other communities as well.

As you know, the NSGP provides faith-based communities with the resources to harden their spaces against rising physical and cyber threats and allows vulnerable populations to be better prepared for emergencies. The NSGP saves lives and prevents tragedies. Unfortunately, a review of past requests found that less than half of funding applications are accepted and funded. In FY2023, **while there was \$305 million in available funds, more than \$670 million grants were requested.**

According to the FBI, DHS, and NCTC Public Service Announcement, "Since the Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October, various foreign terrorist media organizations have called for lone actor

attacks in the United States. Racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists (RMVEs) have also increased calls for violence and celebrated attacks on the Jewish community.” Given the exponential increase in threats, now is the time to ensure all American faith communities at risk have the resources to protect themselves from harm.

We all welcomed the inclusion of \$1 billion of NSGP funding in the National Security and Border Act, 2024 and have supported increased NSGP funding in the annual appropriations bill, post October 7. Between these two vehicles, it is critical that Congress appropriate the highest possible funding to meet the rising demand, addressing the increased dangers facing the Jewish communities.

We are grateful that Congress has delivered record funding to protect America’s Jewish and faith institutions. Sadly, the new reality requires us to do more to keep our communities safe. A key way is by including increased funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program in the annual appropriations and supplemental funding bill, so at-risk communities can be protected from the rising threat of hate.

Sincerely,

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
Jewish Federations of North America
Agudath Israel of America
American Jewish Committee
Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations
Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America
Hillel International
JCC Association of North America
National Council of Jewish Women
Rabbinical Assembly
Secure Community Network
Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism