

Senators Gillibrand, Portman, and Peters invite your bosses to join a letter to fund the Nonprofit Security Grant Program under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) at \$50 million and also fund NSGP at \$25 million for non-UASI communities.

The NSGP provides critical funding to support physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack. The program has improved efforts to keep at-risk nonprofit organizations safe by promoting emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private community representatives as well as state and local government agencies. Since today's threat environment continues to evolve quickly, the NSGP helps nonprofits plan for and ready themselves against a terrorist attack.

These funds are especially important considering the February 2019 FBI, DHS, and NCTC Joint Intelligence Bulletin (JIB), which found that domestic extremists; perpetrators of hate crimes; homegrown violent extremists; and foreign terrorist organizations will continue to pose a lethal threat to faith-based communities in the Homeland, particularly against perceived soft targets such as religious and cultural facilities. In light of this enduring threat, and the difficulty of detecting US-based threat actors, the JIB assesses that those responsible for ensuring the security of houses of worship (e.g., synagogues, churches, and mosques), cultural community centers, and other establishments or individuals associated with various faiths, must remain vigilant.

Deadline: COB Friday, April 12

Please contact Gil Ruiz in Senator Gillibrand's office at: Gilbert_Ruiz@gillibrand.senate.gov, or Cara Mumford in Senator Portman's office at: Cara_Mumford@hsgac.senate.gov, if you have questions or if your boss would like to join the letter.

April 15, 2019

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Tester,

Thank you for your work in helping to ensure additional resources for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19). Funding the NSGP program is critical to protecting communities across our nation from threats. As you craft the Fiscal Year 2020 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, we respectfully ask you to fund NSGP under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) at \$50 million and also fund NSGP at \$25 million for non-UASI communities, under the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

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public and private community representatives as well as state and local government agencies. Since today's threat environment continues to evolve quickly, the NSGP helps nonprofits plan for and ready themselves against a terrorist attack.

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Other reporting supports this concern. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), the number of hate groups in the United States has increased by 30 percent over the past four years and has risen to the highest level in at least 20 years. According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the number of anti-Semitic incidents in 2017 (1,986) was nearly 60 percent higher than in 2016. This represented the largest single-year increase on record and the second highest number reported since the ADL started tracking incident data nearly 50 years ago. According to the public record, recent incidents targeting synagogues, churches, mosques, and other religious centers and nonprofit organizations include shooting and mass shooting, arson and fire bombing, attempted bombing, assault, death threats, hoaxes, vandalism, and property damage. These incidents illustrate the many credible threats against nonprofit institutions across the country and must be taken seriously.

With the rise of hate groups in our nation, the record of threats facing members of our community, and the February 2019 assessment by U.S. Counterterrorism agencies that the threat to faith-based communities posed by domestic extremists is enduring, now more than ever Congress needs to strengthen the NSGP program. For these reasons, we respectfully encourage you to fund the UASI NSGP at \$50 million and \$25 million for non-UASI, so our nation can do all it can to prevent direct threats to communities and protect at-risk nonprofit institutions from these grave threats.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Rob Portman
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

^[1] Joint Intelligence Bulletin (IA-32337-19), February 22, 2019.