

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 1, 2019

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

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann and Chair Serrano and Aderholt:

As you consider funding for Fiscal Year 2020, we write to urge you to support robust funding and language requests for the below offices that combat domestic terrorism violence. Just a few weeks ago we all mourned as a gunman killed 49 Muslims in a Mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand. That gunman was motivated by the same hate and irrational fears that led to the murder of 11 Jews in their synagogue in Squirrel Hill in October – hate that has been promulgated by the rising tide of white supremacists in the United States and amplified through social media. This hatred is not just contained to the occasional and horrifying mass shooting; there were more than 7,100 hate crimes in 2017 – a 17% increase from 2016.

The policies we are proposing would address the growing amount of domestic terrorist violence in our country, and work to prevent any further loss of life to violent extremists.

**Department of Justice**

1. Elevate the Counsel for Domestic Terrorism role to the rank of Assistant Attorney General and increase the staff allocated to the office to fit the need.
2. Establish a Task Force or Committee, led by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Counsel for Domestic Terrorism with representation from DOJ Civil Rights Division, FBI, DHS, the National Counterterrorism Center, CIA's Counterterrorism Center, and Fusion Center experts to consider the capacity of the Federal government to counter domestic extremism. The Task Force or Committee should be required to produce a summary report on changes in the frequency and motivations for domestic extremism in the last ten years, documenting current trends, examining the activities of the Federal government to counter it, and making recommendations to improve the Federal government's posture to address to problem.

3. Robust funding for the Office of Domestic Terrorism Counsel.
4. Robust funding for the National Institute of Justice, specifically the research division on Domestic Radicalization and Terrorism.


**Department of Homeland Security**

1. Request funding for the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Terrorism Prevention Partnerships, specifically the Countering Violent Extremism Grant.
2. Request funding for the Homeland Security Grant program, specifically Fusion Centers.

By taking these steps, we can change our country's overall policy toward domestic terrorism from reactive to proactive, and in the process can save lives.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress