

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Mark Amodei  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
104 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
2372 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Amodei and Ranking Member Cuellar:

Thank you for your continued support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). As the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill is drafted, we respectfully ask that \$385 million of funding be allocated for NSGP. It is well known that the program provides critical security resources to at-risk faith-based and nonprofit institutions located in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

The security investments acquired through the NSGP program include physical security enhancements, emergency preparedness planning, training exercises, and enhanced engagement and collaboration between public and private community representatives, as well as state and local homeland security and emergency management government agencies. The investments are pivotal to our national security, as DHS recognized the serious nature of the threats in its National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletins, which warns that acts of extremist-motivated violence are likely to continue against faith-based institutions, schools, and racial and religious minorities. Notably, the most recent bulletin signaled an increased threat landscape since Hamas brutally attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, alerting that extremists have called for violence and celebrated attacks against the Jewish community. It continued, warning that lone actors could seek to disrupt or escalate violence at religious locations, with Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Arab communities as potential targets<sup>1</sup>. There has also been an increase in hoax bomb and active shooter threats targeting houses of worship across the country, intended to disrupt services and intimidate congregants.

In the three months following October 7, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recorded an alarming 3,291 antisemitic incidents across the United States – an average of 34 anti-Jewish acts daily, and a 360% increase in antisemitic incident reports. Nationwide reporting on specific incidents underscores the frequency, complexity, and breadth of the threats our religious communities face:

- On March 26, 2023, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office reported a shooting of two individuals outside a Sikh Temple following a physical altercation.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ic3.gov/Media/Y2023/PSA231212>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.kcra.com/article/sacramento-sikh-temple-shooting-sunday/43421542#>

- On March 27, 2023, a woman entered a Nashville, Tennessee, Christian elementary school and shot and killed six people, of which three were children.<sup>3</sup>
- On July 31, 2023, a man opened fire outside a Jewish school in Memphis, Tennessee.<sup>4</sup>
- On December 7, 2023, a man in Albany, New York, fired a shotgun twice outside of a synagogue just hours before the start of Hanukkah.<sup>5</sup>
- More than a dozen synagogues in greater Philadelphia received bomb threats on the last day of Hanukkah, prompting evacuations and mass law enforcement responses.<sup>6</sup>
- On January 3, 2024, a Newark, New Jersey, Imam was shot and killed outside of his mosque.<sup>7</sup>
- On January 30, 2024, a man open fired at a San Francisco Catholic Church.<sup>8</sup>
- On February 11, 2024, a woman forced her way inside a Texas Christian megachurch and open fired.<sup>9</sup>
- On February 17, 2024, police in Broward County, Florida, arrested a man for beating a 69-year-old Rabbi who was walking home from synagogue on Shabbat.<sup>10</sup>

The NSGP program is a critical component to the nation's response to domestic and international threats targeting the nonprofit sector, but the program is significantly over-subscribed. The most recent NSGP award results made that clear. According to FEMA's data, it reviewed almost 5,200 grant applications but were only able to fund 2,201 – less than half of the submissions. Although the total funding requested was \$678 million, FEMA had \$305 million to allocate; a record figure, but not enough to meet rising demands.

In FY2023, there was a 97% increase in NSGP-State applications. The increase of over 1,700 applications was more than FEMA received in the entire program in FY2020. All 55 eligible states and territories applied under NSGP-S for the first time in the history of the program. As we have seen, the need has continued to grow for federal funds, which is expected as the FY2024 NSGP application process unfolds. And with \$274.5 million available in FY2024, \$30.5 million less than last year, many worthy grant applications will not be fulfilled.

Unfortunately, today's threat environment provides a compelling public interest in preventing attacks that would disrupt the vital health, human, social, cultural, religious, and other humanitarian services to society. Such threats terrorize the lives and well-being of millions of Americans who operate, utilize, live, and work in their communities. Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to strengthen the NSGP by properly funding the program at \$385 million in FY2025.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2023/03/27/1166268762/nashville-school-shooting-covenant>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/31/us/memphis-margolin-hebrew-academy-shooting?cid=ios\\_app](https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/31/us/memphis-margolin-hebrew-academy-shooting?cid=ios_app)

<sup>5</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/jewish-temple-shots-albany-new-york-hanukkah-cd1c44c4829e699a42eeaa87ef0e5373>

<sup>6</sup> [Bomb threats reported at 13 synagogues across Philadelphia and suburban counties - 6abc Philadelphia](#)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/crime-courts/son-slain-new-jersey-imam-arrested-gun-charge-rcna136233>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/peninsula/south-san-francisco-church-shooting/3438520/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/02/14/us/lakewood-church-shooting-joel-osteen-texas/index.html>

<sup>10</sup> [Suspect arrested for attack on man leaving Chabad synagogue in Florida - The Jewish Chronicle \(thejc.com\)](#)



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



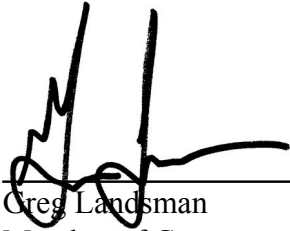
Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
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Andrew R. Garbarino  
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Lucy McBath  
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Jared Huffman  
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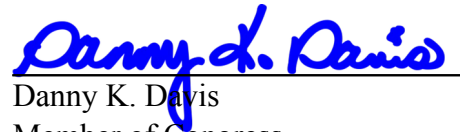
Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
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Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



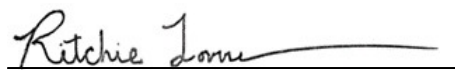
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



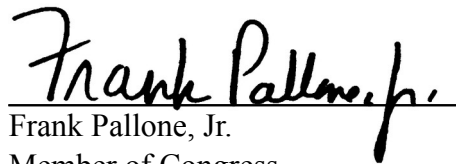
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



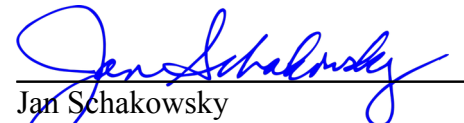
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



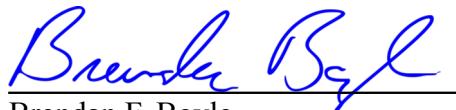
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress




Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



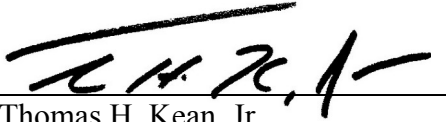
Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress



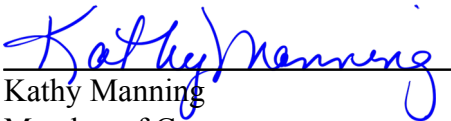
Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning  
Member of Congress



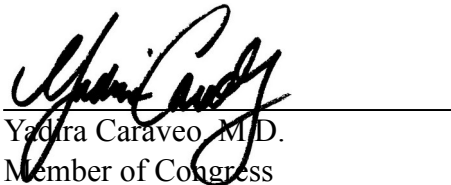
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



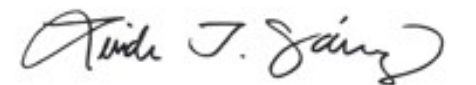
Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Yadira Caraveo M.D.  
Member of Congress

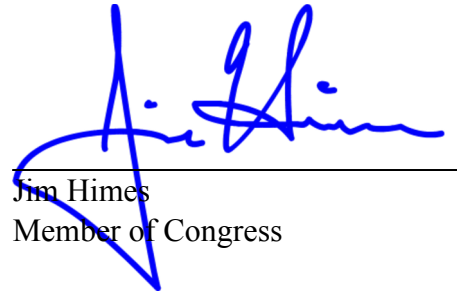


Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



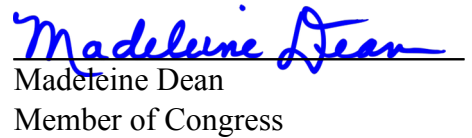
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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



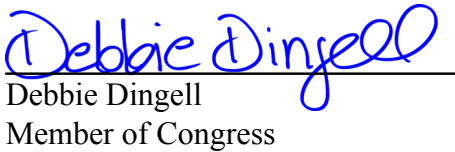
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Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



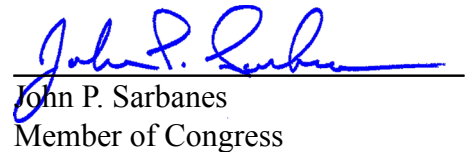
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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



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Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



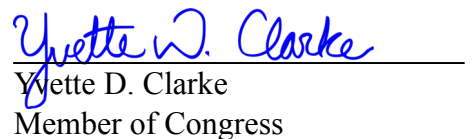
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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress




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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress




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Jill Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



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Michael V. Lawler  
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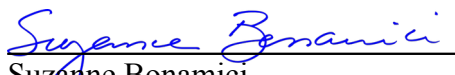
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Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress




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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress




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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



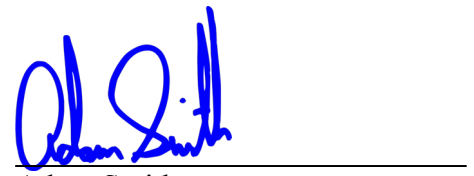
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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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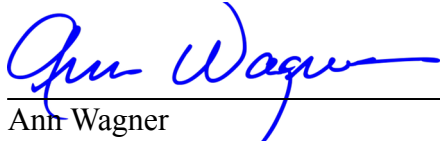
Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



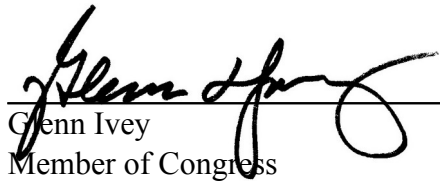
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

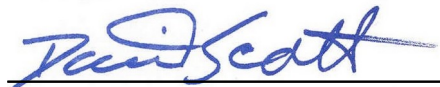


A blue ink signature of Ann Wagner, written in a cursive style.

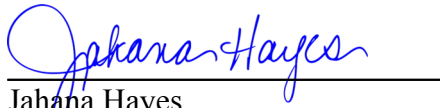
Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress

A black ink signature of Glenn Ivey, written in a cursive style.

Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of David Scott, written in a cursive style.


David Scott  
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Jahana Hayes, written in a cursive style.

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Suzan K. DelBene, written in a cursive style.

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

A black ink signature of Jared Moskowitz, written in a cursive style.


Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress

A black ink signature of Anthony D'Esposito, written in a cursive style.

Anthony D'Esposito  
Member of Congress

A black ink signature of Val Hoyle, written in a cursive style.

Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress

A blue ink signature of Gerald E. Connolly, written in a cursive style.

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress


A blue ink signature of Marc A. Veasey, written in a cursive style.

Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress




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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



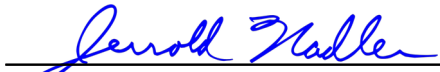
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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



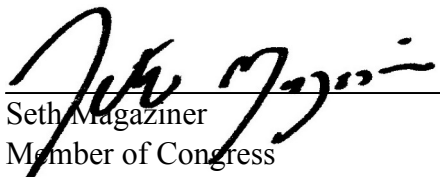
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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



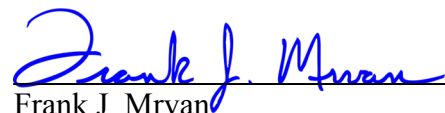
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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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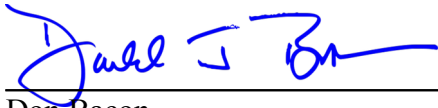
Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



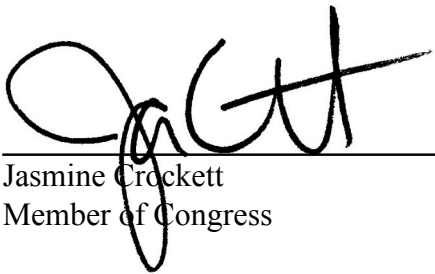
Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



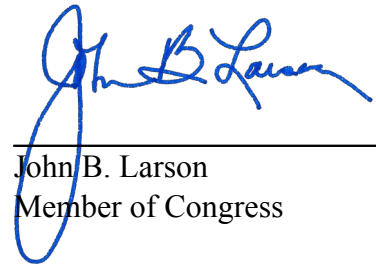
Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



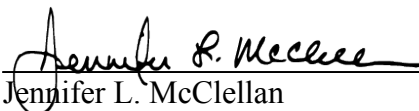
Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



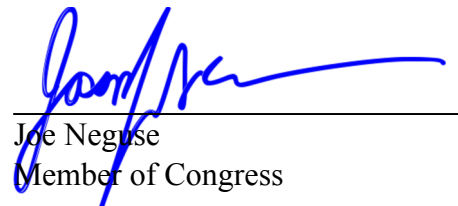
David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



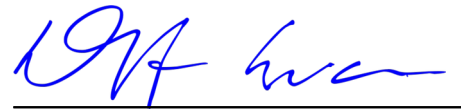
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



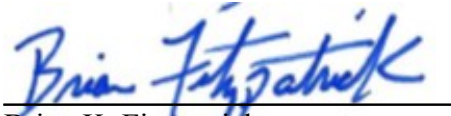
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



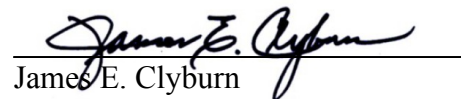
Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



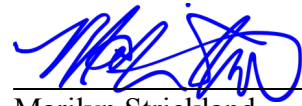
Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



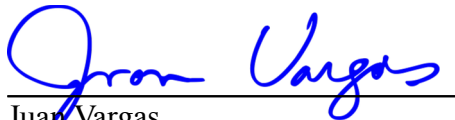
James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress (SC-06)



Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



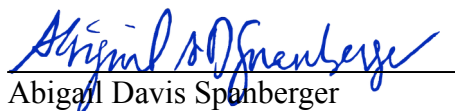
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress