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Dear Senators and Representatives,

Since 1913, the mission of ADL has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” For decades, ADL has fought against bigotry and antisemitism by monitoring and exposing extremist groups and movements who spread hate and commit acts of violence.

Antisemitic attacks, harassment, and online hate have each hit historically high rates in the last few years, and they are all interconnected. They are occurring in a polarized political and cultural environment in which hate, domestic terror, and specifically white supremacist violent extremism – which is responsible for the vast majority of extremist-related murders in the United States in recent years – are increasingly threatening all Americans.

In light of the above, we write to request your support in appropriating sufficient funds to address these threats.

## **HOMELAND SECURITY**

### 1. NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANTS

Religious freedom in America can flourish only if worshippers inside religious institutions are protected from hate-based violence. But, in recent years, several high-profile murderous attacks on religious institutions have demonstrated that houses of worship face significant security risks.

- Six Sikh worshippers were killed at their Oak Creek, Wisconsin Gurdwara in August 2012.
- Nine African-American worshippers were killed at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina in June, 2015.
- Eleven Jewish worshippers were killed at the Tree of Life Synagogue in October 2018.

For the past decade, funding assistance from federal, state, and local governments has provided crucial support for security hardening and enhancements for our nation’s religious institutions. Congress appropriated \$90 million for this program for FY20. At a time of increased attention to white supremacy, antisemitism, extremist and hate-motivated violence, Congress should significantly increase funding for houses of worship and other non-profit institutions that government and law enforcement authorities objectively determine are at high risk of attack. In assessing the risk, officials should consider objective factors such as prior attacks against similarly situated institutions or organizations, and the vulnerability and financial needs of the specific institution.

**ADL requests increased funding of the Urban Area Security Initiative NSGP at \$240 million and \$120 million for the State Homeland Security Grant NSGP**

## 2. PROTECTIVE SECURITY ADVISORS

The Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency provides Protective Security Advisors (PSA). PSAs serve as onsite critical infrastructure and vulnerability assessment specialists for the Department while providing a local perspective to the national risk picture by identifying, assessing, and monitoring the risk to critical infrastructure at the state, local, and regional levels. They are critical to local law enforcement agencies as well as non-profit organizations seeking non-profit security grants. Unfortunately, this program is under-resourced.

**ADL supports DHS's request to increase this program with 158 Positions, 143 FTE, and \$21.6 million.**

## 3. TARGETED VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM PREVENTION

ADL supports the DHS Offices for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention. In addition to this core infrastructure for prevention, grants to empower civil society and research institutions to perform the majority of this work are critical and must be appropriately funded.

**ADL supports DHS' request to increase funding of these efforts to \$150 million.**

This funding, however, requires significant oversight from Congress to ensure that the grants are targeted at the greatest domestic terrorist threat confronting Americans – white supremacy – and that civil liberties are protected in their implementation.

**ADL recommends consolidating grants to three or fewer – ideally one – grant recipient to provide sub-grants to local community partners so that there is a non-federal entity directly overseeing the projects, distancing security officials from sensitive community-based activities. However, that entity should not bear sole responsibility for evaluating its own work.**

## 4. DOMESTIC TERRORISM DATA COLLECTION IMPLEMENTATION

Section 5602 of the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act required five annual reports on the threat of domestic terrorism. ADL strongly supports this requirement, as it is critical that the federal government aggregate and share with Congress and the public full information about the threat of domestic terrorism. Good data makes good policy.

**ADL requests \$1 million for DHS, DOJ and FBI to produce this report.**

## **COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE**

### 5. MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT STATE AND LOCAL POLICE TRAINING

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA, Division E, Public Law 111-84) is the most important federal hate crime enforcement law enacted in the past

40 years. Despite Section 4704 of the HCPA authorizing funding for “technical, forensic, prosecutorial, or any other form of assistance” to state and local law enforcement authorities for investigating and prosecuting hate crimes, Congress has never appropriated specific funds to implement this law. The need for doing so is greater today than ever before.

**ADL requests \$100 million for hate crimes state and local police training.**

6. FBI DOMESTIC TERRORISM-HATE CRIMES FUSION CELL

The FBI recently established a Domestic Terrorism-Hate Crimes Fusion Cell to ensure it effectively addresses the rise in hate crimes and domestic terrorism and the links between the two and that different parts of the Bureau are collaborating.

**ADL requests that this fusion cell be fully funded in the FY2021 budget.**

7. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

ADL and its network of 25 Regional Offices have worked closely with DOJ’s Community Relations Service (CRS) professionals across the country to help resolve a variety of intergroup disputes. On many occasions since the establishment of CRS in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, its professionals, working with law enforcement officials and civil rights organizations, have acted to defuse community tensions associated with hate groups rallies, police shootings, community-based racial crises, and allegations of discrimination based on race, color, and national origin.

We oppose the President’s proposal to end funding for CRS as a separate part of the Justice Department. At a time of increasing community tensions, hate, and hate violence, this is definitely not the time to reduce CRS responsibilities and staff and subsume it within the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division (CRT). CRS derives credibility and respect from its association with the Justice Department – but its separate status within the Department and its field structure are essential components in effectively performing its conflict resolution mission. CRS effectiveness is based on the fact that CRS professionals located in regional offices have established networks and know the communities in which they work. And CRS is not an investigative or prosecutorial arm of the Department of Justice. This fact makes it easier for CRS to provide impartial conciliation and mediation services that can assist mayors, police chiefs, school officials, and community leaders to prevent community tensions and intergroup violence.

In this time of increased incivility, white supremacy and hate violence, the unique mediation and conciliation services of CRS are critically valuable. CRS conflict mediators and community-based programs have helped to confront the hatred and misunderstanding that can lead to violent bigotry and when hate arises, and help prevent community disputes from escalating out of control.

CRS received \$16 million in FY 2020, an increase from \$15.5 million in FY 2019. Yet the agency has been downgraded from more than 70 FTEs three years ago to about 34 now.

**ADL supports an increase in funding and a significant increase in permitted staff hiring for CRS.**

### **Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**

#### **8. HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION**

According to a 2018 national survey, almost half of millennials believe that fewer than 2 million Jewish people were killed in the Holocaust. Teaching about the Holocaust goes beyond understanding the historical fact that six million Jews were murdered along with millions of other innocent victims of the Nazi regime during World War II. Holocaust education can teach universal lessons including: world history, fascism, extremism, the fragility of democracy, the human capacity for immorality, scapegoating and stereotyping, the role of perpetrators and bystanders, the importance of empathy and diversity and efforts toward justice.

**ADL requests \$2 million to expand the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s education programming.** The need for these efforts is highlighted by the fact that the U.S. House of Representatives approved H.R. 943, the Never Again Education Act by a vote of 393-5 on January 27. S. 2085, the U.S. Senate companion bill, is now pending.

### **State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

#### **9. OFFICE OF THE U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTISEMITISM**

Global antisemitism is on the rise. According to a recent survey by the European Union’s Fundamental Rights Agency, “Antisemitism pervades everyday life,” and “Antisemitic harassment is so common it is normalized.” The study found that 38% of respondents had considered emigrating in the past five years over antisemitism-related safety fears, up from 27% in the previous survey.

**ADL requests increased funding for the U.S. Special Envoy’s office to address the global rise in antisemitic violence, harassment, vandalism, attitudes, and incitement.** The need for this expanded U.S. role is highlighted by the fact that the House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved legislation in both of the last two sessions of Congress stating that “Congress finds that since the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004 was enacted, in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent and wide in scope, the perpetrators and variety of threats to Jewish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries anti-Semitic attacks have increased in frequency, scope, violence, and deadliness.”

#### **10. COUNTERING GLOBAL WHITE SUPREMACIST EXTREMISM**

Improved public understanding of how the Department of State addresses white supremacist extremism is needed. Funding for the Bureau of Counterterrorism may be sufficient, provided adequate attention to evolving forms of extremism, such as the recent growth in far-right extremism globally, but it is difficult to say without a strategy and explicit resources to counter

the threat. However, the Global Engagement Center (GEC) and grants to the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) are at levels that are far from adequate to address trends in white supremacist extremism worldwide.

**ADL recommends at least a 10 percent increase in funding for the GEC and the GCERF to explicitly address white supremacist extremism worldwide.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Sevilla', written over a horizontal line.

Max Sevilla  
Vice President, Government Relations, Advocacy, and Community Engagement