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August 19, 2020

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Thornberry:

We commend you on successfully passing versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 through the House on July 21st and the Senate on July 23rd. On behalf of ADL, we write to you today to request your help ensuring that specific provisions of this bill from either the House or Senate versions are included in the final bill text that will be negotiated through conference.

In particular, we encourage you to help pass the following provisions into law:

- H.R. 6395, Section 1032: “Annual report on use of social media by foreign terrorist organizations,” which would give added attention to the important security issue of foreign terrorist organization continuing to find loopholes to exploit social media platforms for a broad array of terrorist activities.
- H.R. 6395, Section 1285: “Establishment of a National Commission on U.S. Counterterrorism Policy,” which would establish a federal entity to systematically assess what has worked in U.S. counterterrorism policy and what needs to be reoriented.
- H.R. 6395, Section 1274, “Countering White Identity Terrorism Globally,” which would require a comprehensive State Department strategy for combating violent white supremacist groups abroad.
- H.R. 6395, Section 1781: “Report on the Threat Posed by Domestic Terrorists,” which would require the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the DHS Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis, and

the Director of National Intelligence to report to Congress on the nature and extent of the domestic terror threat and domestic terrorist groups.

- S. 4049, Section 5586, “Questions Regarding Racism, Anti-Semitism, and Supremacism in Workplace Surveys Administered by the Secretary of Defense,” which would require the Secretary of Defense to ask in annual surveys about “racist, anti-Semitic, or supremacist” activity that members of the military have been the targets of or witnessed, as well as compel a GAO study on the career workforce at the Pentagon, looking at issues of diversity and inclusion, to include evaluating the impact of white supremacy on members of the Armed Forces.
- S. 4049, Sec. 6293: “Security Assistance for Israel,” which would authorize the remaining eight years of \$3.3 billion in annual U.S. Foreign Military Financing aid to Israel pledged under the 2016 bilateral memorandum of understanding. Relatedly, we appreciate that both chambers also passed provisions to authorize \$500 million in missile defense cooperation with Israel, as pledged under the 2016 bilateral memorandum.

Together, these provisions can help protect our own military from white supremacist extremism, ensure that our approach to counterterrorism rightfully considers the national security threat of white supremacist terrorism, and robustly support America’s longstanding close ally Israel. As you support these amendments, we urge you to prioritize civil liberties protections especially in light of the disproportionate impact on marginalized communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective.

Sincerely,



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