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ADL Foundation

Michael Sheetz, President

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairperson
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairperson
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chairperson
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairperson Leahy, Vice Chairperson Shelby, Chairperson Murphy, and Ranking Member Capito:

The horrific hostage-taking at Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas on January 15, 2022 has once again brought into stark relief the fact that synagogues and other Jewish institutions remain deeply vulnerable to violent, antisemitic attacks. This unfortunately reality is why ADL has long supported an increase in funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which provides non-profits institutions – such as synagogues, mosques, churches, temples and other houses of worship or religious gathering places – with the capacity to increase their defense against these threats, including physical security and cybersecurity capacity and coordination. The synagogue in Colleyville credits training by ADL and other organizations in helping keep them safe, and that some of its security equipment was subsidized with federal grants – we must empower synagogues and other houses of worship nationwide with the same resources.

Last year, the House initially approved \$360 million for the program for the 2021 fiscal year – an increase from \$90 million in 2020 – but Congress ultimately budgeted \$180 million. ADL has long called for an increase in federal funding to \$360 million to meet the increased current demand. The grant program fulfilled less than half of the applications it received for 2021 grants; the program received approximately \$400 million in applications – more than double the dollar amount appropriated.

At a time of increased vulnerability to threats of hate-motivated violence by domestic extremists, Congress should significantly increase funding for this grant program to enable non-profit religious institutions and other non-profit organizations that government and law enforcement authorities objectively determine are at high risk of attack to better protect their communities from future acts of terrorism or hate-motivated violence. To this end, ADL reiterates our request for increased funding of the Non-Profit Security Grant Program at \$360 million – approximately 90 percent of last year's demand – for FY22.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chelsea', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Chelsea Parsons

Director of Government Relations, Civil Rights

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Robert G. Sugarman
Glen A. Tobias

ADL Foundation

Michael Sheetz, President

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairperson
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairperson
House Committee on Appropriations
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairperson DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairperson Roybal-Allard, and Ranking Member Fleischman:

The horrific hostage-taking at Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas on January 15, 2022 has once again brought into stark relief the fact that synagogues and other Jewish institutions remain deeply vulnerable to violent, antisemitic attacks. This unfortunately reality is why ADL has long supported an increase in funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which provides non-profits institutions – such as synagogues, mosques, churches, temples and other houses of worship or religious gathering places – with the capacity to increase their defense against these threats, including physical security and cybersecurity capacity and coordination. The synagogue in Colleyville credits training by ADL and other organizations in helping keep them safe, and that some of its security equipment was subsidized with federal grants – we must empower synagogues and other houses of worship nationwide with the same resources.

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