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December 2, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi,
Minority Leader McCarthy:

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.” Today, ADL is a global leader in fighting antisemitism, exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education, and monitoring and fighting the spread of hate in our communities and online.

We are currently experiencing a crisis of rising antisemitism, both at home and around the world. Antisemitic voices, inciting hateful and violent action, are finding new audiences; anti-Jewish conspiracies are gaining traction across the globe. According to ADL’s most recent [Audit of Antisemitic Incidents](#), 2021 was the highest year on record for antisemitic incidents in the United States, a 34 percent increase from 2020 and the highest year on record since ADL began tracking them in 1979. This dramatic increase included a 43 percent increase in harassment, a 14 percent increase in vandalism, and a 167 percent increase in assaults from the year prior. This rise also includes a growing number of deadly attacks on the Jewish community in recent years, including Pittsburgh, Poway, Colleyville, Jersey City, San Diego, and others.

At the same time, antisemitism and extremism online continue to grow unchecked. With increasing frequency, influential public figures, celebrities, and foreign government officials use social media platforms to spread their

antisemitic, hateful views. Algorithmic amplification of divisive and hateful content by Facebook, YouTube and other big tech platforms creates an environment prone to inspire those curious about or animated by antisemitism and extremism. ADL has [reported](#) on the clear connection between online antisemitic, extremist, and hateful images and tropes reverberating on social media and offline hate and violence directed at marginalized communities.

This summer ADL announced the [COMBAT Plan](#), a comprehensive, six-part advocacy framework to fight antisemitism on the international, national, state, and local levels: Condemning antisemitism, Opposing hate and extremism, Making communities safe, Blocking online antisemitism, Acting globally against antisemitism, and Teaching about antisemitism.

We write to ask you to use the final days of the 117th Congress to enact urgent legislative elements of the COMBAT Plan to address this crisis of antisemitism. These measures include the following:

The Nonprofit Security Grant Improvement Act ([H.R. 6825](#))

Funding assistance has provided crucial support for security hardening and enhancements for our nation's nonprofit institutions, including religious institutions. This responds to the continuing targeting by violent extremists of synagogues, mosques, churches, temples and other houses of worship and religious gathering places – a threat that was once again brought into stark relief by the horrific hostage-taking at Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas on January 15, 2022.

The Non-Profit Security Grant Improvement Act will ensure that these organizations have the capacity to increase their defense against these threats, including physical security and cybersecurity capacity. The bill will ensure that the program is authorized and funded, will increase coordination between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies by centralizing the administration of funding under FEMA. It will improve how this grant program is managed and expand the types of organizations eligible for funding.

The Pray Safe Act ([S.2123](#))

The bipartisan Pray Safe Act will ensure that the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with Department of Justice, the Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and any other relevant agencies to establish and codify a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and Houses of Worship (HoW). The Federal Clearinghouse will inform FBOs and HoW on best practices and recommendations for safety and security. In addition, it will provide critical information for the Jewish community and partners on available federal resources and grant programs relevant to the safety and security of faith-based organizations and houses of worship.

Appropriate the Fight Against Antisemitism in a Final Omnibus

We urge you to ensure that Congress appropriates sufficient funds to fight antisemitism at home and abroad, tackle extremism in all its forms, and prevent and address hate online and off. A complete detailing of relevant ADL appropriations requests can be found [here](#), a select listing is highlighted below.

- **Promote Community Defense:** Fund the Nonprofit Security Grant Program at \$360 million
- **End Hate Crimes:** Fund the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Grants at \$15 million; Shepard-Byrd Grants at \$100 Million, and support Community-Based Efforts to Prevent and Respond to Hate Crimes by funding \$30 million for community-based approaches to preventing hate crimes and \$2.5 million for hate crime prevention and intervention initiative for youth report language
- **Address Hate Online:** Fund \$10 million for the grant program to provide funding for the prevention, enforcement, and prosecution of cybercrimes against individuals and \$4 million to establish the National Resource Center on Cybercrimes Against Individuals
- **Countering Global White Supremacist Extremism:** Fund the Global Counterterrorism Forum (\$2 million), Hedayah (\$800,000), the International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law (\$800,000), and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (\$12 million) to build counter-REMVE capacity
- **Fund Global Efforts:** Fund the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism and the Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues
- **Teach:** Fund the Never Again Education Act at \$2 million

Tackle Antisemitism and Extremism in the Military

ADL remains deeply concerned by violent extremists' attempted recruitment from and targeting of government institutions, and the severe danger extremism and antisemitism pose to the entire nation. The threat of antisemitism and extremism in the armed forces and uniformed services is too important to be left unaddressed. We call upon you to ensure that key provisions addressing antisemitism and extremism passed in the House NDAA are included in the final FY2023 NDAA legislation. A full detailing of ADL's requested NDAA Amendments can be found [here](#).

We urge Congress to require the Department of Defense to:

- Report on the threat to national security posed by domestic terrorists
- Report on the role of antisemitism in violent extremist movements
- Provide an interagency report on extremist activity in the uniformed services and Federal law enforcement agencies
- Report on previous FBI investigations and DHS security requirements
- Report on instances of antisemitism within each military service
- Provide an annual report on the use of social media by foreign terrorist organizations

Urge the Administration to Adopt a National Strategy on Antisemitism

The House and Senate Bipartisan Task Forces for Combating Antisemitism have joined together to urge President Biden to develop a unified national strategy to monitor and combat antisemitism, with the goal of advancing a whole-of-government approach. We are grateful for the steps the Administration has already taken to combat antisemitism, but greater coordination across departments and a more intentional strategy are necessary to address this threat. We call on Congress to commit to sign [this](#) effort and to commit to working with the White House to execute on this much needed whole-of-government approach.

...

We believe that there is no single measure, no silver bullet that can solve the crisis of antisemitism but that these legislative measures, taken as a whole, can have a meaningful impact in addressing the crisis our nation faces.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or ADL's government affairs director Carmiel Arbit (carbit@adl.org) with any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration of ADL's requests in this challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Sevilla', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Max Sevilla

Vice President for Government Relations, Advocacy and Community Engagement
ADL (Anti-Defamation League)