

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 22, 2020

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As you take office, we write to strongly support prioritizing comprehensive action to address serious threat of domestic terrorism in the United States. As you know, on January 6, 2021, the world witnessed an unprecedented violent attack on the U.S. Capitol. It turns out that these assailants included known violent extremist groups such as the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, Three Percenters, and many others.¹ We appreciate that in your inaugural address, you acknowledged the need to confront and defeat white supremacy and domestic terrorism. We agree that we must urgently redouble our nationwide efforts to prevent more lawless violence by these and other domestic terrorists.

As you know, the Obama-Biden Administration inaugurated a comprehensive, all-encompassing strategy to counter violent extremism (CVE), including the threat of white supremacist extremism, beginning in 2011. This included the establishment of the Office of Community Partnerships (OCP), the designated lead of CVE efforts at the Department of Homeland Security. This office was subsequently reorganized and renamed the Office of Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention, and prior OCP staff and funding were substantially reduced.²

Robust federal support for community partnerships is a critical part of the full spectrum of efforts to thwart radicalization, provide off-ramps for would-be extremists, prevent violence and stop domestic terrorism, as well as ISIS-inspired, homegrown, “lone wolf” terrorism. We must do whatever we can to strengthen federal support for local and non-governmental efforts to prevent terrorism.³

As your Administration commences, we respectfully urge you to support the following initiatives needed to address this violent extremist threat:

- Increased resources for preventing terrorism and homegrown violent extremism, including CVE grants to non-governmental organizations working to address radicalization;

¹ “Investigators Eye Right-Wing Militias at Capitol Riot,” *New York Times*, 1/18/21, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/18/us/politics/capitol-riot-militias.html>

² “Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part II): Adequacy of the Federal Response,” *U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee*, 6/4/19, available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-116hhrg36828/html/CHRG-116hhrg36828.htm>

³ “Practical Terrorism Prevention: Reexamining U.S. National Approaches to Addressing the Threat of Ideologically Motivated Violence,” *HSOAC/Rand Corporation*, 2/14/19, available at: https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR2600/RR2647/RAND_RR2647.pdf

- A new national strategy specifically dedicated to countering the growing threat of domestic terrorism and white supremacist extremism, and;
- A centralized operational Department of Homeland Security (DHS) headquarters office dedicated to coordinating all-of-government domestic terrorism prevention efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with your Administration to advance bipartisan efforts to address the growing threat of domestic terrorism, improve our national security, and protect our homeland.

Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Brian Fitzpatrick
MEMBER OF CONGRESS