



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Christopher A. Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland and Director Wray,

We write to request that the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation provide a briefing for the House Judiciary Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus about recent bomb threats to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (“HBCUs”) around the country.

According to the *Washington Post*, on Tuesday alone, the following HBCU’s received threats of a bomb on campus: Rust College, Tougaloo College, Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Fort Valley State University, Spelman College, Morgan State University, Coppin State University, Harris-Stowe State, Kentucky State University, Xavier University, Philander Smith College, Edward Waters University, Howard University, and the University of the District of Columbia.<sup>1</sup> Notably, this was Howard University’s third bomb threat in thirty days.<sup>2</sup>

The students and faculty at these institutions should not have to fear for their lives on campus. We urge you to make direct contact with the leaders of these HBCUs, in order to better facilitate communication regarding these threats. To the extent that these bomb threats are

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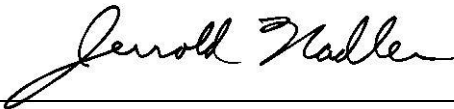
<sup>1</sup> Lauren Lumpkin and Susan Svrluga, *Fear, anxiety follow third wave of bomb threats targeting HBCUs*, Wash. Post, Feb. 1, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

linked to the recent surge in violence at other minority institutions and houses of worship, we also urge you to coordinate your response with state and local law enforcement officials and across federal agencies. The whole of government must be directed at bringing the perpetrators of these threats to justice without delay.

Although we understand that the Department and the FBI do not comment on the specifics of ongoing investigations, we note that many members of the House Judiciary Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus attended and are otherwise closely affiliated with several of these colleges and universities. Any information you can provide today will help us better serve these institutions and ensure they remain safe for years to come.

We look forward to your briefing. Thank you for your consideration.



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Jerrold Nadler  
Chair  
House Committee on the Judiciary



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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Chair  
House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime,  
Terrorism, and Homeland Security



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Joyce Beatty  
Chair  
Congressional Black Caucus