

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906

judiciary.house.gov

June 18, 2025

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Attorney General Bondi, Director Patel, and Secretary Noem:

This past Saturday, Americans woke up to the horrific news of yet more politically motivated violence and terror.¹ Two Democratic lawmakers in Minnesota were shot along with their spouses inside their homes. One of them, the Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, Melissa Hortman, was killed along with her husband, Mark.² Another lawmaker, State Senator John Hoffman, and his wife, Yvette, were shot 17 times, and miraculously survived, though they are “severely injured” and remain hospitalized.³ The gunman, 57-year-old Vance Boelter, who was apprehended late Sunday evening by Minnesota state police, apparently impersonated a police officer to gain access to the homes of the lawmakers.⁴ Law enforcement found a “kill list” in Mr. Boelter’s vehicle, targeting dozens of Minnesota Democrats, including Governor Tim Walz, Representative Ilhan Omar, state Attorney General Keith Ellison, political leaders in neighboring states, along with the names of abortion providers and pro-choice activists.⁵

These targeted political assassinations are part of a spate of horrific high-profile attacks that have taken place in the months since President Trump took office. America has seen an

¹ Erik Ortiz, et al., *Democratic Minnesota Politician Fatally Shot, Another Injured in 'Politically Motivated Assassination'*, NBC NEWS (Jun. 14, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/targeted-shootings-minnesota-rca212831>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Emily Shapiro & Josh Margolin, *Minnesota Assassination Suspect Vance Boelter Allegedly Had Dozens of Democrats on a List*, ABC NEWS (June 15, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/gov-walz-rep-omar-dozens-minnesota-democrats-gunmans/story?id=122847427>.

⁵ *Id.*

arson attempt targeting Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro and his family in April of this year,⁶ the murder of two Israeli embassy staffers who were gunned down outside a Jewish museum in Washington, D.C.,⁷ and an attack at a gathering for the return of Israeli hostages in Boulder, Colorado, that wounded 12 people.⁸ The success of planned attacks like these is not inevitable; many such plans have been prevented in the past by early detection, careful monitoring, and zealous investigation and intervention by your respective agencies.

But reports indicate that, at the instruction of President Trump and his senior advisors, you have torn down the longstanding counterterrorism infrastructure that has kept the country safe from domestic terrorism. In its first 149 days, the Trump Administration has gutted the federal government's ability to monitor, prevent, and prosecute domestic extremism, antisemitism, and hate crimes. In a few short months, under your leadership, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), have fired experienced domestic terrorism experts,⁹ cut key offices that monitor and prevent terrorist attacks and hate crimes,¹⁰ and disbanded task forces focused on malign foreign influence.¹¹ You have even installed a 22-year-old with no national security expertise as a senior DHS official and charged him with overseeing the government's main hub for combating violent extremism.¹²

Our country has correspondingly experienced a rise in high-profile acts of domestic terrorism, including the shocking assassination spree in Minnesota this past weekend and a string of horrific antisemitic attacks directed against Jewish people and communities. I write today to request that each of your agencies provide a briefing as soon as possible so that Congress can understand—and work to remedy—the complete scope of your dangerous attack on the

⁶ Billy Witz, *Man Who Set Fire to Shapiro's Mansion Cited Treatment of Palestinians, Police Say*, N.Y. TIMES (Apr. 16, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/16/us/cody-balmer-motive-arson-gaza-palestinian-shapiro.html>.

⁷ Rudy Chinchilla & Suzanne Gamboa, *Two Israeli Embassy Staffers Shot Dead Outside D.C.'s Capital Jewish Museum*, NBC NEWS (May 21, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/shooting-dc-jewish-museum-rcna208427>.

⁸ Austen Erblatt, *Boulder, Colorado, Attack Suspect Formally Charged with 118 Counts of Attempted Murder, Other Charges in County Court*, CBS NEWS (June 5, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/boulder-colorado-attack-suspect-county-court-hearing-charges/>.

⁹ Hannah Rabinowitz, Evan Perez & Kara Scannell, *Trump DOJ Shake-up Sidelines Top Prosecutors in National Security, Adds New US Attorneys in DC and New York*, CNN (Jan. 21, 2025), <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/01/21/politics/justice-department-shakeup/index.html>.

¹⁰ Ken Dilanian, *Pam Bondi Ends FBI Effort to Combat Foreign Influence in U.S. Politics*, NBC NEWS (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/bondi-ends-fbi-effort-combat-foreign-influence-us-politics-rcna191012>; Sarah Lynch, *US Justice Department Considers Merging DEA, ATF in Major Shakeup*, MEMO SAYS, REUTERS (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-justice-department-considers-merging-dea-atf-major-wave-cuts-memo-shows-2025-03-27/>.

¹¹ Ken Dilanian, *Pam Bondi Ends FBI Effort to Combat Foreign Influence in U.S. Politics*, NBC NEWS (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/bondi-ends-fbi-effort-combat-foreign-influence-us-politics-rcna191012>.

¹² Hannah Allam, *"The Intern in Charge": Meet the 22-Year-Old Trump's Team Picked to Lead Terrorism Prevention*, PROPUBLICA (June 4, 2025), <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-dhs-thomas-fugate-cp3-terrorism-prevention>.

programs, offices, task forces, and professionals who have worked conscientiously to keep us safe from terrorists and violent extremists.

On the day after President Trump took office, the DOJ demoted senior career attorneys in the National Security Division and Criminal Division and reassigned them to a new “Sanctuary Cities” Task Force.¹³ Nearly all of the demoted attorneys left the Department shortly thereafter, depriving the Department of decades of counterterrorism and national security experience. In the ensuing weeks, DOJ and FBI leadership “declared war on its own workforce” by ordering a review of all FBI agents assigned to January 6th cases,¹⁴ firing a dozen prosecutors simply for having prosecuted January 6th cases,¹⁵ and abruptly firing DOJ leaders in the National Security Division and all eight senior executives at FBI headquarters, including the senior DOJ attorney overseeing the DOJ’s Office of Intelligence¹⁶ and two FBI Executive Assistant Directors overseeing FBI’s divisions for National Security and Cybersecurity.¹⁷

Under Director Patel, the FBI has also decentralized its command structure, abandoning the system stood up after the September 11 terrorist attacks that required field offices to report directly to the Deputy Director.¹⁸ The replaced structure was put in place to facilitate intelligence sharing and to bolster better communications across FBI components. Experts warned at the time that these changes could result in less coordination between field offices and create intelligence gaps.¹⁹ The FBI has also cut staffing in its domestic terrorism unit and has stopped using a national database that tracks domestic terrorism and hate crimes, a dramatic shift that could undermine the FBI’s ability to counter white supremacists and anti-government extremists.²⁰ Moreover, according to reports, Director Patel’s fixation on rooting out “leaks,” and the widespread deployment of polygraph tests on employees, are creating “a climate of fear and intimidation” at the FBI,²¹ which is paralyzing effective investigative work. Unsurprisingly, “morale’s in the toilet” at the FBI as a result of this witch hunt.²²

¹³ Hannah Rabinowitz, et al., *supra* note 9.

¹⁴ Pat Milton, Robert Legare & Andres Triay, *FBI Executives Ousted and Personnel Under Internal Review As Trump DOJ Fires Jan. 6 Capitol Riot Prosecutors*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fbi-agents-on-jan-6-capitol-riot-trump-investigations-to-be-fired-sources-say/>.

¹⁵ Kyle Cheney & Josh Gerstein, *DOJ Fires Dozens of Prosecutors Who Handled Jan. 6 Cases*, POLITICO (Jan. 31, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/31/doj-purges-prosecutors-january-6-cases-00201904>.

¹⁶ Suzanne Monyak, *Top DOJ National Security Lawyers Pushed Out in Broad Purge*, BLOOMBERG (Mar. 8, 2025), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/top-doj-national-security-lawyers-pushed-out-in-widening-purge>.

¹⁷ Pat Milton, et al., *supra* note 14.

¹⁸ Adam Goldman, *Kash Patel Pushes Command Changes at F.B.I.*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 15, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/15/us/politics/kash-patel-fbi-deputy-director.html>.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Andrew Goudsward & Sarah N. Lynch, *Exclusive: FBI Scales Back Staffing, Tracking of Domestic Terrorism Probes, Sources Say*, REUTERS (Mar. 21, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/fbi-scales-back-staffing-tracking-domestic-terrorism-probes-sources-say-2025-03-21/>.

²¹ Ellen Nakashima & Hannah Natanson, *FBI, National Security Agencies Using Polygraphs for ‘Leak’ Hunts*, WASH. POST (Apr. 28, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/04/28/leak-polygraph-fbi-justice-odni-dhs/>.

²² *Id.*

In addition to tossing aside decades of counterterrorism expertise and making intelligence-sharing harder across the FBI, both DOJ and DHS have also flattened community safety and violence intervention and terrorism prevention programs across the country. In April 2025, DOJ cancelled hundreds of grants from the Office of Justice Programs, estimated as totaling more than \$800 million, which provide federal support for violence intervention and reduction programs and services to, among others, the victims of violent hate crimes.²³ DHS has similarly frozen or cut grants to programs supported by DHS's Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships, or CP3. Since 2020, CP3 has awarded nearly \$90 million to community groups and local law enforcement to prevent terrorism and targeted violence and has helped prevent more than 1,000 violent plots in what national security experts have called "pioneering" work with "enormous" payoff.²⁴

Discarding this impressive track record, the Trump Administration has gutted CP3, fired 75% of its staff,²⁵ and cut or frozen tens of millions of dollars slated for violence prevention.²⁶ "This is the government getting out of the terrorism business," one federal grant recipient reportedly said after being ordered to "cease work on projects including a database used by law enforcement agencies to assess threats."²⁷ Other DHS-supported programs, including the Non-Profit Security Grant Program, which helps "Jewish institutions install security cameras, train staff and add protective barriers," saving lives in multiple instances by blocking gunmen from entering Jewish schools and offices, are also left without sufficient funding.²⁸

Even more egregiously, Secretary Noem has just installed a 22-year-old former Trump campaign worker, Thomas Fugate, as the head of CP3.²⁹ Mr. Fugate, who graduated from college last year, has zero threat prevention or counterterrorism experience, and his most convincing leadership experience apparently comes from having acted as Secretary General of

²³ Scott MacFarlane, *Crime victims groups stripped of federal grant awards by Trump administration*, CBS NEWS (Apr. 24, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/crime-victims-groups-federal-funding-trump/>; Jack Brook & Claudia Lauer, *Layoffs, Closures and Gaps in Oversight Expected After Hundreds of DOJ Grants are Canceled*, AP NEWS (Apr. 29, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/justice-grants-funding-cuts-law-enforcement-victims-18d5cdec6bdbb8472cd1e080e5e4e5ef>.

²⁴ Department of Homeland Security, *Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships, Fiscal Year 2024 Report to Congress* (Oct. 15, 2024), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/2024_1015_dmo_plcy_center_for_prevention_programs_and_partnerships_cp3_1.pdf; Rebecca Santana, *They Worked to Prevent Violence and Terrorism at the Agency Created After 9/11. Then They Got Fired*, ASSOC. PRESS (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/homeland-security-violence-prevention-office-1ed9d79dbdb5b61a4ed30cff77071d56>; Jeff Stone, *DHS Slashes Staff Leading Fight Against Domestic Extremism*, BLOOMBERG NEWS (Mar. 18, 2025), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-03-19/dhs-slashes-personnel-leading-fight-against-domestic-extremism>.

²⁵ Hannah Allam, *supra* note 12.

²⁶ Hannah Allam, *Killing Grants That Have Saved Lives: Trump's Cuts Signal End to Government Work on Terrorism Prevention*, PROPUBLICA (Mar. 20, 2025), <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-doge-budget-cuts-terrorism-prevention>.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ Hannah Allam, *supra* note 12.

his school's Model United Nations program in his senior year (although it is not clear whether he or his team won any awards in their competition).³⁰ By contrast, Mr. Fugate's predecessor, the previous director of CP3 who resigned in March 2024 to protest massive staffing cuts to the office, is a United States Army veteran with more than two decades of experience in national defense and security.³¹ Given what FBI Director Patel himself called a complex, evolving threats landscape, Mr. Fugate's appointment is dumbfounding and plainly dangerous.

These moves, undermining our ability to fight domestic terrorism, take place in an Administration that harbor extremists and antisemites and regularly uses polarizing rhetoric, including racist and antisemitic tropes, to scapegoat and dehumanize its political enemies. During his campaign, Donald Trump called Democrats "the enemies within," suggesting that "radical left lunatics" were worse than foreign adversaries, and that he would use the "National Guard, or if really necessary, [] the military" to "handle" his political enemies.³² While working in the White House, Elon Musk regularly promoted different versions of the "great replacement theory" to claim that a liberal cabal is using entitlements like Social Security and Medicare to attract immigrants and replace white people in America.³³ President Trump was forced to withdraw the nomination of Ed Martin for U.S. Attorney of the District of Columbia, in large part because of Mr. Martin's long friendship with a "Nazi sympathizer" who stormed the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021—and then installed Mr. Martin as the U.S. Pardon Attorney at the DOJ.³⁴ President Trump has also nominated Paul Ingrassia, a close associate of antisemitic extremists like Nick Fuentes and Andrew Tate, to be the head of the Office of Special Counsel.³⁵ President Trump himself has referred to immigrants as "poisoning the blood of our country."³⁶ Americans could be forgiven for wondering whether the decision to allow violent white nationalism and domestic extremism to run rampant and undetected in society is purely accidental and uncalculating.

In any event, the decimation of national security, counterterrorism, and hate crime expertise and capabilities at your agencies is strikingly reckless in today's heightened threat landscape. As Director Patel himself acknowledged, "the threats we face as a Nation have never been greater or more diverse," noting, in particular, "a surge in terrorism threats in the aftermath

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.*

³² Veronica Stracqualursi, *Trump Suggests Using Military Against 'Enemy From Within' on Election Day*, CNN (Oct. 14, 2025), <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/13/politics/trump-military-enemy-from-within-election-day/index.html>.

³³ Lauren Aratani, *Musk Echoes Rightwing Conspiracy Theories to Defend Social Security Cuts*, THE GUARDIAN, (Mar. 19, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/mar/19/musk-democrats-social-security-fraud>.

³⁴ Tom Dreisback, *Trump Nominee Gives Misleading Testimony About Ties to Alleged "Nazi Sympathizer"*, NPR (May 1, 2025) <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/01/nx-s1-5380933/ed-martin-trump-hale-cusanelli-antisemitic>.

³⁵ Andy Newman, *Trump Nominates a Former Far-Right Podcast Host to Head an Ethics Watchdog*, N.Y. TIMES (May 29, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/29/us/politics/ingrassia-office-special-counsel.html>.

³⁶ Hannah Allam, *"The Federal Government is Gone": Under Trump, the Fight Against Extremist Violence Is Left Up to the States*, PROPUBLICA (May 29, 2025), <https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-doj-domestic-terrorism-extremism-states-michigan>.

The Honorable Pam Bondi
The Honorable Kash Patel
The Honorable Kristi Noem
Page 6

of the October 7, 2023, attack in Israel.”³⁷ Secretary Noem, similarly, acknowledged that “[h]omegrown terrorism is on the rise” at her confirmation hearing and pledged that she would ensure that DHS agencies “are fully equipped to detect, prevent, and respond to threats from radical ideologies and foreign adversaries.”³⁸ But even as your agencies demand more resources from Congress, including over half a billion dollars more for DHS for immigration enforcement and border security, you appear to be completely neglecting your basic responsibilities to diligently monitor and prevent hate crimes and planning for domestic terrorism. I am extremely concerned that this institutional neglect will lead to more horrific crimes and attacks like the one that unfolded in Minnesota this past weekend.

I would like to request a meeting to discuss this matter, which is plainly of the highest importance and urgency. Please contact my staff as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 25, 2025, to arrange a briefing and conversation.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

³⁷ Statement of Kash Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hearing on *A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Bureau of Investigation* before the Subcomm. on Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies of the S. Comm. on Appropriations (May 8, 2025).

³⁸ Statement of Kristi Noem, Secretary-designee, Dep't of Homeland Security, Hearing on the *Nomination of Kristi Noem to be Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security*, before the S. Comm. on Homeland Security and Government Affairs (Jan. 17, 2025).