

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Hal Rodgers
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
H-310, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Rodgers and Ranking Member Meng:

As you work to develop the fiscal year 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriation bill, we ask that you prioritize hate crime prevention. The current rise in hate crimes is deeply concerning. According to the most recent hate crime statistics data from the FBI, Black Americans remain the most frequently targeted victims while anti-Hispanic, anti-Arab, anti-Jewish, and sexual orientation and gender identity based crimes reached the highest level ever in 2023.

To more effectively prevent and track hate crimes, we respectfully request you fund the following programs as part of your hate crime prevention response:

- **\$20 million for the Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer NO HATE Act Program.** The Khalid-Jabara and Heather Heyer NO HATE Act Program targets incomplete and inaccurate hate crime reporting. \$20 million is needed in FY26 to improve reporting of and response to hate crimes, and to stand up hate crime prevention initiatives as well as state hate crime hotlines. This funding directly enables the Office of Justice Programs to scale up its efforts to address several key gaps in State, local, and tribal capacity to report and respond to hate crimes.
- **\$40 million for the Community Relations Service (CRS).** CRS serves as “America’s Peacemaker” for communities facing conflict based on actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. CRS works toward its mission by providing facilitated dialogue, mediation, training, and consultation to assist these communities to come together, develop solutions to the conflict, and enhance their capacity to independently prevent and resolve future conflict. Since its creation in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, it and its staff’s independence has been crucial to its success as a neutral mediator.
- **\$30 million for Community Approaches to Advancing Justice Grants.** These grants support community-based approaches to advancing justice and reconciliation, facilitating dialogue between parties, building local capacity, de-escalating community tensions, and preventing hate crimes through conflict resolution and community empowerment and education.

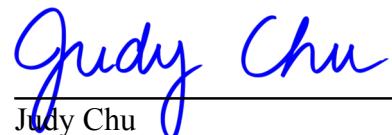
- **\$25 million for the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Grants Program** to provide funding and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal jurisdictions to investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

We appreciate your consideration of these budget requests to address the prevalence of hate crimes, improve our response to these violent acts, and better support affected communities.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



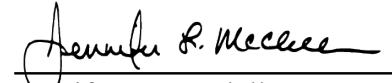
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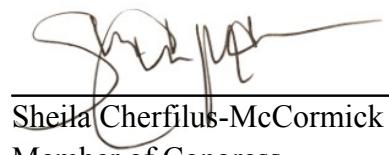
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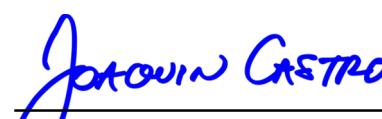
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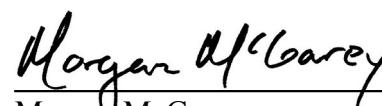
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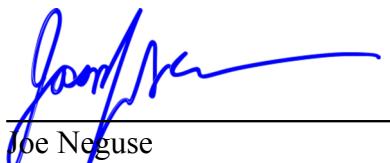
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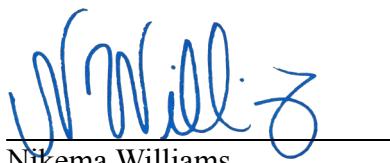
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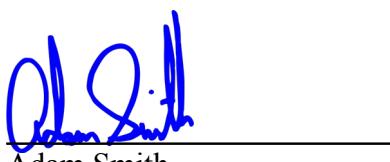
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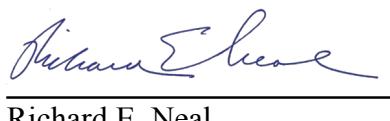
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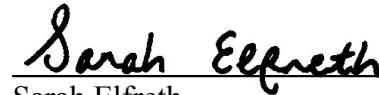
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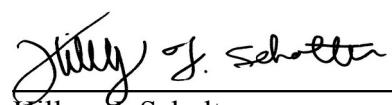
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Pablo José Hernández
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Hillary J. Scholten
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