



July 22, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence

House Committee on Homeland Security

176 Ford House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515-6480

Dear Chairman Pfluger, Ranking Member Magaziner, and Members of the Subcommittee,

On behalf of the Jewish Federations of North America, I want to thank you for the attention you are giving to the important issue of Jewish communal security.

As you head to your districts for the upcoming recess, we wanted to call your attention to the immense financial burden the Jewish community faces simply to keep itself safe.

Our data shows that the annual cost of security to the Jewish community across the United States amounts to over \$765 million a year.

A typical Jewish organization spends **14% of its annual budget on security**, with the costs of a security guard costing \$90,000 a year and a fulltime community security director costing \$160,000 a year, on average.

We also know that these measures are critical for Jewish life to flourish, finding that 60% of Jews say that security precautions make them feel safer. They see the addition of police, security guards, and hardening of buildings as the most effective.

With antisemitic incidents and attacks continuing to grow, it is critical that Congress act to defend faith communities.

That is why last month, 400 national Jewish leaders from over 100 Jewish Federations and representatives of nearly 50 Jewish organizations organized by the Conference of Presidents of major American Jewish organizations came to Washington, D.C., as part of the *United for Security Emergency Mission*.

Together, we raised the alarm about the dramatic rise in domestic terror aimed at the Jewish community and the exponentially increasing costs being born by the Jewish community to protect itself. Through this mission,

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participants met with Members of Congress from both parties to ensure that lawmakers understand – synagogue, camps, and community centers in your districts are vulnerable and Congressional action is urgently needed.

In light of the most recent attacks against our community in Pennsylvania, Washington, DC, and Boulder Colorado, our community released a **Six-Point Security Policy Plan**—a practical blueprint for how the federal government can act now to protect Jewish communities and other at-risk populations. The plan includes:

1. Expanding the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to meet growing demand
2. Providing dedicated federal funding for security personnel
3. Enhancing FBI capabilities to detect and disrupt domestic terrorism
4. Increasing support for state and local law enforcement
5. Holding social media platforms accountable for spreading antisemitic hate
6. Prosecuting hate crimes aggressively to ensure accountability and deterrence

These are not abstract priorities. They reflect what we hear every day from communities on the ground that are being forced to divert vital resources to pay for armed guards, harden facilities, and live in fear.

It is a fundamental right for all Americans to practice their faith freely and without threats and intimidation. We urge this Subcommittee to advance concrete, bipartisan solutions that address the growing threat environment and reflect the urgent needs of faith-based and vulnerable communities nationwide. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that federal policy keeps pace with the rising tide of hate.

Thank you again for your leadership and commitment to protecting all Americans from acts of terror and hate.

Sincerely,
The Honorable Eric D. Fingerhut
President & CEO, Jewish Federations of North America

