

September 29, 2025

Honorable Rand Paul
Chair
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Andrew Garbarino
Chairman
House Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Peters, Chairman Garbarino, Ranking Member Paul, and Ranking Member Thompson,

On behalf of the undersigned faith-based organizations and institutions, we write to you urging your Committees to advance the bicameral and bipartisan Pray Safe Act. During this moment of increased vulnerability, the Pray Safe Act would establish a dedicated clearinghouse within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to ensure best practices, grant opportunities, training modules, and emergency-planning tools are housed in one easily accessible trusted place. The Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices would be staffed by experts who can walk even the smallest rural parish or synagogue through safety-related resources that meet their community or congregation's direct needs.

The bill is being led by Representatives Grace Meng (D-NY) and María Salazar (R-FL) and Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Ron Johnson (R-WI).

As we have witnessed, from Colleyville to Oak Park, and Charleston to Fort Pierce and even more recently in Wayne, Michigan, no faith tradition is immune to violence or hate-motivated threats. Houses of worship and their institutions are meant to be a refuge, yet hate-motivated violence has made these havens for congregation, reflection, and religious expression increasingly vulnerable. Empowering our churches, mosques, synagogues, gurdwaras, temples, mandirs and other houses of worship with the resources and expertise they need, yet often cannot afford, is paramount in this moment of increased violence. This support is critical to safeguarding a pillar of the American fabric, freedom of religion.

As leaders representing a multitude of faith and beliefs, we fear for the safety of our houses of worship and those we serve. The bipartisan Pray Safe Act offers the most direct, cost-effective path forward. This commonsense structure will not create a new grant program or impose

mandates, it simply streamlines and makes more accessible resources Congress has already authorized, increasing efficiency, and ultimately saving lives.

In a moment when acts of hate seek to divide us, the Pray Safe Act embodies the unifying principle that every American, regardless of creed or tradition, deserves to gather peacefully. **We respectfully request that you schedule a markup, move the legislation expeditiously out of Committee, and champion its swift passage on the floor.**

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to the security of all who wish to practice their faith safely. We stand ready to work with you and DHS to ensure the Pray Safe Act's promise becomes a reality.

Sincerely,

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

Jewish Federation of North America

A Wider Bridge

Agudath Israel

Bishop Robert Stearns

Christians United for Israel (CUFI)

HinduACTION

Hindu American Foundation

Hindu American Seva Communities

Namaste Global Foundation

National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC) and its Hispanic Israel Leadership Coalition (HILC)

Office of Ecumenical & Interreligious Dialogue, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York

Orthodox Union

Passages Israel

Rabbinical Assembly

Secure Community Network

Union for Reform Judaism