

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 20, 2025

Mr. Cameron Hamilton
Acting Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Acting Administrator Hamilton,

We are writing to express our concern following the Administration's recent decision to immediately pause the drawdown of funding for federal grant programs supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct an additional review of projects, including the Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP). In 2023, there were 2,699 reported hate crimes based on religion, of which sixty three percent were driven by antisemitism — the highest number ever recorded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) since it began collecting data in 1991.^{1 2} At a time when hate and violence against faith-based communities across this country are at historic levels, the NSGP has provided life-saving funding to protect faith-based communities and institutions. From bollards to prevent vehicular attacks, reinforced doors to keep intruders out, CCTV cameras to monitor threats, and emergency alert systems that allow rapid response, the NSGP has ensured faith-based institutions are equipped with vital tools to prevent loss of life in the case of an attack. It is critical that those institutions that have already been awarded an NSGP grant are allocated the expected funding.

The NSGP is one of the most effective and critical programs for protecting the Jewish community and all faith-based communities from attack. There are numerous examples available that demonstrate the direct return on investment for communities under threat. For example, in July 2023, when an armed gunman attempted to breach the Margolin Hebrew Academy in Memphis, NSGP-funded access control doors prevented the shooter from entering the school. In 2021, when gunfire struck the Jewish Family Service building in Denver, impact-resistant window filming, purchased with NSGP funds, stopped the bullets from penetrating into the facility, protecting those inside.³

And the attacks continue. On January 30, 2024, a man opened fire at a San Francisco Catholic church. On February 11, 2024, a woman forced her way inside a Texas Christian megachurch and opened fire. On February 17, 2024, police in Broward County, Florida, arrested a man for beating a 69-year-old rabbi who was walking home from synagogue on Shabbat.⁴ It is no wonder that in FY2023, for the first time in the history of the program, all fifty five eligible states and territories applied.

The Administration has made clear its goal to protect Americans from terrorist threats both foreign and domestic, as well as to respond to the rise in hate crimes. Supporting the NSGP is critical to fulfilling that goal. The program has long enjoyed bipartisan support, with lawmakers across the political spectrum

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/crs/news/2023-hate-crime-statistics>.

² <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/new-fbi-data-reflects-record-high-number-anti-jewish-hate-crimes>.

³ <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-844254>.

⁴ <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-to-track-hate/heat-map>.

recognizing that protecting places of worship and community institutions is not a partisan issue. Thus, we request your response to the following questions no later than April 1, 2025:

1. Not all states have put out guidance to NSGP grant applicants and awardees informing organizations that reimbursements have been frozen and are not being processed. Can you confirm that FEMA has disseminated this guidance to all state administrators?
2. Why was the decision made to conduct a review of all grant allocations? Do you anticipate a change to the applicant review process for the next grant cycle?
3. Will all awardees who are awaiting reimbursement receive payment? And if not, what is your justification for withholding this funding?

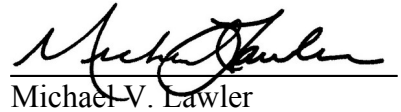
In our continued support of the NSGP, we request a briefing for Members of Congress no later than April 1, 2025 before any decisions are made under the review period that could impact allocations.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



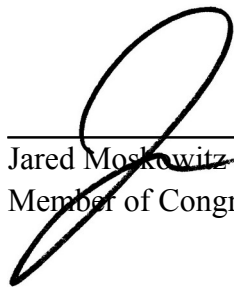
Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



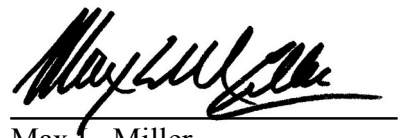
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



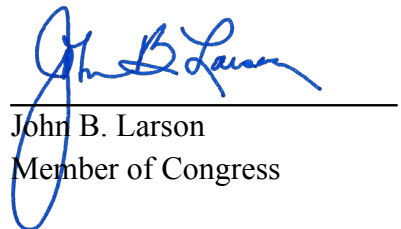
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Max L. Miller
Member of Congress



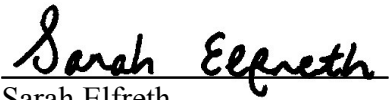
Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



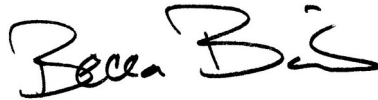
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



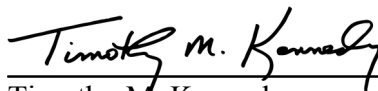
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



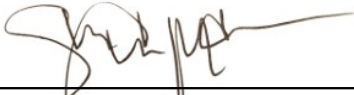
Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



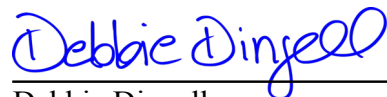
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
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Ritchie Torres
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Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
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George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
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Eric Swalwell
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Andrew R. Garbarino
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Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



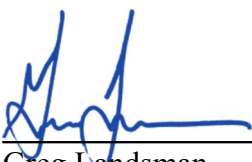
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



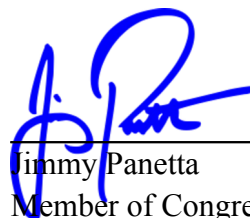
Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



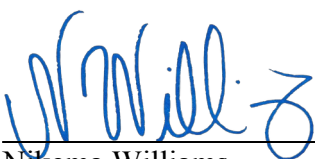
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



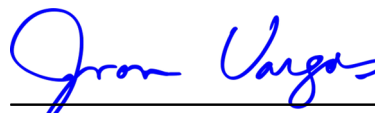
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



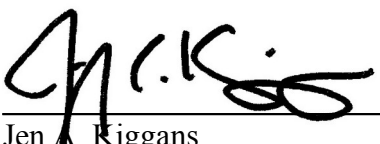
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Jen A. Riggans
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



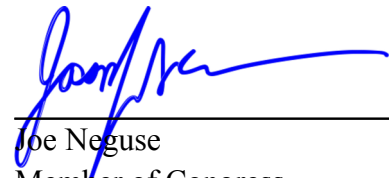
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



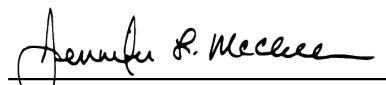
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



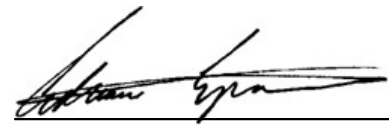
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



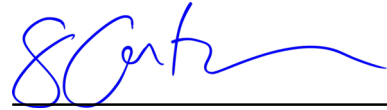
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



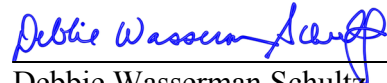
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



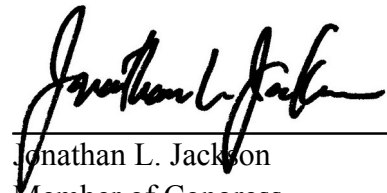
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
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Nellie Pou
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