



One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 2014

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Donovan,

On September 10, 2014, when announcing that the United States would take action against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) forces in Syria as well as Iraq, President Obama noted that many Americans have travelled to the region to join ISIL, and promised to “counter [ISIL’s] warped ideology.” Certainly, I support every effort made to degrade and destroy jihadist networks which pose a threat to the United States, but defeating the violent Islamist extremism ideology embraced by ISIL, al Qaeda, and others, will require a robust and effective effort to counter violent extremism (CVE) both in the United States and abroad.

To aid in this effort, the Committee on Homeland Security has begun a review of Federal CVE programs and policies, first to evaluate progress made towards the objectives laid out in the Administration’s 2011 CVE strategy and implementation plan second to identify gaps in our overall CVE approach. It has become clear to this Committee that one of the primary hurdles in fully addressing these challenges is a lack of clear budget allocation for CVE efforts and the impression of confused lines of authority for those entities responsible for CVE efforts.

It does not seem like any other issue as important as CVE – which is guided by a national strategy, has an implementation plan, and involves multiple departments and agencies suffers from such a lack of accounting. This effort is important to the President, important to this Committee, and important to the American people. Therefore, I request that an accounting for Federal CVE efforts be specifically outlined in the President’s FY16 Budget Request to Congress, and all subsequent requests.

Understanding how CVE resources are spent is necessary for this Committee to identify gaps in our efforts to counter the violent Islamist extremist ideology espoused by jihadist networks such as ISIL. I hope that as the Office of Management and Budget prepares the upcoming budget request you take into account how important these programs are and how valuable a specific accounting of these figures is to the safety of the American people.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL T. McCAUL

Chairman

Committee on Homeland Security