

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

March 3, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We share your sentiment that domestic terror is the “greatest” terrorism threat to the United States, and that it is a complex and wide-ranging issue.<sup>1</sup> It is for that reason that we write to respectfully request that your Administration prioritize the production of a long overdue report mandated by the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act which is critical to providing Congress, and the public, with the information needed to respond appropriately to this rising threat.

We recognize that you share our concerns about domestic terrorism. We support the steps that your administration has taken thus far to counter domestic terrorism – tasking our intelligence agencies with conducting a comprehensive assessment of the threat; directing an NSC-led review in the first 100 days of your presidency; and prioritizing \$77 million of homeland security funding to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to domestic violent extremism.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

During the 116th Congress, our Committees worked to highlight the growing threats from domestic violent extremists, particularly from white supremacists. Our efforts included developing and introducing a range of legislation, holding briefings and hearings, and engaging key stakeholders in government and civil society.

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<sup>1</sup> *Remarks by President Biden in a CNN Town Hall with Anderson Cooper*, White House (Feb. 16, 2021) (online at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/17/remarks-by-president-biden-in-a-cnn-town-hall-with-anderson-cooper/>).

<sup>2</sup> *Biden administration looks to FEMA to help combat domestic terrorism in wake of Capitol attack*, CNN (Feb. 18, 2021) (online at <https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/18/politics/dhs-fema-domestic-terrorism-biden/index.html>).

<sup>3</sup> *Biden asks agencies for threat assessment on domestic terrorism after deadly Capitol riot*, CNBC (Jan. 22, 2021) (online at <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/22/biden-asks-for-threat-assessment-on-domestic-terrorism.html>).

<sup>4</sup> *Alejandro Mayorkas: How my DHS will combat domestic extremism*, The Washington Post (Feb. 25, 2021) (online at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/02/25/majorkas-dhs-domestic-extremism/>).

Among our legislative efforts was a provision included in the House-passed Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2020 in Title LVI to mandate a recurring annual report with a strategic intelligence assessment of domestic terrorism in the United States, including the production of extensive domestic terrorism data.<sup>5</sup> The provision was enacted into law on December 20, 2019, as Section 5602 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020. The required assessment and report are now more than eight months overdue.<sup>6</sup>

The sharing of broad and detailed data with Congress and the public is critical. The report mandated by Congress will encompass information on incidents, investigations, prosecutions, intelligence analysis, personnel, resources, prioritization, training, gaps in policy, and recommendations. The information will help Congress and the administration to better understand the threat and determine the steps to counter it, bolster related efforts by communities and civil society, and increase transparency for the American people.

For those reasons, we urge you to direct relevant departments and agencies to prioritize the production and publication of the assessment and data as required by law. Without it, we cannot effectively address this pervasive threat to the United States.

Prior to the presidential election, we expressed concerns about the potential for violence leading up to and in the aftermath of Election Day. Tragically, our concerns were realized with the deadly January 6 attack and insurrection on the U.S. Capitol. The attack was an act of domestic terrorism – years in the making – and a symptom of half-hearted, underfunded, and sometimes misguided attempts by the Federal government to address violent extremism. Although we and others warned of the potential for such an attack, the events of January 6 have prompted consensus that we must put forth thoughtful and measured solutions for meaningful change.

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<sup>5</sup> Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020, H.R. 3494, Title LVI (2019).

<sup>6</sup> National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, Pub. Law No. 116-92, Sec. 5602 (2019).

There is much more work to do on countering domestic violent extremism. We look forward to working together with you, the administration, and key stakeholders in government and civil society to see it done.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Rep. Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security



Rep. Adam B. Schiff  
Chairman  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



Rep. Jerrold Nadler  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary



Rep. Elissa Slotkin  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Intelligence and  
Counterterrorism  
Committee on Homeland Security



Rep. André D. Carson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,  
Counterintelligence, and  
Counterproliferation (116th Congress)  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,  
and Homeland Security  
Committee on the Judiciary