



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

August 15, 2017

The Honorable Michael McCaul  
Chairman  
and Republican Members  
Committee on Homeland Security  
H2-176 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul and Republican Committee Members:

In March and June of this year, Ranking Member Thompson wrote to Chairman McCaul requesting the Committee on Homeland Security address the ongoing threat of domestic terrorism through our oversight and legislative activities during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Now, as our country has suffered yet another tragic and deadly domestic terrorist attack, we as Democratic Members of the Committee write to you, our Republican colleagues, to urge you to join with us to hold hearings to examine the troubling rise in domestic terrorism in our Nation.

This weekend, the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia attracted hundreds of self-identified white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and other members of alt-right groups. This rally was founded and fueled by hate. Despicable violence towards counter-protesters caused the death of a Charlottesville-area woman, Heather Heyer, and injuries to more than 20 others. This heinous, cowardly act was terrorism, plain and simple. Terrorism is not confined to a single ideology or inspiration.

Unfortunately, it has become clear we cannot count on President Trump for action. Even before he was elected, many of us were concerned that his unwillingness to denounce and distance himself from white nationalists would be taken as tacit support by those ready to use violence to advance their racist ideology. As leaders of the legislative branch of government, we must stand up to all ideologically-motivated violence. Failure to act as innocent people continue to be terrorized, harmed, and killed by domestic terrorists puts American lives in peril.

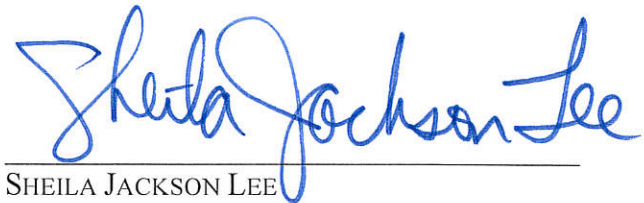
It is past time for this Committee on Homeland Security to act. As Democratic Members, we stand ready to work in bipartisan manner to help stop acts of domestic terror and uphold the ideals that truly make America great. We look forward to a hearing on this critical issue when we return in September.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,




BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security



SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security



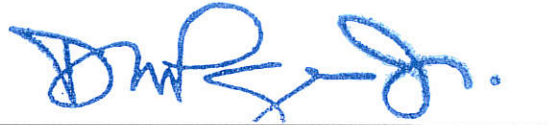
JAMES R. LANGEVIN  
Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security



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