



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

November 16, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Members Leahy and Lowey:

The domestic terrorist attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania underscores that places of worship are often deemed as soft targets for terrorism and other violent attacks. In January, we were proud to support the passage in the House of H.R. 1486, the “Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act,” which, for the first time, authorizes grant funding for target hardening, physical security enhancements, and other critical activities, such as security training for places of worship and other non-profit institutions, regardless of their location. In addition to supporting H.R. 1486, we strongly support funding the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) at \$60 million for Fiscal Year 2019, the amount approved by the House Appropriations Committee in the Fiscal Year Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, and the amount appropriated in Fiscal Year 2018.

The breadth and scope of threats against places of worship and other at-risk nonprofit institutions are deeply troubling. With the horror of the Tree of Life synagogue attack-- the deadliest attack against the Jewish community in U.S. history-- fresh in our minds, we must not lose sight of the fact that it was at least the third mass shooting in a house of worship in three years. A gunman killed 26 people in a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas last year and a white supremacist seeking to incite a race war killed nine in a church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015. The Department of Homeland Security’s September 2018 National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) bulletin assessed that the U.S. is facing “one of the most challenging threat environments since 9/11, as foreign terrorist organizations exploit the Internet to inspire, enable, or direct individuals already here in the Homeland to commit terrorist acts.” These terrorist acts include attacks against perceived “soft targets,” like religious and cultural community centers, which have limited security measures in place, making them vulnerable to attack.

At a time when credible threats against religious and cultural institutions are increasing, Congress should ensure that eligible nonprofit organizations receive support to help implement security

enhancements that will protect against terrorist attacks. For these reasons, we respectfully encourage you to fund the Nonprofit Security Grant Program at \$60 million in Fiscal Year 2019.

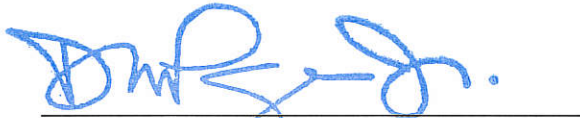
Sincerely,



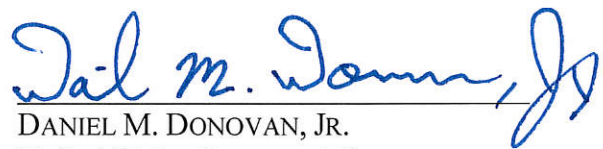
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United States Representative



MICHAEL T. MCCAUL
United States Representative



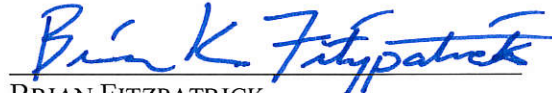
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United States Representative



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
United States Representative



BRIAN FITZPATRICK
United States Representative



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
United States Representative



MARK R. MEADOWS
United States Representative



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
United States Representative



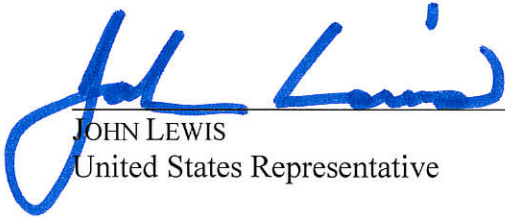
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
United States Representative



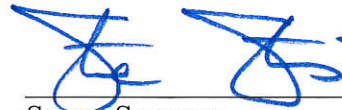
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STEVE STIVERS
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HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
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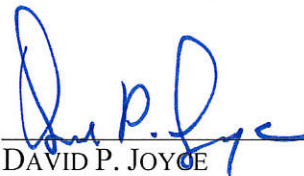
KYRSTEN SINEMA
United States Representative



RYAN A. COSTELLO
United States Representative



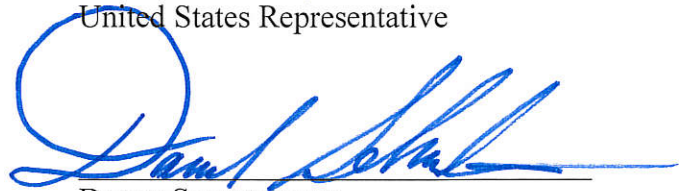
VICENTE GONZALEZ
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DAVID P. JOYCE
United States Representative



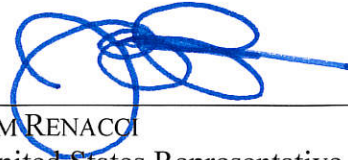
YVETTE D. CLARKE
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ALAN LOWENTHAL
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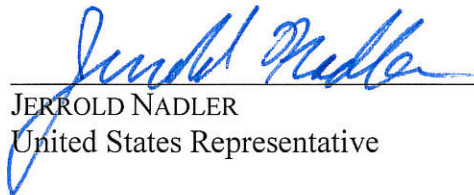
JIM RENACCI
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BRAD SHERMAN
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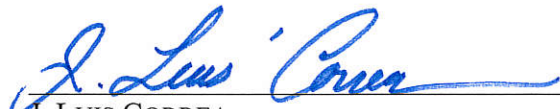
WARREN DAVIDSON
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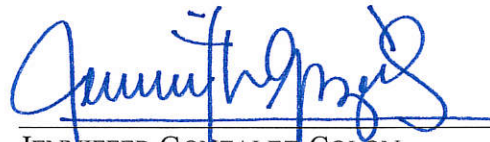
JERROLD NADLER
United States Representative



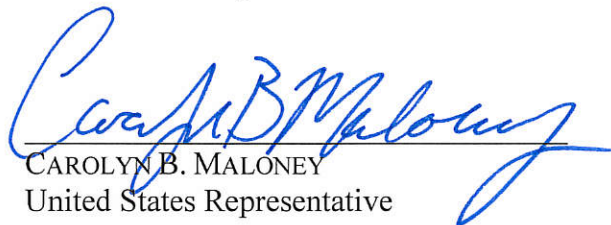
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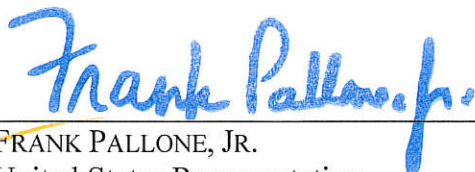
GUS M. BILIRAKIS
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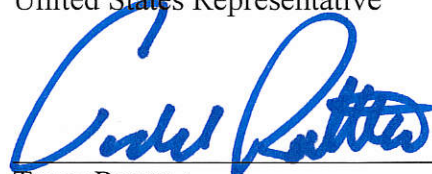
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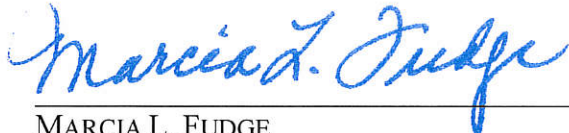
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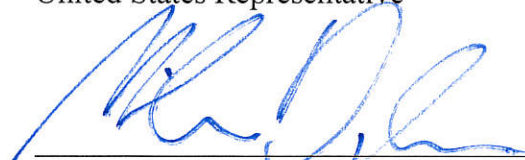
MIKE GALLAGHER
United States Representative



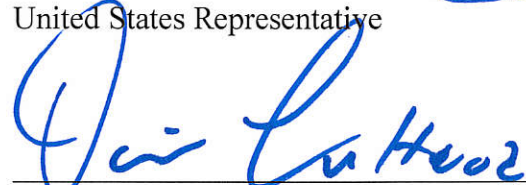
MARCIA L. FUDGE
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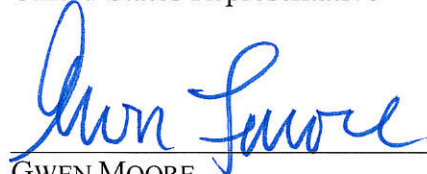
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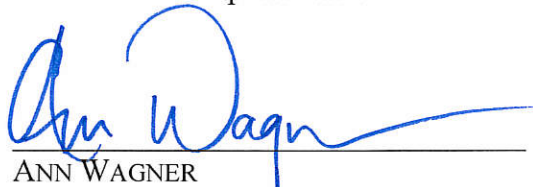
GWEN MOORE
United States Representative



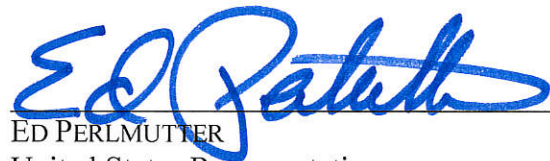
CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
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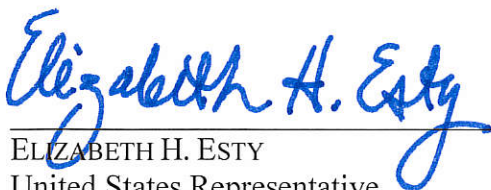
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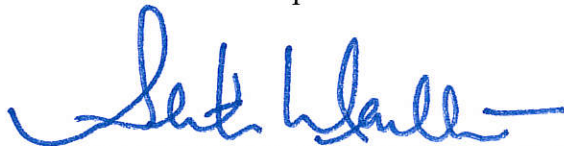
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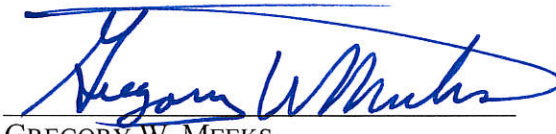

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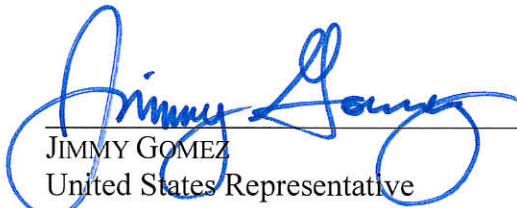

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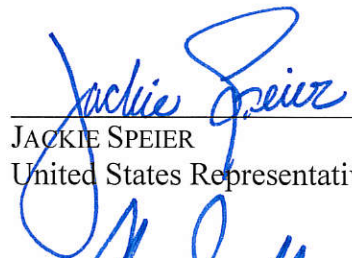

CAROL SHEA-PORTER
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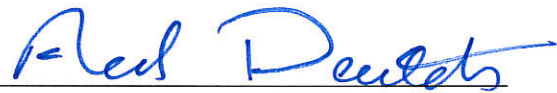

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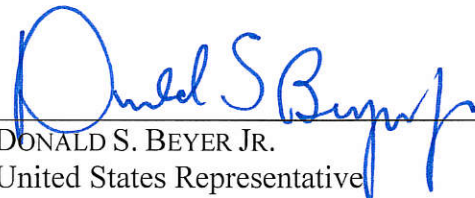

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DONALD NORCROSS
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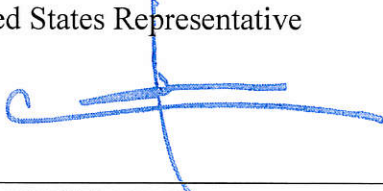
THOMAS R. SUOZZI
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JIM COOPER
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BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
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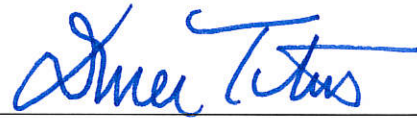
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