

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 17, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Chair Collins, and Vice Chair Murray,

We write to express our concern about rising antisemitic threats and incidents targeting Jewish Americans and Jewish organizations in the United States, including the recent antisemitic attack in Boulder, Colorado. In the wake of these incidents and the broader increase in religiously motivated hate crimes, we urge you to do more to protect our Jewish communities by increasing funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) in the Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations package.

We also urge you to direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to expand eligible NSGP expenditures so that synagogues, Jewish community centers, and other religious institutions can use the program to hire and retain personnel to better prevent antisemitic and other hate crimes.

Since Hamas's October 7, 2023 terrorist attack – the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust – antisemitic incidents in the U.S. have reached record levels. Earlier this month, during a peaceful march in Boulder in support of the hostages Hamas continues to hold over 600 days later, an individual threw Molotov cocktails and used a makeshift flamethrower on the marchers, burning over a dozen victims.

As you are aware, the NSGP provides critical funding to nonprofits, like religious organizations and places of worship, at risk of attack. NSGP awards support physical security enhancements and help organizations bolster their emergency preparedness capabilities.

We appreciate your efforts to fund the NSGP at \$274.5 million in the FY 2024 Consolidated Appropriations Act and for the additional \$180 million included in the April 2024 National Security Supplemental.

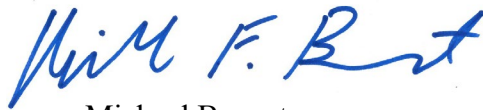
However, despite this increase in funding, in 2024, the government fulfilled just 43 percent of NGSP funding requests. Following the recent antisemitic attacks in Boulder and Washington, D.C., it is obvious that Congress must allocate more funds for the NGSP, potentially up to \$500 million, as many Republican Senators continue to request.

Additionally, at present, organizations cannot use funds from this program for salaries or personnel expenses. Amid the ongoing surge in antisemitic incidents, we believe that DHS and FEMA must be more flexible and allow organizations to use NSGP grants to pay permanent security guards and other critical personnel.

Jewish Americans, like all Americans, deserve to visit their places of worship, schools, and community freely and without fear.

We look forward to your response and stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,



Michael Bennet  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator