

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 7, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable James B. Comey  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Secretary Kelly, Attorney General Sessions, and Director Comey:

We write to underscore the need for swift action with regard to the deeply troubling series of anonymous bomb threats made against Jewish Community Centers (JCCs), Jewish Day Schools, Synagogues and other buildings affiliated with Jewish organizations or institutions across the country. We thank you for your recent efforts and ask that you inform us of the actions that your Departments plan to take to address threats against these and other religious institutions. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that these centers can continue to serve their communities free from violence and intimidation.

It has become clear that threats of violence against individual JCCs are not isolated incidents. According to the Jewish Federations of North America, in the first two months of 2017 alone, at least 98 incidents against JCCs and Jewish Day Schools at 81 locations in 33 states have been reported. These cowardly acts aim to create an atmosphere of fear and disrupt the important programs and services offered by JCCs to everyone in the communities they serve, including in our states. In addition to reports of incidents at JCCs and Jewish Day Schools, there have been incidents at cemeteries in both St. Louis and Philadelphia involving the desecration of Jewish headstones. This is completely unacceptable and un-American.

We are concerned that the number of incidents is accelerating and failure to address and deter these threats will place innocent people at risk and threaten the financial viability of JCCs, many of which are institutions in their communities. Your Departments can provide crucial assistance by helping JCCs, Jewish Day Schools and Synagogues improve their physical security, deterring threats from being made, and investigating and prosecuting those making these threats or who may

seek to act on these threats in the future. We encourage you to communicate with individual JCCs, the JCC Association of North America, Jewish Day Schools, Synagogues and other Jewish community institutions regarding victim assistance, grant opportunities or other federal assistance that may be available to enhance security measures and improve preparedness. We also recognize the anti-Semitic sentiment behind this spate of threats and encourage your Departments to continue to inform state and local law enforcement organizations of their obligations under the Hate Crime Statistics Act and other federal laws.

We are ready to work with you to address this pressing issue, and we look forward to your responses about the actions you intend to take to address, deter, and prevent this threat.

Sincerely,



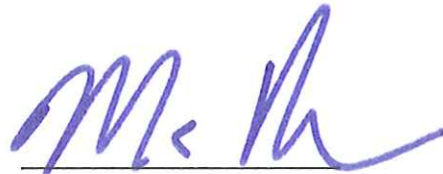
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



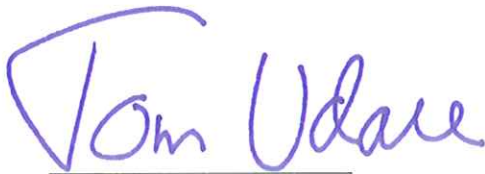
Mitch McConnell  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



John Cornyn  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



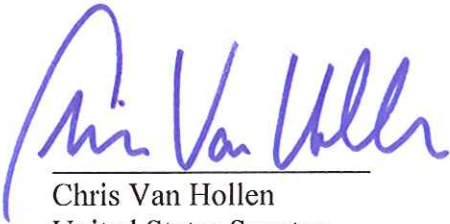
Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



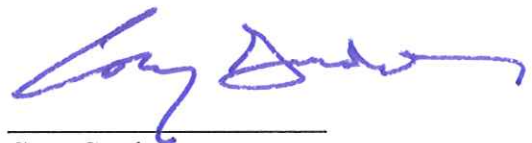
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



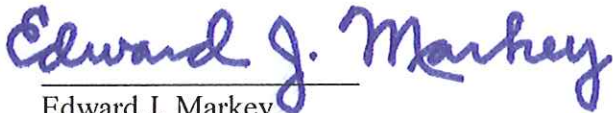
Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



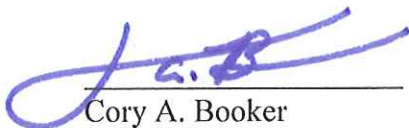
Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



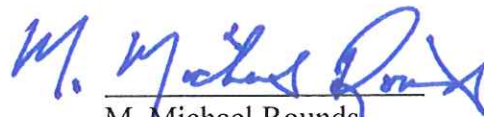
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator

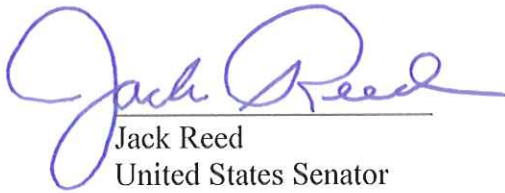


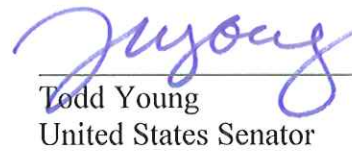
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

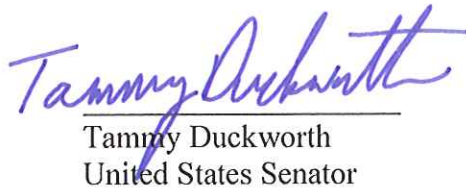


M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator

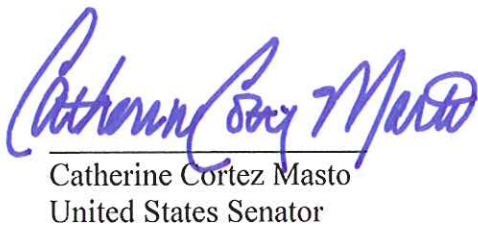


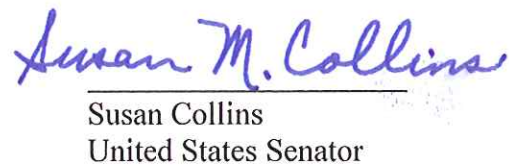
  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

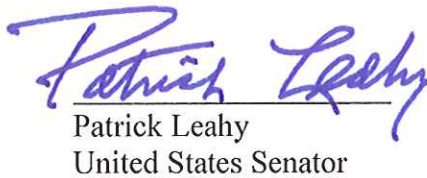
  
Todd Young  
United States Senator

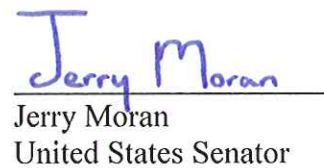
  
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

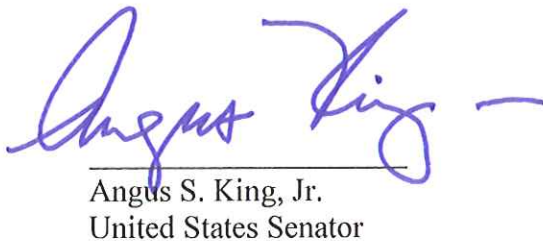
  
Bob Corker  
United States Senator


  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

  
Susan Collins  
United States Senator

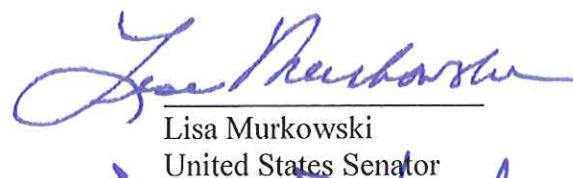
  
Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator

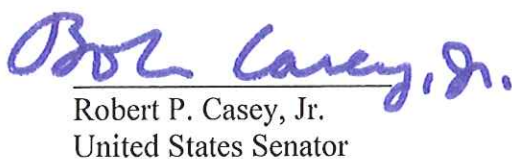
  
Jerry Moran  
United States Senator

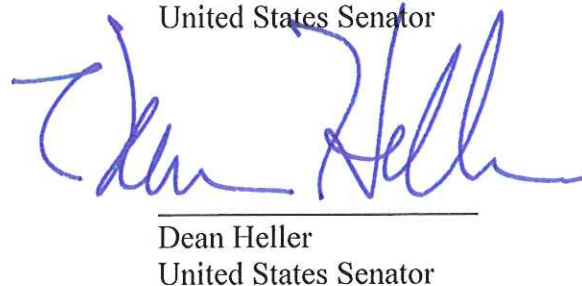
  
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
Roy Blunt  
United States Senator

  
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

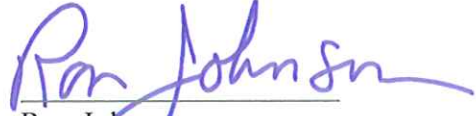
  
Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
Dean Heller  
United States Senator



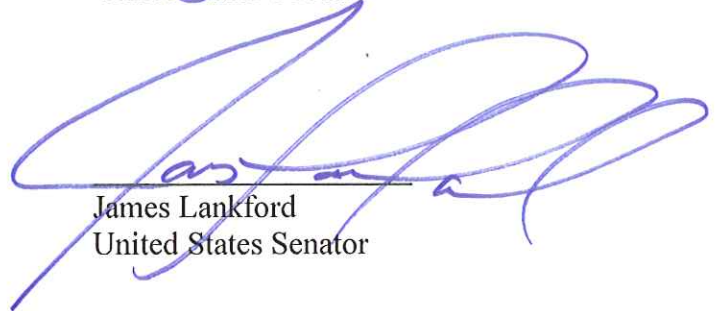
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Ron Johnson  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



James Lankford  
United States Senator



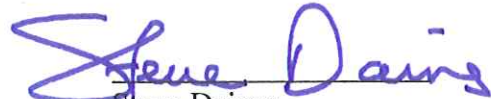
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



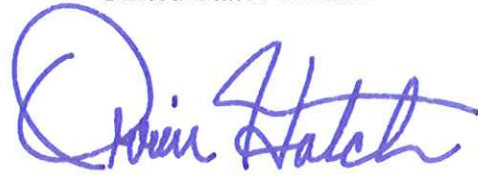
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



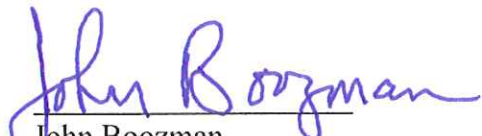
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator




Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator



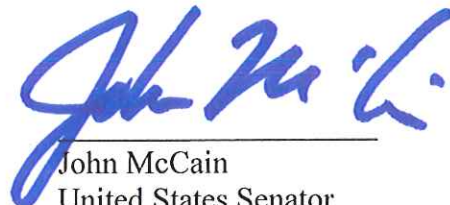
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



John Boozman  
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly  
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John McCain  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



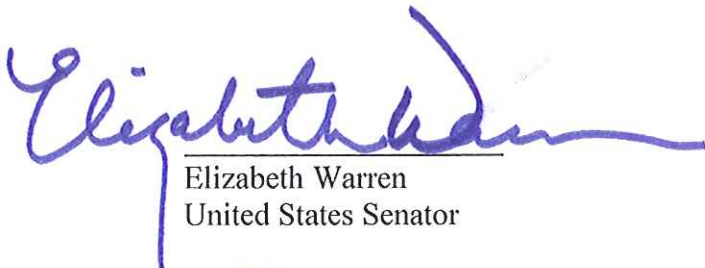
James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



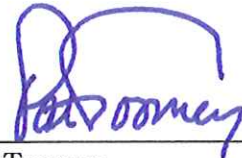
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



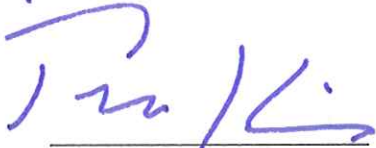
Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



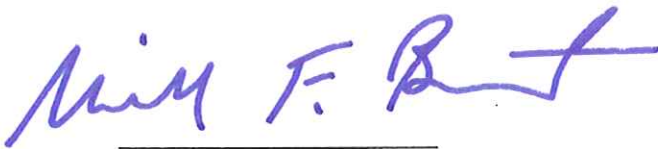
Pat Toomey  
United States Senator



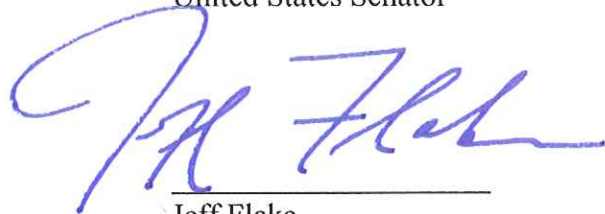
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



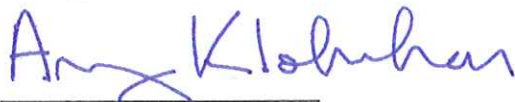
Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Jeff Flake  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

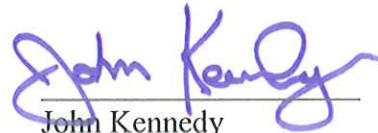


Lamar Alexander  
United States Senator





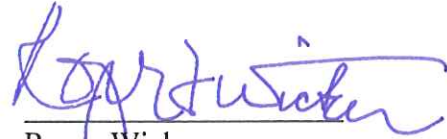
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



John Kennedy  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Roger Wicker  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



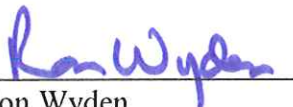
John Thune  
United States Senator



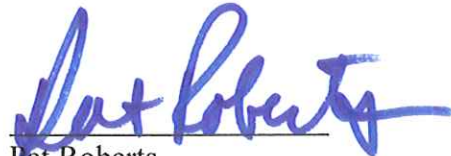
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



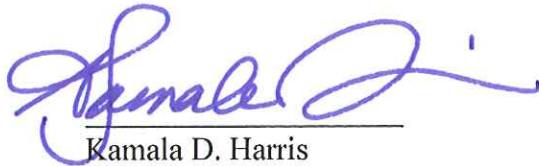
Tim Scott  
United States Senator



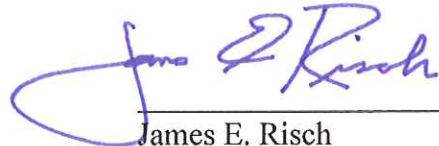
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Pat Roberts  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



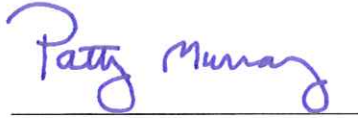
Richard Burr  
United States Senator



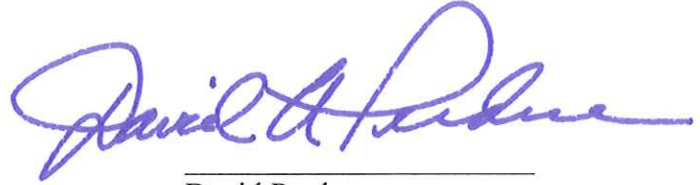
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



John Hoeven  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



David Perdue  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



Luther Strange  
United States Senator



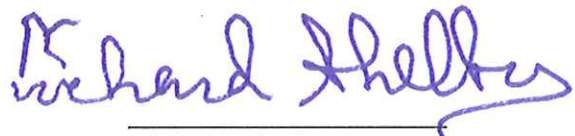
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Thad Cochran  
United States Senator



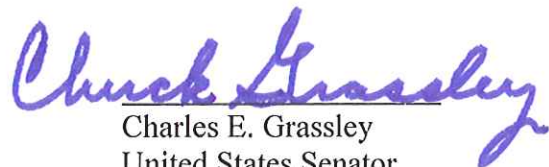
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



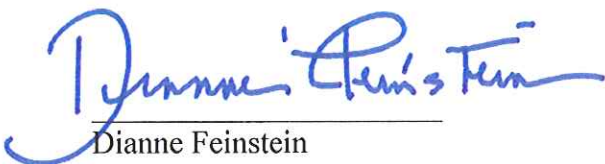
Richard Shelby  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

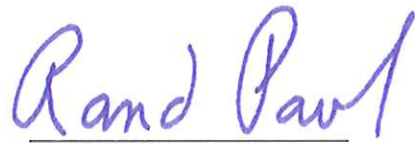


Ted Cruz  
United States Senator

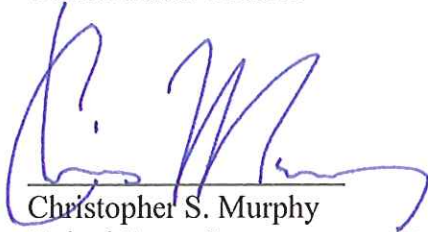




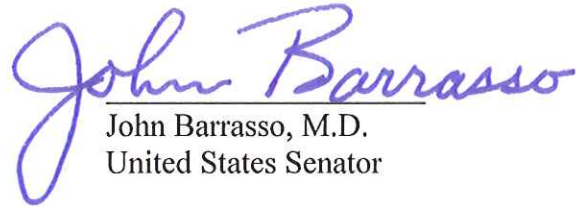
Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



Rand Paul  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



Ben Sasse  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Michael S. Lee  
United States Senator



Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senator