

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 15, 2022

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

We write to express serious concerns over recent attacks targeting religious organizations and crisis pregnancy centers and request the Department of Justice respond with how its National Security Division plans to investigate these acts of domestic terrorism.

Since the draft *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* U.S. Supreme Court opinion was leaked on May 2, 2022, U.S. Supreme Court Justices and pro-life advocates have experienced heightened threats and violence. In the past month, terrorists have targeted numerous pro-life crisis pregnancy centers — two of which culminated in the firebombing and destruction of property by the terrorist group Jane's Revenge in Buffalo, NY, and Madison, WI.<sup>1</sup> During the Madison attack, the group directly threatened life and spray painted “if abortions aren't safe, then you aren't either” on the building's façade.

In addition, the list below, which is not entirely comprehensive, illustrates some recent incidents:

- June 7, 2022: CompassCare Pregnancy Services firebombed (Buffalo, NY)<sup>2</sup>
- June 6, 2022: Mountain Area Pregnancy Services vandalized (Asheville, NC)<sup>3</sup>
- June 3, 2022: Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center vandalized (Washington, DC)<sup>4</sup>
- May 25, 2022: Four Step Pregnancy Center vandalized (Lynwood, WA)<sup>5</sup>
- May 22, 2022: Four churches vandalized (Olympia, WA)<sup>6</sup>
- May 14, 2022: Alpha Pregnancy Center vandalized (Reisterstown, MD)<sup>7</sup>
- May 10, 2022: Concerned Women for America's office damaged (Alexandria, VA)<sup>8</sup>
- May 8 or 9, 2022: First Care Women's Health is vandalized (Manassas, VA)<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> NBC15, “[Group claims credit for Madison anti-abortion office attack, warns of more](#),” May 10, 2022

<sup>2</sup> National Review, “[Pro-Abortion Terrorists Firebomb Buffalo Pro-Life Pregnancy Center](#),” June 7, 2022

<sup>3</sup> Citizen Times, “[Asheville police: Mountain Area Pregnancy Services vandalized, threatened](#),” June 6, 2022

<sup>4</sup> Spectator World, “[Pro-abortion vandals attack the Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center](#),” June 3, 2022

<sup>5</sup> My Northwest, “[Pregnancy clinic in Lynwood vandalized with pro-abortion rights messages](#),” May 25, 2022

<sup>6</sup> Washington Free Beacon, “[Anarchists Take Credit for Vandalizing Four Pro-Life Churches in Washington State](#),” May 22, 2022

<sup>7</sup> WBAL, “[Vandals spray-painted threatening messages onto pregnancy center in Reisterstown](#),” May 14, 2022

<sup>8</sup> Townhall, “[Women's Pro-Life Group's Office Damaged and Urinated On By Crazy 'Leftist'](#),” May 10, 2022

<sup>9</sup> WUSA9, “[Women's clinic in Northern Virginia vandalized, police say](#),” May 10, 2022

- May 8, 2022: Oregon Right to Life office set on fire (Keizer, OR) <sup>10</sup>
- May 8, 2022: Wisconsin Family Action office set on fire (Madison, WI)<sup>11</sup>
- May 7, 2022: The Loreto House Pregnancy Resource Center vandalized (Denton, TX)<sup>12</sup>
- May 3, 2022: Trotter House vandalized (Austin, TX)<sup>13</sup>
- May 3, 2022: Care Net Pregnancy Center vandalized (Frederick, MD)<sup>14</sup>
- May 3, 2022: A Catholic parish is vandalized (Boulder, CO)<sup>15</sup>

The Department has stated that domestic terrorism investigations are a key priority, and subsequently created a new domestic terrorism unit within the National Security Division in January 2022.<sup>16</sup> 18 U.S. Code § 2331 defines domestic terrorism as activities that:<sup>17</sup>

- “(A) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State;
- (B) appear to be intended—
- (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
  - (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or
  - (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and
- (C) occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.”

The department has a clear duty to pursue these recent attacks as instances of domestic terrorism, and it is the responsibility of the National Security Division to protect the United States from threats to our national security by seeking justice through law.

As you know, the Department of Homeland Security is anticipating further violence and unrest in the coming months upon the final release of the *Dobbs* opinion, stating that these threats are “likely to persist and may increase leading up to and following the issuing of the Court’s official ruling”.<sup>18</sup> With this warning made clear, the Department of Justice must act swiftly to investigate and prosecute recent domestic terrorist attacks against pro-life organizations and dissuade future perpetrators of such violence. These attacks have the intended effect of chilling the free exercise of religion and speech, undermining the constitutional rights of Americans.

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<sup>10</sup> KGW8, “[Police identify suspect vehicle in Oregon Right to Life break-in](#),” May 9, 2022

<sup>11</sup> Chanel 3000, “[Madison police, fire department say fire at Wisconsin Family Action office was arson](#),” May 8, 2022

<sup>12</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle, “[Loreto House Vandalized with Spray Paint](#),” May 7, 2022

<sup>13</sup> Pregnancy Help News, “[Pregnancy help director says “onward” after pro-abortion attack over Dobbs leak](#),” May 3, 2022

<sup>14</sup> Live Action, “[Maryland pregnancy center latest target of militant abortion supporters](#),” May 3, 2022

<sup>15</sup> The Denver Post, “[Catholic church in Boulder County vandalized with abortion-rights messages following leak of Supreme Court opinion](#),” May 3, 2022

<sup>16</sup> NPR, “[The Justice Department will create domestic terrorism unit to counter rising threats](#),” January 11, 2022

<sup>17</sup> Cornell Law School, “[18 U.S. Code § 2331 – Definitions](#),”

<sup>18</sup> National Review, “[DHS Preparing for Wave of Violence ahead of Potential Roe Reversal](#),” May 18, 2022

For these reasons, we request that you respond to the following questions thirty days from the receipt of this letter.

1. Is the Department currently investigating the attacks against the aforementioned groups as instances of domestic terrorism? If not, please provide the rationale behind this decision.
2. What is the Department's plan to prevent similar attacks from occurring against other pro-life organizations and is the Department currently collaborating with state and local law enforcement to ensure further incidents do not occur?

Sincerely,



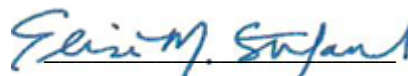
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Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



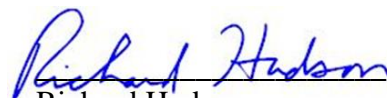
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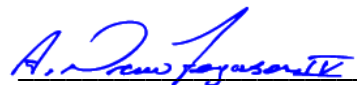
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Richard Hudson  
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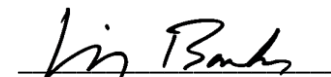
Gary Palmer  
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A. Drew Ferguson, IV  
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Christopher H. Smith  
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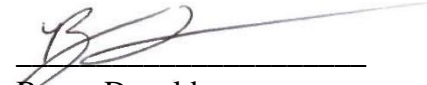
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Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



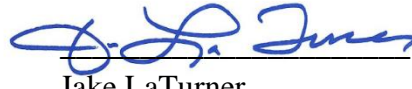
Nancy Mace  
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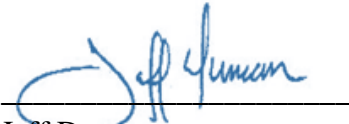
Byron Donalds  
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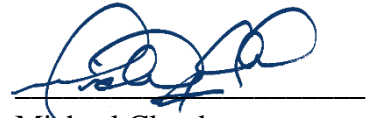
Mario Díaz-Balart  
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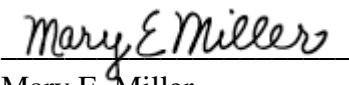
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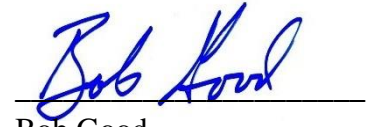
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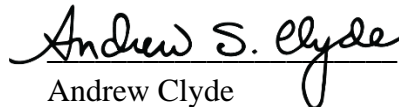
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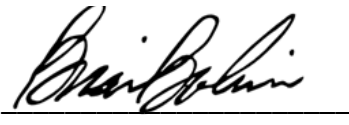
Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.  
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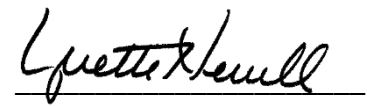
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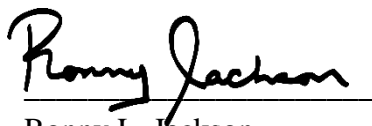
Cliff Bentz  
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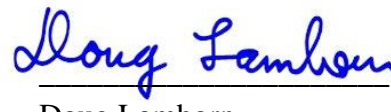
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John Moolenaar

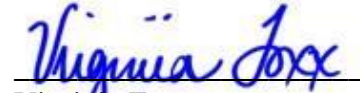
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Thomas P. Tiffany

Tom Tiffany  
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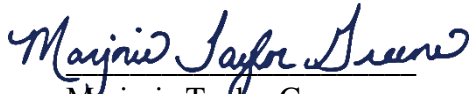
Debbie Lesko  
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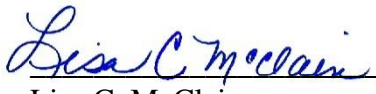
Virginia Foxx  
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Rodney Davis  
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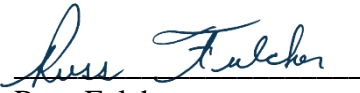
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Lisa C. McClain  
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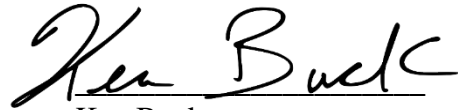
Russ Fulcher  
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Glenn Grothman  
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Ken Buck  
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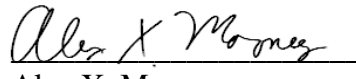
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
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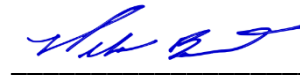
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Markwayne Mullin  
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Alex X. Mooney  
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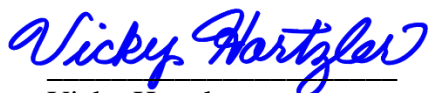
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Member of Congress



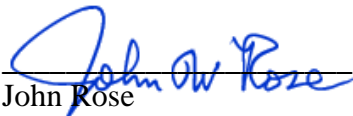
Darrell Issa  
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Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



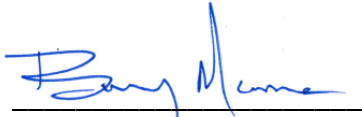
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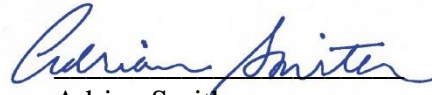
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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
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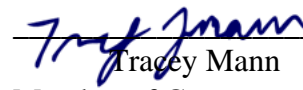
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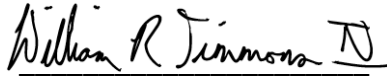
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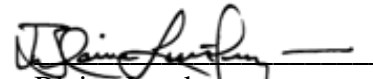
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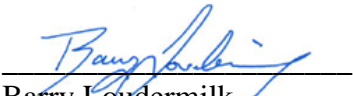
Ted Budd  
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Austin Scott  
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Blaine Luetkemeyer  
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Barry Loudermilk  
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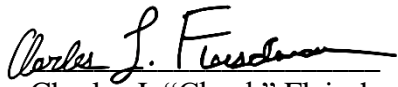
Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress



Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



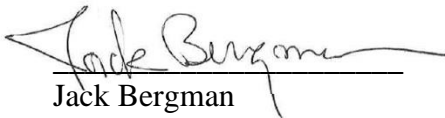
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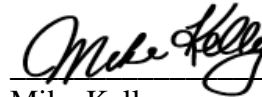
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Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



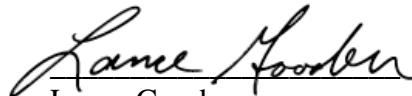
Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern  
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Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
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Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



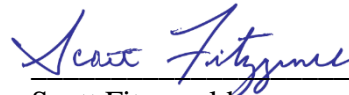
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Member of Congress



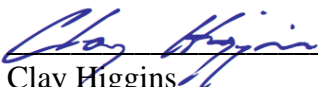
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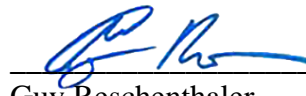
Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress



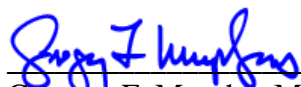
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Member of Congress



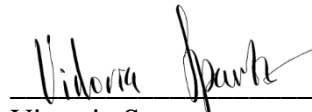
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Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress

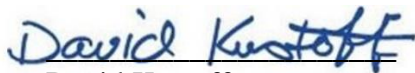


Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Victoria Spartz  
Member of Congress

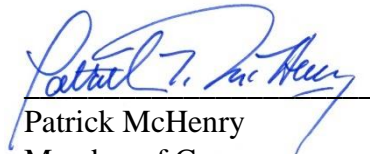




David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress



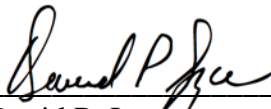
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Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra  
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David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



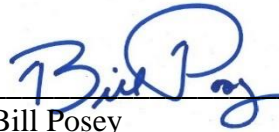
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Member of Congress



Michael Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Ron Estes  
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Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



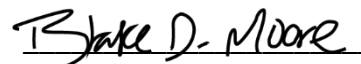
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Member of Congress



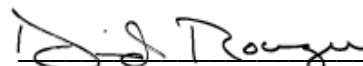
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



Blake Moore  
Member of Congress



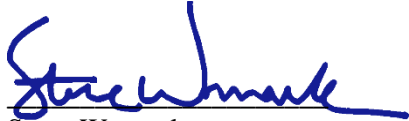
David Rouzer  
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Pete Stauber  
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Andrew R. Garbarino  
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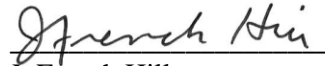
Steve Womack  
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Dan Crenshaw  
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J. French Hill  
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Lauren Boebert  
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