

# United States Senate

November 2, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Christopher Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Secretary Mayorkas and Director Wray:

I write to raise my serious concerns about the rise of antisemitic violence and threats we are seeing across the United States. There is no place for hate, discrimination, or anti-Semitism in our country.

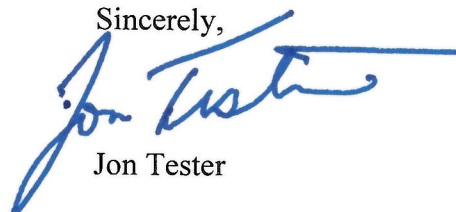
Since the abhorrent Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel in October, we have seen a sharp increase of antisemitic threats and violence throughout America. Both the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) are uniquely positioned to provide additional resources and assistances to synagogues, local law enforcement, and their communities during this devastating time.

I want to make very clear to you that this threat is not isolated to major cities and urban areas. We are seeing a rise in anti-Semitism in rural states like Montana, where in my recent meetings and conversations with Jewish leaders and members of their synagogues they expressed to me that they are now more fearful and under increased threat. Just last month, we saw individuals displaying xenophobic, white supremacist and antisemitic banners outside of Har Shalom synagogue in Missoula, Montana and at multiple locations across the city. There is no place for hate or discrimination in any form in Montana.

I urge your agencies to increase communication to Jewish leaders, religious institutions, and organizations in rural states like Montana, increase outreach to those receiving threats, and make clear what security resources are available to strengthen security for synagogues and members of the Jewish community, as well as other religious groups. I also urge your agencies to increase outreach to state, local and Tribal law enforcement in surrounding areas and provide additional resources and assistance to help them investigate threats, prevent violence, and ensure perpetrators are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

I was glad to see the Biden Administration's recent request for additional funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to increase federal funding to synagogues and other places of worship that are at high risk of attack. But we must do more to stand up against this vitriol and hatred now and we cannot leave rural communities to stand alone. I stand ready to assist your agencies in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester