

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.¹ 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)²
- June 6, 2022: Mountain Area Pregnancy Services vandalized (Asheville, NC)³
- June 3, 2022: Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center vandalized (Washington, DC)⁴
- May 25, 2022: Four Step Pregnancy Center vandalized (Lynwood, WA)⁵
- May 22, 2022: Four churches vandalized (Olympia, WA)⁶
- May 14, 2022: Alpha Pregnancy Center vandalized (Reisterstown, MD)⁷
- May 10, 2022: Concerned Women for America's office damaged (Alexandria, VA)⁸
- May 8 or 9, 2022: First Care Women's Health is vandalized (Manassas, VA)⁹

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁹ 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) ¹⁰
- May 8, 2022: Wisconsin Family Action office set on fire (Madison, WI)¹¹
- May 7, 2022: The Loreto House Pregnancy Resource Center vandalized (Denton, TX)¹²
- May 3, 2022: Trotter House vandalized (Austin, TX)¹³
- May 3, 2022: Care Net Pregnancy Center vandalized (Frederick, MD)¹⁴
- May 3, 2022: A Catholic parish is vandalized (Boulder, CO)¹⁵

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 2022.¹⁶ 18 U.S. Code § 2331 defines domestic terrorism as activities that:¹⁷

“(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”.¹⁸ 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁸ 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,



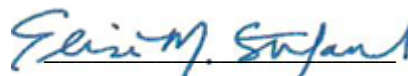
C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



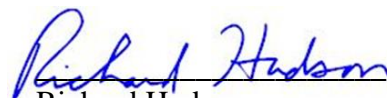
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Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



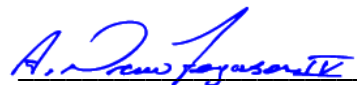
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Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



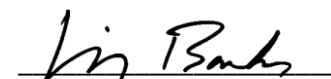
Gary Palmer
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A. Drew Ferguson, IV
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Christopher H. Smith
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Jim Banks
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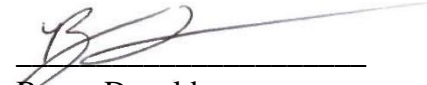
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



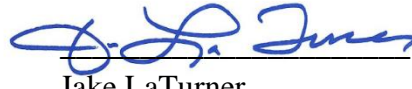
Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



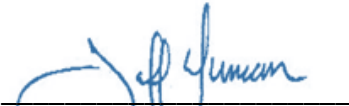
Byron Donalds
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Michael Cloud
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Andrew Clyde
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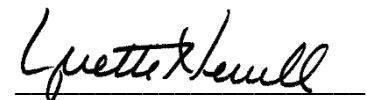
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Member of Congress



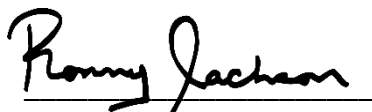
Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



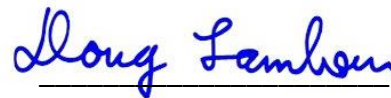
Brian Babin, D.D.S
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Madison Cawthorn

Madison Cawthorn
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W. Gregory Steube

W. Gregory Steube
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David McKinley

David McKinley
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Diana Harshbarger

Diana Harshbarger
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John Moolenaar

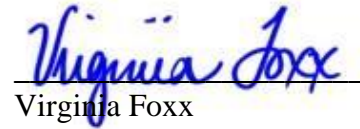
John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Thomas P. Tiffany

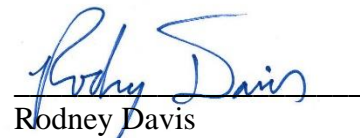
Tom Tiffany
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Virginia Foxx
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Rodney Davis
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Marjorie Taylor Greene
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Lisa C. McClain
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Mo Brooks
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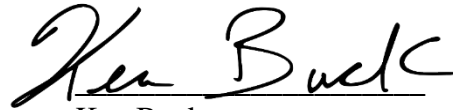
Russ Fulcher
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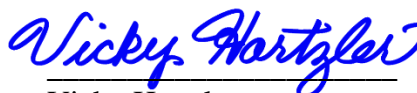
Mike Bost
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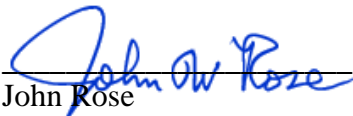
Darrell Issa
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Steve Chabot
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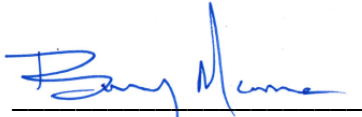
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



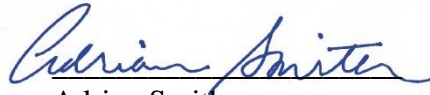
John Rose
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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



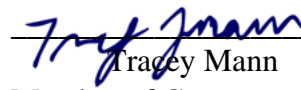
Barry Moore
Member of Congress



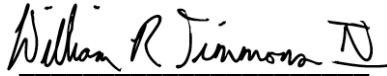
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



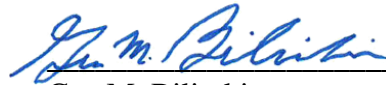
Robert E. Latta
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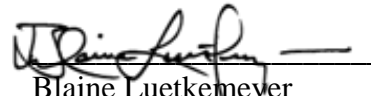
Jake Ellzey
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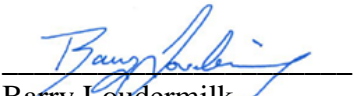
Ted Budd
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Austin Scott
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Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress




Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



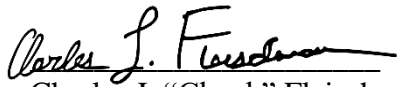
Pat Fallon
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Ben Cline
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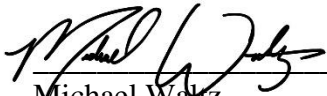
Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress




Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann
Member of Congress



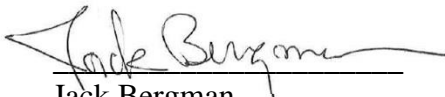
Troy E. Nehls
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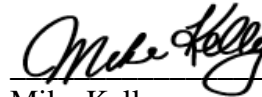
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Bruce Westerman
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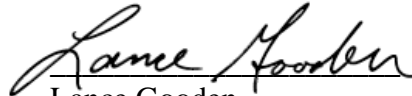
Jack Bergman
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Mike Kelly
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Kevin Hern
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Lance Gooden
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Michelle Fischbach
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Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



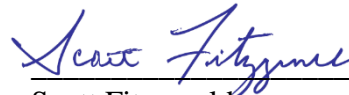
Billy Long
Member of Congress



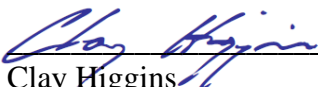
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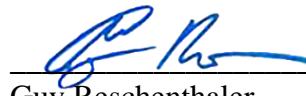
Julia Letlow
Member of Congress



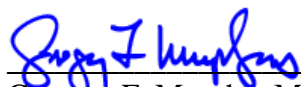
Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



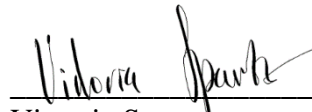
Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



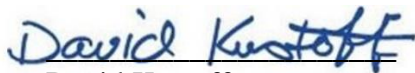
Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



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



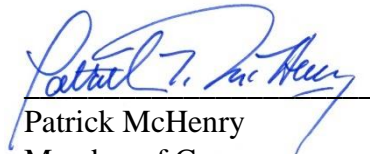
Victoria Spartz
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David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



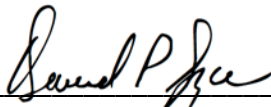
Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
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Randy Feenstra
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David P. Joyce
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Brett Guthrie
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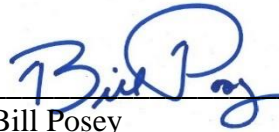
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Michael Burgess, M.D.
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Ron Estes
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Bill Posey
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Dan Newhouse
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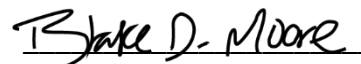
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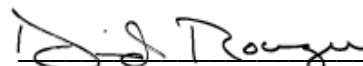
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Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Blake Moore
Member of Congress



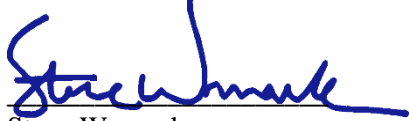
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
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Andrew R. Garbarino
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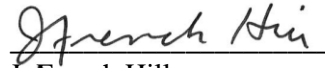
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J. French Hill
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Lauren Boebert
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