

RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY, CHAIRMAN

RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
RICK SCOTT, FLORIDA
JOSH HAWLEY, MISSOURI
BERNIE MORENO, OHIO
JONI ERNST, IOWA
ASHLEY MOODY, FLORIDA

GARY C. PETERS, MICHIGAN
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
JOHN FETTERMAN, PENNSYLVANIA
ANDY KIM, NEW JERSEY
RUBEN GALLEGO, ARIZONA
ELISSA SLOTKIN, MICHIGAN

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

September 10, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Just weeks before the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, as our nation confronts a complex threat environment, I write to express my serious concerns about your Administration's counterterrorism priorities and actions, and to urge your Administration to immediately release the strategic intelligence assessment required by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and extended by the FY 2026 Homeland Security and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act. This assessment would provide the American people and Congress with a clear evidence-based understanding of the threat of domestic terrorism and whether the Administration is prioritizing threats based on data.

Recently, as Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I released a report titled *Failure to Protect: How the Trump Administration Gutted, Politicized, and Weaponized America's Counterterrorism Infrastructure*, which outlined the Administration's dismantling of critical national security agencies and programs and diversion of significant resources and attention away from the fight against terrorism. The report catalogued the ideologically motivated firings, realignment of personnel, dismantling of key offices, the politicization of critical grants, and the wielding of government resources as a weapon against political opponents that are undermining our nation's security.

The Administration has gutted personnel and resources across the government, including more than 15,000 employees at the Department of Justice and 1,300 personnel at the Department of Homeland Security.¹ At the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Administration specifically targeted more than 200 experienced lawyers and agents who were involved in

¹ *Justice Department Loses Thousands of Staff as Ex-Fox Host Pirro's Problems Mount After Sandwich Toss Setback*, The Independent (Nov. 10, 2025) (www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/justice-department-jobs-jeanine-pirro-b2862437.html); Office of Personnel Management, OPM Workforce Data (Accessed Mar. 31, 2026) (data.opm.gov/explore-data/analytics/workforce-changes).

investigations and prosecutions it disfavored, including the January 6th attack on the Capitol and any of the investigations into you.² These cuts to federal resources come while almost \$1 billion in national security and public safety grants have been paused, cancelled, and politicized – weakening state, local, Tribal, territorial, and private sector capacity.

At the same time, the Administration has ignored significant evidence-based threats from white supremacists, nihilist violence extremists, and other extremists to instead target its political opponents under the guise of “left-wing extremism.” Despite the lack of evidence that “left-wing extremism” is the most significant domestic terrorism threat to Americans, you unlawfully “designated” Antifa a domestic terrorist organization and put out National Security-Presidential Memorandum-7 ordering government agencies to focus their resources on this priority.³ Former Attorney General Pam Bondi then disseminated an implementation memo to all federal prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, and DOJ grant-making components outlining this as a top priority for DOJ and its agencies.⁴ Now Joint Task Force Vanguard is leading these efforts across the government.

All of this is happening while the United States remains in a conflict with a leading state-sponsor of terrorism and its proxies, Americans continue to fear that they will be killed in their own houses of worship, and political violence has spiked across the country. Consistent and clear data about the threat of domestic terrorism to Americans is a major gap, which is why I ensured that Congress established a requirement in the FY 2020 NDAA that the FBI and Department of Homeland Security provide Congress and the American people with a yearly strategic assessment so we could ensure the executive branch is properly resourcing and addressing the real threats facing Americans. The Administration’s first Annual Intelligence Community (IC) Threat Assessment – the guiding document for the IC – failed to mention domestic terrorism, a notable omission that is inconsistent with previous years of reporting.⁵ The Administration also quietly removed a DOJ study from a DOJ website showing that since 1990, far- right extremist attacks have outpaced all other types of terrorism and domestic violent extremism.⁶

² *Justice Department Purge Continues; Firings Include Trump Classified Document Case Investigators and Jan. 6 Prosecutors*, CBS News (Jul. 12, 2025) (www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-department-firings-include-trump-investigators-jan-6-prosecutors/); *All the Justice and FBI Employees Who Investigated Trump Have Left, Deputy Attorney General Boasts*, CNN (Mar. 26, 2026) (edition.cnn.com/2026/03/26/politics/fbi-justice-who-investigated-trump-left-doj).

³ *Trump’s Orders Targeting Anti-fascism Aim to Criminalize Opposition*, Brennan Center for Justice (Oct. 9, 2025) (www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/trumps-orders-targeting-antifascism-aim-criminalize-opposition).

⁴ Memorandum For All Federal Prosecutors Law Enforcement Agencies Department Of Justice Grant-Making Components, Implementing National Security Presidential Memorandum-7: Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence; Office of the Attorney General (December 4, 2025).

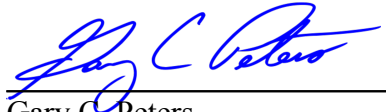
⁵ Office of the Director of National Intelligence, *ANNUAL THREAT ASSESSMENT OF THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY* (Mar. 2025).

⁶ *DOJ Quietly Removes Study Showing Right Wing Attacks ‘Outpace’ Those by Left*, The Hill (Sep. 17, 2025) (www.thehill.com/homenews/administration/5507682-doj-removes-far-right-extremism-study/).

The American people deserve to have confidence that their leaders are protecting them from the genuine threats we face. Yet that is not what we are seeing from your Administration. I urge you to release the strategic intelligence report, as required by law, so Congress and the American people can fully understand your actions and priorities.

Thank you for your prompt attention and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact my staff at (202) 224-2627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary C. Peters", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs