

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2025

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

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

We write to strongly urge you to continue the critical law enforcement work of the Department of Justice's Election Threats Task Force, which protects election officials from ongoing threats and acts of violence. Given the recent disturbing personnel and policy decisions at the Department and the lack of transparency about the future of the Task Force, we request an immediate update on the status and activities of the Task Force, as well as what resources will be provided to ensure its important work continues so that election officials of both parties can safely administer our elections.

The Task Force was established in the wake of the 2020 election cycle when election officials across the political spectrum began facing unprecedented threats of violence intended to thwart the peaceful transfer of power that is the hallmark of our democracy. In close collaboration with state and local law enforcement, the Task Force has assessed thousands of complaints of suspected threats of violence and investigated and prosecuted violent offenders. Over the years, these threats have not only continued but escalated. The Task Force has investigated fentanyl-laced letters, bomb threats, and swatting incidents—serving as a legacy of the 2020 election and impacting the ways election officials interact with voters in their communities.

Recent surveys have found that one in three election officials reported facing threats, harassment, and abuse. Similarly, 48 percent of local election officials know of someone who has left their job because of fear for their safety—a troubling loss of institutional knowledge needed for the smooth running of elections.¹ Election workers continue to fear for their safety, so it is critical that the work of the Task Force continues to deter and counter these threats. In this challenging environment for election officials, it is essential to our democracy that they can continue to rely on the Department to uphold the law.

Moreover, the federal government's ability to fight election interference has been greatly hampered in the early weeks of this Administration. Dozens of officials at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), who are responsible for combatting foreign election interference, have been fired or put on leave.² CISA has also reportedly frozen all of its ongoing

¹ Brennan Ctr. for Just., *Local Election Officials Survey — May 2024*, BRENNAN CTR. FOR JUST. AT NYU L. (May 1, 2024), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/local-election-officials-survey-may-2024>; Elections & Voting Info. Ctr., *2024 EVIC LEO Survey Report*, REED COLL. (Feb. 2025), <https://evic.reed.edu/2024-evic-leo-survey-report/>.

² STEVEN LEE MYERS ET AL., *Trump Dismantles Government Fight Against Foreign Influence Operations*, THE N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/20/business/trump-foreign-influence-election-interference.html>.

election security work,³ including defunding its nationwide program to train local officials and monitor threats through the “Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center.”⁴ Additionally, on your first day in office, you signed a directive disbanding the FBI’s Foreign Influence Task Force, which was aimed at responding to secret influence campaigns waged by China, Russia, and other foreign adversaries.⁵

We request a response on the status and future plans of the Election Threats Task Force, the extent of resources and personnel dedicated to its work, and how it plans to incorporate related work previously led by CISA and the Foreign Influence Task Force by March 31, 2025.

Sincerely,



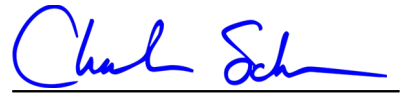
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



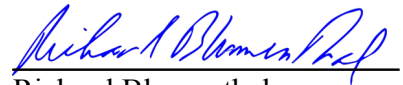
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

³ Eric Gellar, *Top US Election Security Watchdog Forced to Stop Election Security Work*, WIRED (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.wired.com/story/cisa-election-security-freeze-memo/>.

⁴ Nicole Sganga, *Election systems feared to be vulnerable as Trump administration cuts workers tasked with security*, CBS NEWS (last updated Feb. 25, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-administration-firings-election-systems/>.

⁵ MEMORANDUM FROM THE OFF. OF THE ATT’Y. GEN. PAM BONDI TO ALL EMPLOYEES IN THE U.S. DEP’T OF JUST., *General Policy Regarding Charging, Plea Negotiations, and Sentencing* (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1388541/dl>.



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



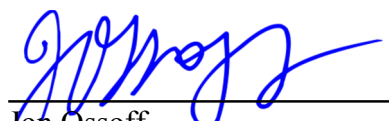
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



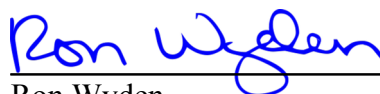
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



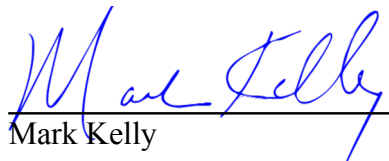
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



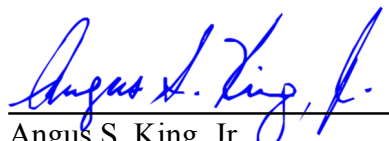
Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



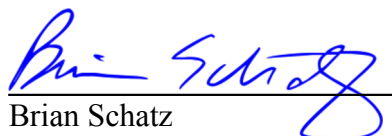
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

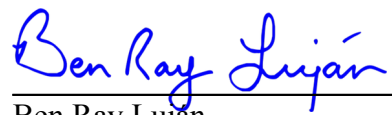



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator





Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

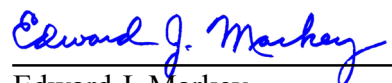

Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator


Peter Welch
United States Senator


Cory A. Booker
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Maria Cantwell
United States Senator


Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator


Andy Kim
United States Senator