



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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November 1, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Leader Jeffries, Chair Murray, Chairwoman Granger, Vice Chair Collins, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has long joined with a coalition of faith communities to support the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). Since 2005, this program has provided grants to nonprofits and houses of worship to enhance security through improvements to infrastructure, funding for emergency planning and training, upgrading security systems, and some renovation projects. These grants enable vulnerable communities to gather for worship, prayer, and service without fear of being attacked.

Right now, we recognize that the Jewish community is especially vulnerable. Stories of attacks regularly appear on our newsfeeds, and there are even reports of antisemitic incidents having nearly quadrupled since the October 7 terrorist attack of Hamas on Israel in comparison with the same time period last year.

Muslims are vulnerable too. It is especially disheartening to learn that the man accused of killing a six-year-old Muslim boy in Chicago reportedly identifies as Catholic. Nothing could be more antithetical to our Church's teachings than this man's alleged crime.

In light of these persistent violent outbreaks, we join our friends from the Orthodox Union in urging you to include at least \$200 million for the NSGP in the funding package that provides

security assistance to Israel. Moreover, we ask that you work to ensure that these funds can be made available quickly, in a manner appropriate to the dire situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tim. Card. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a prominent flourish.

His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
Chair, Committee for Religious Liberty