



October 27, 2023

The Honorable Michael Turner
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Jim Himes
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Warner
Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Vice Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Turner, Chair Warner, Vice Chair Rubio, and Ranking Member Himes:

As we watch a new crisis unfold in the Middle East, law enforcement across the country continues to be on high alert and must adapt daily with the intelligence available to best protect our communities and prevent criminal incidents from occurring. This latest hostile environment coupled with recent border statistics which indicate that record levels of encounters of individuals who have been placed on the Terrorist Screening Data Set (TSDS) or 'Terror Watchlist' has become increasingly alarming to those who protect and serve.

One of the programs that aids local law enforcement in intelligence sharing and homeland security preparedness is the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) Domestic Representative Program. This program under the direction of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence bridges the gap between federal, state, local, and tribal partners on counterterrorism related information and intelligence and works as a liaison for the NCTC Director to better understand the needs and priorities of local law enforcement.

Since the NCTC Domestic Representative Program began, those deployed to communities across the country have served as valuable resources to local law enforcement, fusion centers, and others in the law enforcement and intelligence communities who rely on efficient and timely connectivity as the threat picture evolves continuously.

As we reflect on the lessons learned from 9/11, and as we begin to examine the tactics and potential threats from the current conflicts abroad, we need more support and resources for effective intelligence sharing among law enforcement entities at all levels. While we will be studying the reason for the intelligence failures that occurred in the recent attacks in Israel, it is a clear reminder for the need to revisit the lessons learned from our own tragedy on September 11th. The framework set forth in the 9/11 Commission Report was clear about the need for more, not less, intelligence sharing and cooperation

between all levels of law enforcement and intelligence who are tasked with protecting our communities and our nation as a whole. Homeland and hometown security are most effectively achieved when collaboration occurs among all partners. This includes understanding what may be happening internationally that could evolve into an imminent domestic threat. We have managed to enhance our capabilities in this regard over the past two decades while ensuring privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights are vigilantly reinforced. The Domestic Representative Program has been an important part of these enhancements.

Law enforcement has watched with concern recent policy actions that would degrade programs and tools which bolster intelligence collection, support, and sharing capabilities. This is alarming to our respective law enforcement associations as the changing threat environment has become more troubling in recent weeks.

Due to the current serious threats the United States is facing, and the value this small but important program provides to state and local law enforcement, we the undersigned law enforcement associations ask the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to continue to support and increase funding for the NCTC Domestic Representative Program.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Thompson
Executive Director, CEO
National Sheriffs' Association



Megan E. Noland
Executive Director
Major County Sheriffs of America



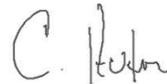
Laura Cooper
Executive Director
Major Cities Chiefs Association



Mike Sena
President
National Fusion Center Association



William "Clint" McDonald
Executive Director
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Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition



Corey Helton
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