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Congress of the United States
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August 21, 2017

The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions
Attorney General
The United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

The Honorable Elaine Duke
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Attorney General Sessions and Acting Secretary Duke:

Given the recent events that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia, I am writing to urge you to strengthen your agencies' efforts to combat the threat of domestic organizations that engage in racial and ethnic-based threats and violence such as white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and the KKK.

It has become obvious that organizations founded on white supremacy, anti-Semitism and racism believe they no longer need to hide in the shadows of obscurity, but instead can openly and publicly spread terror in our communities. A strong and consistent response from federal law enforcement and homeland security officials is necessary to address this threat and prevent it from growing further.

Additionally, I am concerned that Life After Hate, an organization dedicated to fighting white nationalist extremism, did not receive funding for a grant that was awarded during the Obama Administration through the Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) Program and that no other organizations with a similar focus have received CVE grants.

It is imperative that the federal government use every constitutionally available tool to safeguard all of our citizens against the threats posed by white supremacists, neo-Nazis, the KKK, and other such organizations. I respectfully request your prompt response in this matter.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress