

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
JOINT ECONOMIC

January 27, 2017

Secretary John Kelly
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

Thank you for your service as our country's fifth Secretary of Homeland Security.

I write to express my serious concerns regarding recent reports of bomb threats against Jewish Community Centers (JCCs) throughout the country. It is critical that we make every effort to safeguard JCCs and all other faith based organization across the United States.

The *New York Times* reported that there were 27 telephoned bomb threats against JCCs across 17 states and 16 bomb threats the week prior. The 33 bomb threats in a two-week time span are deeply troubling and require a comprehensive response. This is why I respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ensure that JCCs are aware of all available Department guidance and resources to help prepare and react appropriately to threats, including the DHS Bomb Threat Checklist, the DHS-DOJ Bomb Threat Guidance brochure, and the DHS Bomb Threat Training Video. These materials offer JCCs clear guidance in response to bomb threats and help increase cognizance of protocol.

While no members of the JCC were physically harmed, these threats aim to introduce fear in our faith-based communities. There are nearly 150 JCCs across the United States and among those terrorized by the recent bomb threats include young children in JCC early childhood centers. To this end, I also request that you work in concert with the Intelligence Community, the FBI, and state and local law enforcement organizations to help identify the individuals responsible and address the underlying causes of these threats within the affected communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. I look forward to working with you to combat homegrown domestic threats targeted at all faith based communities in the Unites States.

Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator