Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 6, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader McConnell,

We are writing to request that urgent attention be given to legislation to address the threats posed by white supremacist terrorism. First, we call on the Senate to reconvene to consider legislation already passed by the House to strengthen the background check system and enhance gun safety. Second, we believe that the relevant House and Senate Committees of jurisdiction should meet during the August recess, and that all other Members and Senators should be prepared to return to Washington as soon as a substantive, meaningful package to combat white supremacist terrorism is ready for consideration. We the undersigned stand ready to return to the Capitol before September 9 to take up this important work.

In the wake of the El Paso shootings, it is clear that terrorists motivated by a common white supremacist ideology are committing deadly attacks against African-American, Jewish, Muslim, Hispanic and other non-white communities in the United States and around the world, and that they pose a clear and present danger to our national security. There is legislation pending in the House and Senate, much of which should have bipartisan support, that would strengthen our government's ability to confront domestic terrorism, while making it harder for terrorists to purchase guns. We should not wait until the district work period ends on September 9 to take action that will protect the American people.

Pending legislation includes the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act, which would beef up the Justice and Homeland Security Department units responsible for addressing this threat, while improving collection of data. The NO HATE Act, the Disarm Hate Act, and the Domestic Terrorism Data Act also seek to address some of the threats posed by violent extremism in the United States. Congress should further consider appropriating supplemental funds to both Departments so that they can meet the threat without reducing other essential counter-terrorism efforts. And we should consider passing a domestic terrorism statute, and new measures to combat the spread of hateful ideologies online.

We must also come together across party lines, as swiftly as possible, to condemn any political leader, movement, or media figure who echoes the beliefs these terrorists have repeatedly expressed, including that immigrants are "invading" the United States or set on "replacing" any of our citizens. This ideology is utterly contrary to America's founding creed that all men and women are created equal, and to our experience as a nation built by, and benefiting from, the contributions of immigrants from every part of the world.

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We should take the threat posed by white supremacist terrorists as seriously as we rightly take the threat posed by terrorists groups based outside the United States. Let us approach that work with the urgency it demands.

Sincerely,

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

Susie Lee
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier
Member of Congress

Don Beyer
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

Katie Hill
Member of Congress

TJ Cox
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Donna Shalala
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress