

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

March 1, 2017

Mr. Rod J. Rosenstein  
U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland  
U.S. Department of Justice  
36 S. Charles Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Mr. Gordon B. Johnson  
Special Agent in Charge, Baltimore  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
2600 Lord Baltimore Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear U.S. Attorney Rosenstein and Special Agent in Charge Johnson:

We write to express our grave concern about the recent rise in the number of anti-Semitic and religious discrimination incidents in the state of Maryland and the need for a strong federal response.

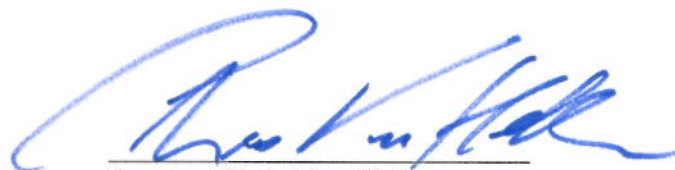
In Maryland, bomb threats have disrupted classroom activities as well as events at Jewish community centers, coupled with the rise of neo-Nazi propaganda. These hate-filled threats are intended to strike fear across the country and represent a troubling trend that we must bring to an end. Leaders from the national level to the neighborhood level must speak out forcefully against this kind of intolerance. This is not only a concern of Jewish communities. Religious-based threats, vandalism and threats of violence, whether anti-Semitic or targeted at Muslim-Americans or other religions, are not only criminal but fan the flames of extremism that tears apart societies. Each threat needs to be treated with the utmost seriousness as we band together to discourage such vicious language and activity.

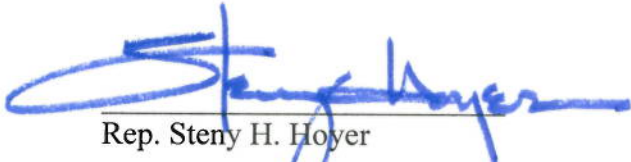
We ask you to use the full resources of the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute hate crimes and violence in the state of Maryland when jurisdiction exists to protect federal civil rights, including the resources available from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Civil Rights Division, and Community Relations Service. We urge you to work closely with state and local law enforcement authorities to ensure close cooperation on investigation and prosecution of hate crimes and to improve training and reporting of such crimes to the federal government. We pledge our full cooperation in these efforts.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your timely response and working closely with your offices to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all Marylanders.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin

  
Senator Chris Van Hollen



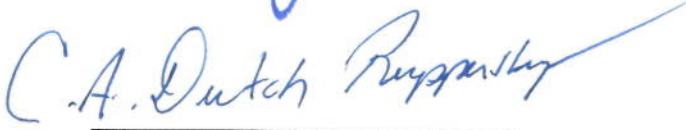
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Rep. Steny H. Hoyer



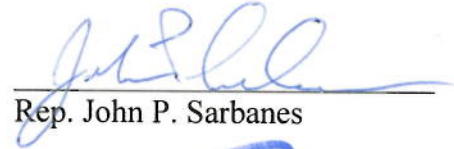
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Rep. Elijah E. Cummings



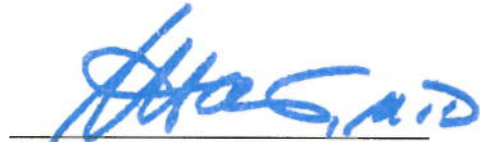
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Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger



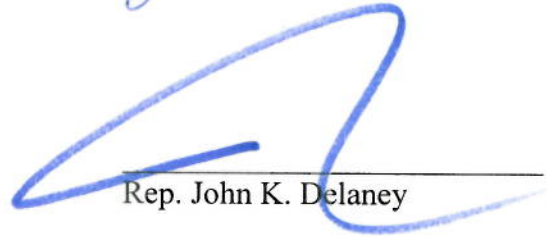
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Rep. John P. Sarbanes



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Rep. Andy Harris, M.D.



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Rep. John K. Delaney



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Rep. Anthony G. Brown



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Rep. Jaime Raskin

Cc: Attorney General Jeff Sessions, DOJ  
Jim Comey, FBI Director  
Brian Frosh, Maryland Attorney General