



JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE UNITED STATES
Presiding

HONORABLE ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF
Secretary

June 7, 2021

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Leahy, Van Hollen, and Shaheen, and Senators Shelby, Hyde-Smith, and Moran:

On May 20, 2021, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3237, the “Emergency Security Supplemental to Respond to January 6th Appropriations Act, 2021.” As the Senate considers its response to this legislation, we write on behalf of the Judicial Conference of the United States to urge the Senate to include in its bill the \$157.5 million in H.R. 3237 for the Judiciary’s Court Security program. This funding is needed for security improvements to “harden” courthouses, for a security vulnerability program to increase judges’ safety, and to reimburse the Federal Protective Service (FPS) for upgrading aging exterior courthouse security cameras. In addition, we strongly

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support the \$25.0 million in H.R. 3237 for the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) for judicial security.

There is an urgent need for immediate Congressional action to address the security of judges and federal courthouses. Over the past year, the federal Judiciary has suffered an increasing number of acts of violence and vandalism on and off of courthouse premises. In July 2020, a disgruntled litigant, posing as a delivery courier, went to the New Jersey home of U.S. District Judge Esther Salas and murdered her son and critically wounded her husband. An FPS guard was shot to death in May 2020 outside the federal courthouse in Oakland, California. A court security officer was shot and wounded in September 2020 outside the federal courthouse in Phoenix, Arizona. And more than 50 federal courthouses sustained damage during public disturbances and other violent incidents occurring at or near federal courthouses in 2020.

The threat to federal courts is getting worse. According to the USMS the number of threats and inappropriate communications targeting judges and other personnel essential to court proceedings rose from 926 in 2015, to 4,261 in 2020, a 360 percent increase. Our constitutional system depends on judges who can make decisions without fear of reprisal or retribution. This is essential not just for the safety of judges and their families, but also to protect our democracy.

A comprehensive approach is required to address the growing violence and threats facing the Judiciary. This includes both authorizing legislation and increased appropriations for the Judiciary, USMS, and FPS. We ask the Appropriations Committee to provide the needed funding.

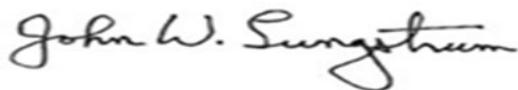
We greatly appreciate the funding Congress provided the USMS in the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021,” to upgrade security systems at judges’ homes and improve USMS’s ability to identify and investigate online threats against judges and court facilities. Additional resources are urgently needed. H.R. 3237, as passed by the House, includes the funding we requested for the Judiciary’s Court Security program to harden courthouses to withstand a hostile incursion (\$112.5 million) and for a security vulnerability program to proactively identify active and potential threats against Judiciary facilities and judges and their families (\$10.0 million). The House bill also provides funding for the Judiciary to reimburse FPS to upgrade aging exterior perimeter security cameras at 36 locations (\$35.0 million). We had requested a direct appropriation of

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\$267.0 million to FPS for a broader camera upgrade effort, but this one-time emergency supplemental funding of \$35.0 million can be appropriated directly to the Judiciary and transferred to FPS as needed. Finally, as discussed above, we strongly support the \$25.0 million in the House bill for the USMS for judicial security.

We hope that this letter conveys the urgency needed to address the growing violence and threats facing the Judiciary. On behalf of the Judicial Conference of the United States, we ask for your prompt action to provide the resources outlined in this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



John W. Lungstrum
Chair, Committee on the Budget

Sincerely,



Roslynn R. Mauskopf
Secretary

cc: Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Honorable John Kennedy