

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2025

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee
Commerce, Justice, Science and Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
Commerce, Justice, Science and Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Rogers and Ranking Member Meng:

As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we ask that within the accounts funding the Department of Justice State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance account, you provide \$10 million for the state and local government grant program authorized in Section 5934(c) of the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-263).

This program permits the Attorney General to make grants to States or units of local governments so they can remove personal information about federal judges and their families from their websites, such as property tax records that would list federal judges' addresses.

Time is of the essence in implementing the Aderl Act's protections for our federal judges and their families, as members of the Federal judiciary have been exposed to an increased number of personal threats in connection to their role. Testifying before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and the Federal Government in February of this year, U.S. Marshals Service Director Ronald Davis said that threats against federal judges have doubled in the past 3 years. In fact, from 2015 to 2021, threats against federal court personnel jumped more than 450 percent, from 926 incidents recorded in 2015 to 4,511 incidents in 2021.

Among the incidents demonstrating the unfortunate urgency of these measures is the 2020 murder of Daniel Aderl, for whom the legislation was named. The 20-year-old son of New Jersey District Judge Esther Salas, Daniel was shot and killed at home by a disgruntled lawyer who found the judge's address on the internet and also critically wounded Judge Salas' husband.

After Judge James Robart's 2017 decision to block former President Trump's travel ban, critics posted the judge's home phone and address online. Judge Robart received 40,000 messages, 1,100 of which were serious enough to be investigated, and so many death threats that U.S. marshals set up camp around his house. Additionally, in 2022, a California man was indicted for attempting to assassinate Justice Brett Kavanaugh. An FBI affidavit stated that the would-be assassin found Justice Kavanaugh's address online.

In his annual year-end report in December, Chief Justice Roberts warned about the rising number of threats to the judiciary's independence, including calls for violence against judges and

“dangerous” suggestions by elected officials to disregard court rulings they disagree with. This warning was followed by another by the U.S. Marshals to federal judges indicating an “unusually high threat level” in March. The importance of the Anderl Act to our federal judiciary and to our federal legal system cannot be overstated. It is critical that Congress take action to protect all our public servants on the federal bench and prevent this type of violence and threats in the future. Our judiciary, and by extension, our democracy, cannot continue to bear this burden alone.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



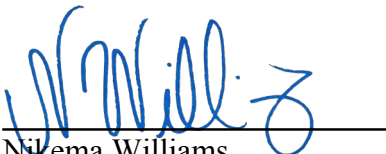
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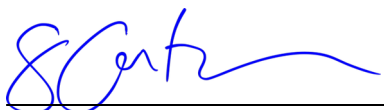
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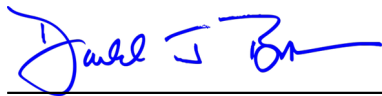
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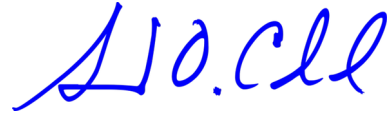
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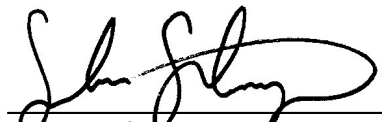
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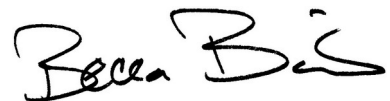
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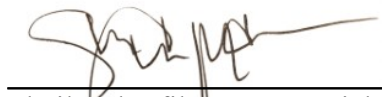
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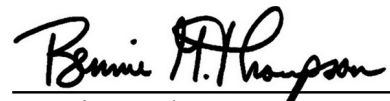
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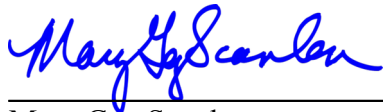
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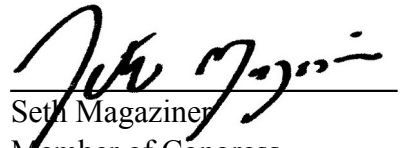
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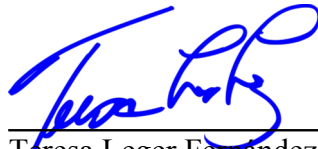
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