Dear Attorney General Garland,

We write to express serious concerns over recent attacks targeting religious organizations and crisis pregnancy centers and request the Department of Justice respond with how its National Security Division plans to investigate these acts of domestic terrorism.

Since the draft Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health U.S. Supreme Court opinion was leaked on May 2, 2022, U.S. Supreme Court Justices and pro-life advocates have experienced heightened threats and violence. In the past month, terrorists have targeted numerous pro-life crisis pregnancy centers — two of which culminated in the firebombing and destruction of property by the terrorist group Jane’s Revenge in Buffalo, NY, and Madison, WI. During the Madison attack, the group directly threatened life and spray painted “if abortions aren’t safe, then you aren’t either” on the building’s façade.

In addition, the list below, which is not entirely comprehensive, illustrates some recent incidents:

- June 7, 2022: CompassCare Pregnancy Services firebombed (Buffalo, NY)
- June 6, 2022: Mountain Area Pregnancy Services vandalized (Asheville, NC)
- June 3, 2022: Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center vandalized (Washington, DC)
- May 25, 2022: Four Step Pregnancy Center vandalized (Lynwood, WA)
- May 22, 2022: Four churches vandalized (Olympia, WA)
- May 14, 2022: Alpha Pregnancy Center vandalized (Reisterstown, MD)
- May 10, 2022: Concerned Women for America’s office damaged (Alexandria, VA)
- May 8 or 9, 2022: First Care Women’s Health is vandalized (Manassas, VA)

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1 NBC15, “Group claims credit for Madison anti-abortion office attack, warns of more,” May 10, 2022
2 National Review, “Pro-Abortion Terrorists Firebomb Buffalo Pro-Life Pregnancy Center,” June 7, 2022
3 Citizen Times, “Asheville police: Mountain Area Pregnancy Services vandalized, threatened,” June 6, 2022
4 Spectator World, “Pro-abortion vandals attack the Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center,” June 3, 2022
5 My Northwest, “Pregnancy clinic in Lynwood vandalized with pro-abortion rights messages,” May 25, 2022
7 WBAL, “Vandals spray-painted threatening messages onto pregnancy center in Reisterstown,” May 14, 2022
8 Townhall, “Women’s Pro-Life Group’s Office Damaged and Urinated On By Crazed ‘Leftist’,” May 10, 2022
9 WUSA9, “Women’s clinic in Northern Virginia vandalized, police say,” May 10, 2022
The Department has stated that domestic terrorism investigations are a key priority, and subsequently created a new domestic terrorism unit within the National Security Division in January 2022. 16 18 U.S. Code § 2331 defines domestic terrorism as activities that: 17

“(A) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State;
(B) appear to be intended—
   (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
   (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or
   (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and
(C) occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.”

The department has a clear duty to pursue these recent attacks as instances of domestic terrorism, and it is the responsibility of the National Security Division to protect the United States from threats to our national security by seeking justice through law.

As you know, the Department of Homeland Security is anticipating further violence and unrest in the coming months upon the final release of the Dobbs opinion, stating that these threats are “likely to persist and may increase leading up to and following the issuing of the Court’s official ruling”. 18 With this warning made clear, the Department of Justice must act swiftly to investigate and prosecute recent domestic terrorist attacks against pro-life organizations and dissuade future perpetrators of such violence. These attacks have the intended effect of chilling the free exercise of religion and speech, undermining the constitutional rights of Americans.

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10 KGW8, “Police identify suspect vehicle in Oregon Right to Life break-in,” May 9, 2022
11 Chanel 3000, “Madison police, fire department say fire at Wisconsin Family Action office was arson,” May 8, 2022
15 The Denver Post, “Catholic church in Boulder County vandalized with abortion-rights messages following leak of Supreme Court opinion,” May 3, 2022
16 NPR, “The Justice Department will create domestic terrorism unit to counter rising threats,” January 11, 2022
For these reasons, we request that you respond to the following questions thirty days from the receipt of this letter.

1. Is the Department currently investigating the attacks against the aforementioned groups as instances of domestic terrorism? If not, please provide the rationale behind this decision.
2. What is the Department’s plan to prevent similar attacks from occurring against other pro-life organizations and is the Department currently collaborating with state and local law enforcement to ensure further incidents do not occur?

Sincerely,

C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

Mike Johnson
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Gary Palmer
Member of Congress

A. Drew Ferguson, IV
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Jim Banks
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan
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Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress
Nancy Mace  
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Mario Díaz-Balart  
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Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress

Mary E. Miller  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S  
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Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress

Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress

Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress

Bob Good  
Member of Congress

Andrew Clyde  
Member of Congress

Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.  
Member of Congress

Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress

Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress
Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Marjorie Taylor Greene  
Member of Congress

Lisa C. McClain  
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress

Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

Ken Buck  
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Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
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Dan Meuser  
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Markwayne Mullin  
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Alex X. Mooney  
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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress
Charles J. “Chuck” Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress

Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress

Billy Long  
Member of Congress

Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress

Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress

Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress

David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress

Victoria Spartz  
Member of Congress
David Kustoff  
Member of Congress

Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress

Patrick McHenry  
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress

David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress

Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress

Michael Burgess, M.D.  
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Ron Estes  
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Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse  
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Tom McClintock  
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Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress

Blake Moore  
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Pete Stauber  
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Steve Womack  
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Darin LaHood  
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Dan Crenshaw  
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J. French Hill  
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Lauren Boebert  
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