July 9, 2015

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_

US House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I urge you to cosponsor H.Res. 354, which Rep. Chris Smith has just introduced to strengthen the security of Jewish communities in Europe. The seven other Co-Chairs of the Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Anti-Semitism, Reps. Ted Deutch, Nita Lowey, Eliot Engel, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Kay Granger, Steve Israel, and Peter Roskam, have joined him as original cosponsors of this bipartisan resolution.

Harassment of and violence against Jews throughout the world are at their highest levels in years. In Europe, the situation is significantly deteriorating. Fatal attacks in France, Denmark, and Copenhagen, and vandalism against synagogues and other Jewish facilities throughout Western Europe have been shocking and disturbing.

In these difficult times, Jewish community security groups are working overtime to protect and defend Jewish citizens and to combat the evil of anti-Semitism. They are assisting victims of anti-Semitic and extremist violence, promoting research, leading public discourse, and engaging government agencies on issues of anti-Semitism, extremism, policing, and security for community members and facilities.

Jewish Federations across the United States have proactively engaged in this effort. We have held solidarity rallies and memorial vigils, raised and allocated funds to help communities address immediate security needs, sent missions to ensure that Europe’s Jewish communities understand that they are not alone, and convened key organizations that provide funding and services to Jews in Europe.

Through this engagement, we have assessed that Europe’s Jewish community security groups need and desire improved, formal cooperation and collaboration with their government agencies to counter violent extremism and anti-Semitism, and to keep their communities safe. Building these formal partnerships is critical for the lasting safety, security, and resiliency of Europe’s Jewish communities. U.S. government engagement with European counterparts is vital to ensuring that that these connections are made and fostered, and that proven models and best practices are shared and implemented.

H.Res. 354 will advance these desired outcomes and enhance Jewish communal security in Europe. For these reasons, we urge you to become a cosponsor of this resolution.

Click [**here**](http://chrissmith.house.gov/uploadedfiles/15_07_09_h_res_anti-semitism_sans.pdf) to view the resolution.

Sincerely,