

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to request clarification and express serious concerns about your recent executive order, *Designating Antifa as a Domestic Terrorist Organization*, and the following presidential memorandum, *Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence*. The memo directs federal officials to crack down on organized political violence, which you define to include “anti-Christianity”, “anti-capitalism”, and “hostility toward those who hold traditional American views on family, religion, and morality.”

While protecting public safety and countering genuine threats are essential responsibilities of government, the sweeping language and broad authority in these directives pose serious constitutional, statutory, and civil liberties risks, especially if used to target political dissent, protest, or ideological speech.

Your memo uses ideologically charged language (e.g., “hostility toward those who hold traditional American views on family, religion, and morality”) that invites enforcement based on an individual’s personal opinions or political beliefs rather than any objective concern for public safety. This approach threatens our constituents’ civil liberties. Regardless of whether the President agrees with someone’s political views, the Constitution guarantees their right to speak and assemble peacefully. Officials must not label individuals as “supporting Antifa” or “coordinating with Antifa” based solely on their protected speech.

In fact, neither the memo nor the executive order clearly defines “Antifa” as a specific entity. Instead, the executive order conflates nonviolent protest and activism with doxing and violent behavior. Without clear definitions and limits, this vague framing could subject lawful political expression and assembly to the same treatment as terrorism.

The memo also characterizes “anti-capitalism” as a hallmark of violent behavior without explaining the term. This omission allows officials to potentially treat Americans as domestic terrorists for something as routine as organizing a local boycott or operating an employee-owned business. That lack of clarity threatens to chill lawful activism and punish economic alternatives.

Additionally, the memo's inclusion of “anti-Christianity” as a concern implies that criticism of Christian doctrines or institutions may qualify as violent behavior. This framing conflicts with

the Constitution's guarantee of religious freedom and its prohibition against government favoritism toward any faith. Non-Christian religious communities, secular groups, and individual dissenters all have the right to express disagreement with religious doctrines without being treated as threats.

Faith-based organizations and religious individuals have long played an active role in public discourse, including advocacy and critique. Labeling criticism as "anti-Christian" would silence their voices and deter Americans from exercising their rights. This risk becomes especially acute if enforcement shifts from protecting religious freedom to penalizing dissent from certain traditions. Using "anti-Christianity" as a trigger for law enforcement scrutiny threatens to suppress lawful religious dissent, academic analysis, and open public debate.

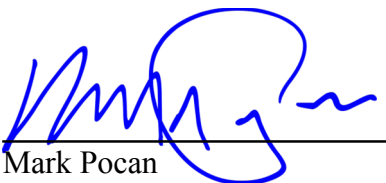
The following considerations underscore the complete and utter lack of any legal basis for the memorandum and executive order:

1. What is the legal justification, including relevant statutory, constitutional, or precedential support, for classifying "anti-Christianity" as a threat, particularly in light of First Amendment protections and religious neutrality?
2. How does your administration measure and define the examples listed in both documents (e.g., Antifa, anti-Christianity, and anti-capitalism)?
 - a. Who has the authority to make these determinations?
3. What thresholds or evidentiary standards trigger enforcement or investigation?
4. What procedural safeguards will prevent overreach or discrimination?

While the threat of political violence demands vigilance, your administration must not use this moment to undermine the very constitutional and democratic principles we are sworn to uphold.

These actions are illegal, and we demand you immediately rescind both the memorandum and the executive order. We stand ready to take legislative action should you fail to do so.

Sincerely,



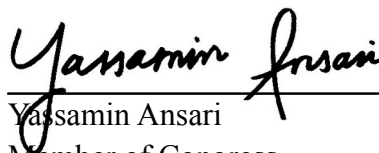
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



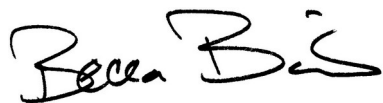
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
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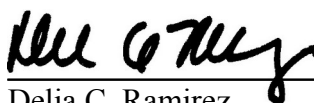
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



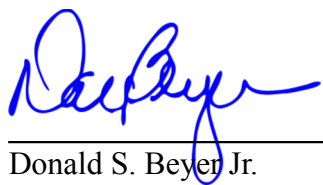
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



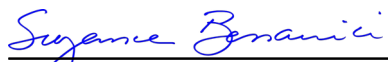
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



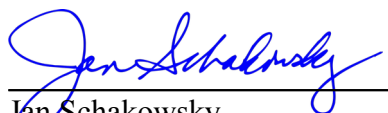
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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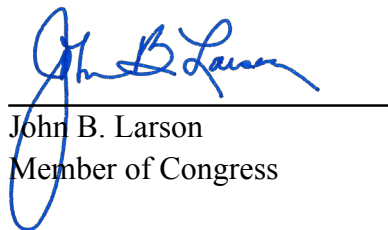
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



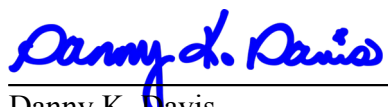
Ilhan Omar
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John B. Larson
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Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



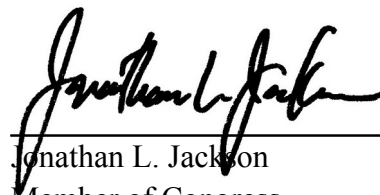
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



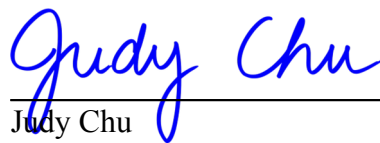
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



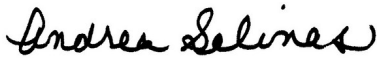
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



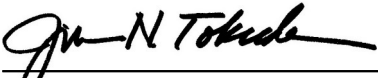
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
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Jim Tokuda
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Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress