

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 4, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Director Wray and Attorney General Garland:

We are writing to thank you, your teams, and your colleagues across government for recently hosting a briefing for staff at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and their partners on the investigation into the disturbing pattern of threats against those institutions this year and to follow up with additional questions. As the co-chairs of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus, we are deeply concerned about these disturbing, repeated threats of violence towards the HBCU community. We are also deeply concerned that these threats are continuing into this new school year.

As you know, at least 57 bomb threats have been directed at HBCUs across the country this year. Notably, Howard University has received eight bomb threats, including two recently within the same week. Bomb threats should not be a normal part of the campus experience. Many students may become, or have become, desensitized to these threats of violence directed toward themselves and campus communities. We are thankful that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) opened an investigation into the bomb threats in February 2022 and has continued that work over the course of the year. As the co-chairs of the Congressional HBCU Caucus, we are concerned that the ongoing nature of these threats may embolden others who wish to do harm to these schools and their students. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure institutions receive timely and relevant communications so that school leaders and law-enforcement officials have all they need to keep campuses safe as you work expeditiously to identify those responsible for these threats.

To that end, we would be grateful for written guidance that can be shared with institutions outlining funding streams, including competitive grant programs; any training opportunities that may be available to institution staff; and resources for the development of standard operating procedures available through the Department of Justice and FBI in order to strengthen campus safety. Such guidance should include instructions on how smaller institutions or those less experienced with federal programs can receive technical assistance on any relevant applications.

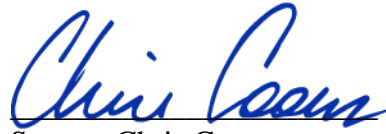
We would also appreciate the chance for our offices to connect with your teams at regular, scheduled intervals to share updates, feedback, and concerns from the broader community, as appropriate. We would also welcome in those conversations any notes on funding, authorities, or other assistance from Congress that might be helpful as you continue your investigations and we all work to support the HBCU community.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We appreciate your work and remain eager to be supportive in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Senator Tim Scott
Co-Chair
HBCU Caucus



Senator Chris Coons
Co-Chair
HBCU Caucus



Representative J. French Hill
Co-Chair
HBCU Caucus



Representative Alma S.
Adams, Ph.D.
Co-Chair
HBCU Caucus