

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2021

Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I am concerned by the recent siege of the U.S. Capitol Building and the delayed report by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) on domestic terrorism required under the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). A timelier and complete presentation of this report may have aided in preparing for the threat imposed on the U.S. Capitol complex on January 6th, 2021.

The 2020 NDAA required that the FBI, along with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Office of Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) submit a report on domestic terrorism. This report was to include “ideologies relating to domestic terrorism,” mechanisms of response, and details on “the necessity of changing authorities, roles, resources or responsibilities within the Federal Government to more effectively prevent and counter domestic terrorism activities.”¹ The full report was due in June, but has yet to be delivered.

In October, reports indicated that the FBI may be waiting until after the 2020 election to release this legally-required report.² According to former DHS chief of staff Miles Taylor, the White House urged against discussing domestic terrorism due to fears that responding to right-wing extremism would “alienate many of the president’s supporters.”³ The required report from the 2020 NDAA would have provided us with the statistics and the information necessary to discuss and respond to domestic terrorism threats.

While the FBI, DHS, and ODNI have not fulfilled their legal obligation to provide this report on domestic terrorism, the agencies are aware of the overwhelming threat of domestic terrorism. In September, Chad Wolf, acting secretary of DHS said that in terms of domestic concerns, white supremacists are the “most persistent and lethal threat” to the U.S.⁴ In the same month, you made the following statement in your testimony before the House Homeland Security Committee: “Within the domestic terrorism bucket, the category as a whole, racially motivated violent

¹ [FBI Won’t Deliver Report on White-Supremacist Terror Threat Until After Election](#). *Intelligencer*. October 26, 2020.

² [FBI Sits on Report Detailing White-Supremacist Terror Threat](#). *Daily Beast*. October 26, 2020.

³ *Ibid*.

⁴ [White Supremacists Top Terrorist Threats Within U.S., Wolf Says](#). *Bloomberg*. September 23, 2020.

extremism is, I think, the biggest bucket within that larger group. And within the racially motivated violent extremist bucket, people subscribing to some kind of white supremacist-type ideology is certainly the biggest chunk of that.”⁵

The prompt submission of the domestic terrorism report mandated by the 2020 NDAA is even more important given the fact that the requirement for a subsequent report on domestic terrorism was omitted from the 2021 NDAA.⁶ In order to properly respond to threats within our country, we need to have the relevant intelligence and data available, which is why the domestic terrorism report is crucial.

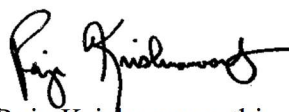
I’m concerned that the timely submission of the domestic terrorism report could have provided improved insight, preparation, and response to the Capitol attack on January 6, 2021. Causing the deaths of five individuals, this event, which was an attempt to overturn the electoral college results, fits the FBI’s definition of domestic terrorism: “Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature.”⁷ Given this unprecedented attack on our democratic institutions and national security, it is more important than ever for this report to be published so that we can fully understand the extent of the domestic terrorism threat in our country.

In light of the above concerns, I request the following information:

- 1) Why has the FBI not complied with its legal obligation under the 2020 NDAA to provide a report on domestic terrorism by June 2020?
- 2) Did the White House express any interest or exert any influence in delaying the timing of this report on domestic terrorism?
- 3) When will the FBI complete the domestic terrorism report required by the 2020 NDAA?

I request a response to these questions by January 18th, 2021.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

⁵ [Wray: Racially motivated violent extremism makes up most of FBI's domestic terrorism cases](#). *The Hill*. September 17, 2020.

⁶ [FBI's Tardiness Left Congress Without Terror Report Before Riot](#). *Bloomberg Government*. January 12, 2021.

⁷ [What happened at the Capitol 'was domestic terrorism,' lawmakers and experts say](#). *Washington Post*. January 7, 2021.