



**The Fairfax County Democratic Committee
Urges the 117th Congress to pass H.R. 350 The Domestic Terrorism Prevention
Act of 2021**

Whereas,

The January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol was an act of domestic terrorism that resulted in the deaths of two law enforcement officers, injury to over 140 others, and the deaths of four civilians. Investigation of the January 6 insurrection has shown that active law enforcement officers and former military personnel may have been involved in the attack. There have also been allegations that some Capitol Police Officers were sympathetic to the attackers.

Almost a year before the January 6 insurrection, the Section 2 Findings cited in the 2020 Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act concluded, “Recent reports have demonstrated that White supremacists and other far-right-wing extremists are the most significant domestic terrorism threat facing the United States.” In October 2020, the Department of Homeland Security concluded that “racially and ethnically motivated violent extremists—specifically white supremacist extremists (WSEs)—will remain the most persistent and lethal threat in the Homeland,” and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) reported that “white supremacists and other like-minded extremists conducted 67 percent of terrorist plots and attacks in the United States in 2020.” The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) reports that it tracked 838 active hate groups in the United States during 2020.

There is a perceived lack of focus on investigating these groups in favor of combating international terrorism, which focuses predominantly on Islamic extremist groups. The Trump administration specifically minimized federal law enforcement actions against violent domestic terrorism threats from far-right hate groups. H.R. 350 The Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2021 would direct the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to assign a special agent or hate crimes liaison to each field office to investigate hate crimes incidents with a nexus to domestic terrorism.

This legislation is needed to enable federal law enforcement agencies to address the threats of domestic terrorism. H.R. 350 requires the collection of accurate data and reports from relevant federal agencies to properly target the specific actors and causes of the domestic terrorism threat and, thereby, protect marginalized communities from misuse.

H.R. 350 establishes new requirements to expand the availability of information on domestic terrorism, as well as the relationship between domestic terrorism and hate crimes by:

- Authorizing components within Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Justice (DOJ), and the FBI to monitor, analyze, investigate, and prosecute domestic terrorism;
- Directing the formation of an interagency task force to combat white supremacist and neo-Nazi infiltration of the U.S. Armed Forces and federal law enforcement agencies;
- Requiring the DHS, DOJ, and FBI review the anti-terrorism training and resource programs that are provided to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, including the State and Local Anti-Terrorism Program that is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the Department of Justice, and ensure that such programs include training and resources to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in understanding, detecting, deterring, and investigating acts of domestic terrorism and white supremacist and neo-Nazi infiltration of law enforcement and corrections agencies; and
- Directing that Congress shall receive a bi-annual report from relevant agencies on domestic terrorism threats—to include analysis of domestic terrorism incidents in the previous 6 months—and provide transparency by including data such as the number of domestic terrorism-related assessments, investigations, incidents, arrests, indictments, prosecutions, convictions, and weapons recoveries.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee:

1. Endorses passage of H.R. 350, the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2021;
2. Supports the Virginia Democratic Congressional delegation's co-sponsorship of H.R. 350; and
3. Supports the requirement of H.R. 350 to collect accurate data and reports from relevant federal agencies to properly target the specific actors and causes of the domestic terrorism threat and, thereby, protect marginalized communities from misuse.

PASSED and APPROVED on this 25th day of May 2021.