

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 9, 2011

Dear Chairman King:

We are writing regarding the Homeland Security Committee's upcoming hearings, which you have stated will focus exclusively on radicalization among Muslim Americans and homegrown terrorism. We agree that Congress and all levels of government have a duty to protect America from terrorism, whether from abroad or homegrown. We are, however, deeply concerned that the stated narrow scope and underlying premises of these hearings unfairly stigmatizes and alienates Muslim Americans. We ask that you reconsider the scope of these hearings and instead examine all forms of violence motivated by extremist beliefs, rather than unfairly focusing on just one religious group.

We believe that the tone and focus of these hearings runs contrary to our nation's values. Muslim Americans contribute to our nation's wellbeing in many professions including as doctors, engineers, lawyers, firefighters, business entrepreneurs, teachers, police officers and Members of Congress. Their hard work helps to make our country exceptional.

Furthermore, casting a negative light on an entire community--- rather than focusing on actual dangerous fringes will only strain community relationships and trust that local, state and federal law enforcement agencies have worked hard to develop. Muslim Americans are an integral part of our larger American society and should be treated as such, not viewed with suspicion.

✦ The choice between our values of inclusiveness and pluralism and our security is a false one.

If you wish to examine violent extremism, we ask that you do so by examining violence motivated by extremist beliefs in all its forms. Singling out one religious group and blaming the actions of individuals on an entire community is not only unfair, it is unwise-- and it will not make our country any safer.

Sincerely,



Pete Stark

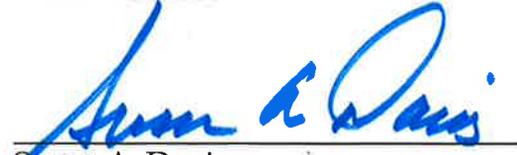


John D. Dingell

  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson

  
Dale E. Kildee

  
Gary C. Peters

  
Susan A. Davis

  
Gwen Moore

  
Bob Filner

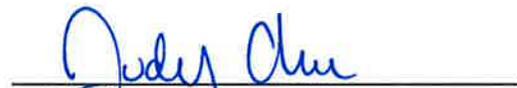
  
George Miller

  
Michael Capuano

  
André Carson

  
Gregory W. Meeks

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton

  
Judy Chu

  
Rush D. Holt

  
Marcia L. Fudge

  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

  
Michael M. Honda

  
Mazie K. Hirono

  
Janice D. Schakowsky

  
Maxine Waters

  
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr

  
Sheila Jackson-Lee

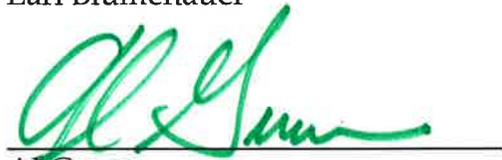
  
Yvette D. Clarke

  
Raúl M. Grijalva

  
Rick Larsen

  
Earl Blumenauer

  
Bobby L. Rush

  
Al Green

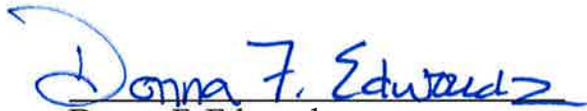
  
Lois Capps

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

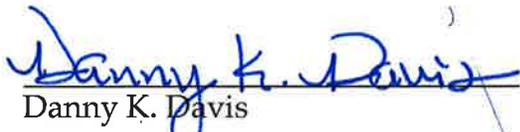
  
David N. Cicilline

  
David E. Price

  
James P. McGovern

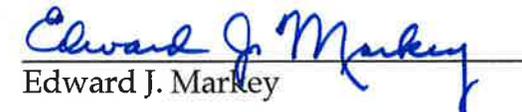
  
Donna F. Edwards

  
Keith Ellison

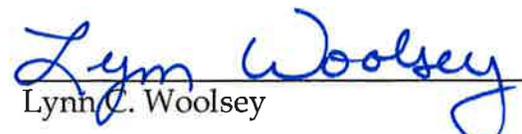
  
Danny K. Davis

  
Doris O. Matsui

  
Grace Napolitano

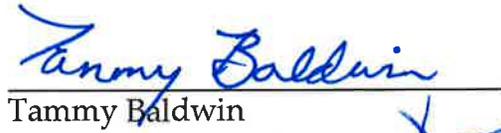
  
Edward J. Markey

  
John Garamendi

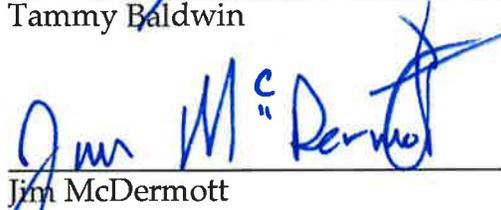
  
Lynn C. Woolsey

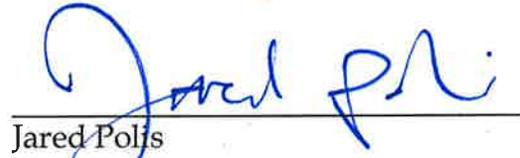
  
Barbara Lee

  
Betty Sutton

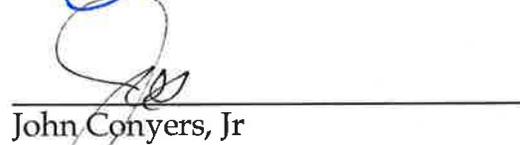
  
Tammy Baldwin

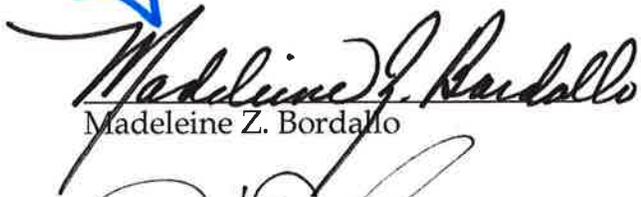
  
Barney Frank

  
Jim McDermott

  
Jared Polis

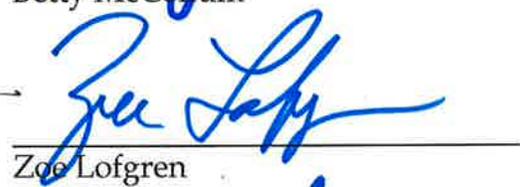
  
James P. Moran

  
John Conyers, Jr

  
Madeleine Z. Bordallo

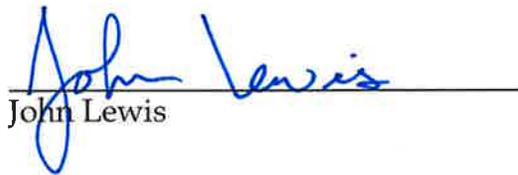
  
Betty McCollum

  
José E. Serrano

  
Zoe Lofgren

  
Dennis J. Kucinich

  
Luis V. Gutierrez

  
John Lewis