

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2022

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Attorney General Garland,

We write regarding the arson of the Wisconsin Family Action office in Madison, Wisconsin this past weekend. Reports indicate a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the office and a message was spray-painted on the exterior of the building, stating: “if abortions aren’t safe then you aren’t either.” We have also heard from pro-life clinics in Wisconsin that have concerns about the security of their facilities and staff. Fortunately, some local police departments have pro-actively reached out to these clinics to ensure they have the tools and knowledge available to respond and protect themselves from acts of violence and intimidation. We condemn acts of violence and intimidation by pro-abortion extremists and demand the Department continue to support state and local law enforcement to prevent similar acts in our country.

In response to the unprecedented and clearly politically motivated leak of the majority opinion in *Dobbs v Jackson*, abortion supporters across the country have engaged in animated and even violent activity. We have seen mobs outside of the homes of Supreme Court Justices attempting to harass, intimidate, and influence the legal proceedings of the Justices. We are particularly concerned that rhetoric from some has escalated this animus further. For example, prior to a hearing for another abortion-related case¹, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told a crowd of abortion rights advocates in March 2020 “I want to tell you Gorsuch. I want to tell you Kavanaugh. You have released the whirlwind and you will pay the price. You won’t know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions.”² Senator Elizabeth Warren labeled U.S. Supreme Court Justices as “extremists”³ and Senator Patty Murray remarked that the Court “is preparing to rip away your rights at this very moment” and that “we need to fight with everything we’ve got right now.”⁴ Even more aggressively, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot

¹ *June Medical Services L.L.C. et. al. v. Russo*, No. 18-1323 (June 29, 2020).

² Moreno, J. Edward, Schumer Warns Kavanaugh and Gorsuch They Will ‘Pay the Price,’ *The Hill*, March 4, 2020, <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/486007-schumer-warns-kavanaugh-and-gorsuch-they-will-pay-the-price/>.

³ Warren, Elizabeth (@SenWarren), Twitter, May 2, 2022, 9:33 p.m., <https://twitter.com/SenWarren/status/1521301933897756677>

⁴ Office of Senator Patty Murray, (May 2, 2022), *Senator Murray Statement on Reporting on SCOTUS Draft Decision Overturning Roe* [Press Release], <https://www.murray.senate.gov/senator-murray-statement-on-reporting-on-scotus-draft-decision-overturning-roe/>.

tweeted "...This moment has to be a call to arms.... We will not surrender our rights without a fight."⁵

Rather than focusing on defusing threats against Americans for their political beliefs, the Department has, in the last 17 months, been silent on or encouraged further partisan targeting. This is demonstrated through the Department's efforts to target concerned parents at school board meetings.⁶ In the memo you issued on authorizing these school board investigations, you sought to address an alleged "disturbing spike in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence" at school board meetings.⁷ At the same time, the Department has taken a hands-off approach to left-wing violence such as BLM rioters and crimes by illegal immigrants. We hope that you put partisanship aside in investigating harassment, intimidation, threats, and clear violence against pro-life groups and the Supreme Court.

As Wisconsin's federal representatives we demand answers to the following inquiries:

1. What steps has the Department of Justice taken to assist the Madison Police Department in its investigation of the burning of the Wisconsin Family Action office in Madison?
2. Is the Department aware of other threats against pro-life organizations?
3. What resources is the Department of Justice allocating or planning to allocate to work with state and local law enforcement regarding incidents of harassment, intimidation, threats, and violence against pro-life groups?
4. What measures is the Department of Justice taking or planning to take to ensure there is no further violence against pro-life groups?
5. Please disclose any communications the Department has had with the White House regarding abortionist demonstrations.

Sincerely,



Scott Fitzgerald (WI-05)
Member of Congress

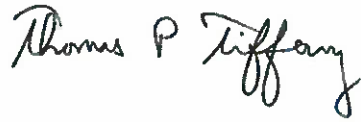


Glenn Grothman (WI-06)
Member of Congress

⁵ Lightfoot, Lori (@LoriLightfoot), Twitter, May 9, 2022, 9:56 p.m., <https://twitter.com/LoriLightfoot/status/1523844510735908864?ctx=HHwWgIC-tcig5KUqAAAA>; <https://twitter.com/LoriLightfoot/status/1523844511658647553?s=20&t=DgDd-aZzFOZaUvJruMXdIg>.

⁶ House Judiciary Committee, (February 10, 2022), GOP: FBI 'refusing to accept accountability' for enforcing DOJ school boards memo [Press Release], <https://republicans-judiciary.house.gov/press-release/gop-fbi-refusing-to-accept-accountability-for-enforcing-doj-school-boards-memo/>

⁷ Attorney General Merrick Garland, Department of Justice, Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff, MEMORANDUM, October 4, 2021, <https://www.justice.gov/ag/page/file/1438986/download>.



Tom Tiffany (WI-07)
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil (WI-01)
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Mike Gallagher (WI-08)
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