

Thank you Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before the House Judiciary Committee on behalf of the 7th District of New Jersey.

I am here today to address the rising threat of white supremacist terrorism.

Over the past several years, we have done an extremely good job protecting the United States against terrorism committed by groups based outside the U.S., like al Qaeda and ISIS. We have not done as well preventing attacks by people radicalized by an increasingly transnational neo-Nazi and white supremacist movement that has its origins within the U.S.

FBI Director Wray has told us that most of the Bureau's terrorism arrests in the U.S. now involve "some form of white supremacy." According to the Anti-Defamation League, virtually every deadly terrorist attack in the United States in the last two years was committed by a member of this movement, which is united by a common belief that immigration is leading to the so-called "replacement" of the white race, and a determination to create conflict by attacking Jews, Muslims, Hispanics and members of other religious or ethnic minority groups. That's plain from the deadly attacks in El Paso, Charleston and Pittsburgh – in each case, the attackers cited the same fear of invasion by immigrants.

It's plain that these people are feeling emboldened today. We see this in the crackpot conspiracy theories spreading virally on social media, the "Unite the Right" marchers in Charlottesville and swastikas suddenly appearing in schools.

Summit, NJ, a city inside my district, has had six such incidents in the past year.

This is not just about actual loss of life. It's about fear. In my district, virtually every synagogue and Jewish Community Center either has armed security or is wrestling with whether to have it. State police come to mosques for Friday prayers.

There are actions we must take in response that fall outside the purview of the Judiciary Committee. I will be leading an effort to restore funding for programs at the Department of Homeland Security that combat violent extremism in the U.S. Many of us are pressing social media companies to do more to combat online radicalization, and the State Department to designate foreign white supremacist groups as terrorist organizations.

But Mr. Chairman, as busy as you are these days, I think it is imperative that this Committee do its part.

There is currently legislation pending in the House and Senate that would strengthen our government's ability to defeat domestic terrorism.

This includes the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act, of which I am an original cosponsor, which would beef up the Justice Department units responsible for addressing this threat, and improve data collection. There is the DATA Act and the NO HATE Act.

We should also consider passing a domestic counterterrorism statute. While it's true that acts of mass murder committed by white supremacists, like hate crimes, can be prosecuted as ordinary crimes, I think there is a strong argument for enabling the Justice Department to prosecute these people for what they are: terrorists, and for thus signaling that this effort must be a greater priority in terms of protection of our country.

It's also important for the committee to continue to hold hearings and conduct its basic oversight work to ensure that the FBI and DOJ pay sufficient attention to this threat, and that they know we have their back when they do, and provide the resources and authorities they need.

Mr. Chairman, it is far past time that our country starts taking the threat posed by white supremacist terrorists as seriously and as urgently as we rightly take the threat posed by terrorist groups based outside the United States. There is not a moment to be lost.

Thank you.