



**Homeland
Security**

JUL 15 2015

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thompson:

Thank you for your July 1 and July 9, 2015 letters.

I consider countering violent extremism (CVE) to be one of the Department's highest priorities. The CVE mission is very important to the Department. Multiple Components and offices within the Department have a role in CVE. These contributions include: research by the Science and Technology Directorate; engagement by the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Office of Infrastructure Protection within the National Protection and Programs Directorate; threat analysis by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis; training for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; grants support by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and several other support and relevant functions of the Department.

To better coordinate these efforts, I established a full time CVE Coordinator in July 2014, and have since expanded the Office for CVE Coordination. This office, which will ultimately be housed within the Office of Partnerships and Engagement, serves as my principal advisor on CVE issues; develops CVE policy and programs; coordinates with the interagency, non-profits, and international partners; and ensures that all other aspects of CVE in the Department are efficiently managed.

Additionally, the Department recently submitted a reprogramming request to our appropriators to provide funding in support of existing CVE efforts, which will be administered by the Office for CVE Coordination. The creation of this office reduces the risk of duplication and inefficiency, enabling us to effectively coordinate efforts with the interagency and international partners. The CVE office also presents a good place to incubate new ideas for both the Department and non-government CVE efforts, and apply more of our CVE tools to domestic terrorism.

In the past 8 months, I have personally engaged with communities in 10 major municipalities across the country on CVE issues. During these engagements,

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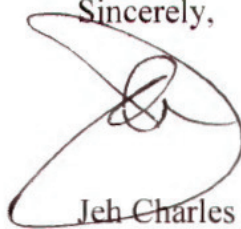
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I have carried President Obama's message that the United States must present a more attractive vision than those who would recruit citizens and commit acts of terrorism in the name of an ideology. I believe that the Department can and will do more to counter the message of violent extremism regardless of ideology. Our partners in this endeavor include non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, social services, mental health professionals, parents, teachers, and local law enforcement.

We need to conduct this mission in accordance with all U.S. laws and in a way that respects our Nation's freedoms and ideals. Our Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties conducts oversight of these activities, and the CVE Coordinator has over a decade of experience working in federal civil rights offices.

I appreciate the Committee's interest in CVE and thank you again for your letter. We rely on Congress' support and guidance as we continue our efforts to counter violent extremism. Because of your shared interest, an identical letter has been sent to Chairman McCaul. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeh Charles Johnson". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop that starts at the top left, goes around the word "Sincerely," and then loops back down to the name below.

Jeh Charles Johnson