

December 5, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda D. Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Young:

On September 15, 2022, President Biden hosted the United We Stand Summit to counter the corrosive effects of hate-fueled violence on our democracy and public safety. At the summit, President Biden rallied a whole-of-society response to prevent, respond to, and recover from hate-fueled violence, and to foster national unity. We strongly support the Administration's new steps to accomplish these goals.

We are united in our belief that one of the best ways to achieve the Administration's agenda is to request appropriate levels of funding from the Congress in your fiscal year 2024 budget request. To that end, and to fulfill the full promise of the United We Stand Summit, we ask that you request funds for the following departments, programs, and activities in your budget submission:

- The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education for the implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, designed to support student wellbeing and resilience and to help states, school districts, schools, and other youth-serving providers effectively access, navigate, and leverage evidence-based federal resources that support education and public health approaches to prevention, recovery, and resilience. Every effort must be made to ensure that these programs maintain the highest standards of ethics and morals, evaluation of effectiveness of resources, as well as safety and privacy of community members and research respondents. Such commitments are vital because biased, prejudicial practices have permeated the government's previous Countering Violent Extremism, Prevent Violent Extremism, and Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention efforts, provoking fear and harms within communities while eroding trust and exposing them to danger.
- The Department of Education's efforts to provide grants for and gather leaders from institutions of higher education, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) subjected to recent threats, in communities that have experienced hate-fueled violence to create effective practices in prevention and response.
- An online resource finder for federal resources designed to implement Pillar Four of the 2021 National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism, focusing on tackling racism, providing information on hate crime prevention grants, protecting Americans from gun violence, and providing early intervention and appropriate care for those who pose a danger to themselves or others. In addition, the resource finder should provide information on civics education programs and initiatives that foster civic engagement and inspire a shared commitment to American democracy.
- The Department of Justice to expand its United Against Hate initiative, convening local forums to connect community groups to law enforcement to increase community understanding and reporting of hate crimes; build trust between law enforcement and communities; and create and strengthen alliances between law enforcement and other government partners and groups to combat hate.

- The National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities to support a new initiative to connect communities through cultural engagement.
- AmeriCorps' efforts to develop new training opportunities for members in skills like promoting civic engagement and fostering social cohesion. And to develop new mechanisms to evaluate the impact and cost-effectiveness of national service and volunteerism interventions. The AmeriCorps education award should be raised, following increases in Pell grants, and living allowances should be raised to be equivalent to \$15 per hour.
- Federal support for civics education, through a competitive grant program that will help states and school districts to design and develop new programs or expand programs grounded in evidence-based strategies.
- The Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which helps protect houses of worship and nonprofit institutions like HBCUs serving at-risk communities against terrorist attacks and targeted violence, including security enhancements that can help deter attacks against people and property.
- The National Telecommunications and Information Administration to assist states, Tribal entities, and U.S. territories in developing programs to improve digital literacy and online skills to improve community resilience against online attempts to foment hate-motivated violence.
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services to launch an interagency taskforce to develop resources and best practices on advancing information literacy across communities.

We stand ready to work with you as you prepare the President's fiscal year 2024 budget request to Congress for programs and activities to support these urgently needed efforts, as highlighted at the President's United We Stand Summit.

Thank you for your consideration and your leadership.

Sincerely,

SPLC Action

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
Hindu American Foundation
Human Rights Campaign
Japanese American Citizens League
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
NAACP
National Council of Jewish Women
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
Sikh Coalition
Union for Reform Judaism
United Sikhs
Western States Center