

November XX, 2024

The Honorable [INSERT MEMBER NAME]
[TITLE]
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear [INSERT TITLE & NAME]:

As a [judge/District Attorney/state court administrator/other position] in [INSERT STATE], I write in strong support for the Countering Threats and Attacks on Our Judges Act (S. 3984 / H.R. 8093), led by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Chris Coons (D-DE) and Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) and Michael McCaul (R-TX).

This bill would help protect members of the judicial system like myself by providing technical assistance on judicial security, conducting trainings, tracking and sharing judicial threat information, assessing courthouse security and design, and coordinating research on best practices around judicial security.

From 2015 to 2021, the U.S. Marshals Service reported a 400% increase in threats and acts of violence to judges, prosecutors, and other court officials under their protection. Last year, Washington County Circuit Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson was shot and killed outside his Maryland home by a litigant whose case Judge Wilkinson had presided over earlier that day, and in 2022, recently retired Juneau County Circuit Court Judge John Roemer was shot and killed in his Wisconsin home by a defendant he had sentenced to prison for burglary. In the last several years, there have also been near-fatal attacks on state judges and prosecutors in Texas and Ohio, along with more recent attacks on or threats against state judges in Nevada, Colorado, Mississippi, Rhode Island, New York, California, Kentucky, Michigan, Wyoming, Idaho, and Indiana.

Our judiciary members here at home in [INSERT STATE NAME] have also been gravely concerned over judicial threats and attacks. [SHARE ANY LOCAL/PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AROUND JUDICIAL THREATS/ATTACKS.]

For these reasons, I was thrilled that the Senate unanimously passed the Senate bill in June. By creating a centralized entity that we can go to for assistance on judicial security, this bill is an essential step in protecting state and local judges, prosecutors, other court officials, and our families—as well as safeguarding our judicial systems and the rule of law. [ADD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS BILL TO YOU.]

I am hopeful that the House will follow suit in swiftly advancing and passing this bill, and I respectfully ask for your support in placing the Senate bill on the House suspension calendar in order to pass this critical legislation before the end of the current congressional session.

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to advancing justice and safety in our communities, and please do not hesitate to reach out to me if any additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

[NAME]
[TITLE]
[JURISDICTION/AFFILIATION]