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Via Email

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
The Honorable Dick Durbin, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

As Attorneys General in our respective states, we demand that you use your Constitutional authority to require that Kash Patel, President Trump's nominee to be the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), return for further questioning before the Judiciary Committee. Shortly after his confirmation hearing, we learned that more than a dozen high-ranking FBI officials were fired and that the FBI is developing a list of all agents and staff who worked investigations and prosecutions related to the January 6th Capitol insurrection. Mr. Patel must answer questions about this unprecedented attack on the FBI before Senators vote on his confirmation.

There are also recent reports that the Administration plans to fire at least six high-ranking career FBI officials if they do not retire. Those reports were soon followed by news that acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove directed FBI staff to compile a list of all staff who were "assigned at any time to investigations and/or prosecutions" relating to the January 6th insurrection. If true, this is a purge of FBI employees. As many as 6,000 FBI agents and staff worked on the January 6th prosecutions across the United States, investigating and prosecuting the more than 1,600 individuals who participated in the Capitol insurrection on January 6, 2021. In their attempt to stop the peaceful transfer of presidential power, members of this mob destroyed property and assaulted 140 Capitol Police officers, leading to the death of one of them.

These reports follow the nomination of Kash Patel, who has stated that he will shut down the FBI's headquarters "on Day 1 and reopen it the next day as a museum of the deep state." Mr. Patel was not asked about the looming FBI purge, because it was not publicly known at the time of his confirmation hearing. Before a confirmation vote is taken, the United States Senate should know what Mr. Patel plans to do with the list of FBI agents and staff that is currently being compiled. These agents and staff should not be punished just to indulge the President's personal grudge.

Purging over 6,000 FBI agents and staff will have disastrous effects on public safety across the country and will make our communities more dangerous. Indeed, FBI employees and

staff protect America from the public safety harms that President Trump listed in his executive orders—fentanyl, the Mexican cartels, foreign terrorist organizations, and harms to Americans' pocketbooks.

As members of the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Forces, FBI employees assist federal and local law enforcement agencies in stopping the Mexican cartels from smuggling fentanyl into our communities, laundering money, and smuggling guns. These task forces led to recent convictions of a fentanyl and cocaine trafficker in Massachusetts, a gun trafficker in Arizona, and five New York members of the La Cosa Nostra mob. Members of the FBI's Baltimore Field Office assigned to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force were instrumental in a recent multistate drug takedown that resulted in massive drug and illegal firearm seizures. Agents from the Philadelphia Field Office's HIDTA Task Force were also critical to the successful indictment and prosecution of more than 150 charges against a violent gang linked to multiple murders and shootings in the Wilmington area.

The FBI runs the Joint Terrorism Task Force across the country, protecting Americans from terrorism and other security threats directed against our communities. Last month alone, FBI investigations led to the conviction of a New Jersey man attempting to provide support to foreign terrorist organization al Shabaab, and two Tucson men who conspired to support ISIS in Egypt. In Michigan, law enforcement's partnership with the FBI has led to convictions involving domestic terrorism including threats to elected officials at both state and local levels.

The FBI's White-Collar Task Forces investigate and prosecute both national and international criminals who steal more than \$10 billion each year. In Hawai'i, the FBI additionally works with state and county law enforcement to investigate and prosecute internet crimes against children, including the distribution and possession of child pornography.

The President's efforts to undermine the FBI follow unprecedented attacks on our country's public safety. In just two weeks, the President has fired United States Attorneys, pardoned insurrectionists who killed and injured Capitol Police officers, and attempted to defund law enforcement across the country. Each of these acts are individually concerning, yet Congress has been largely silent.

The Administration has fired over a dozen prosecutors just because they were assigned to prosecute cases involving the January 6th Capitol insurrection. As a federal judge recently wrote, these prosecutions caused "no grave national injustice." Such unprecedented mass firings of prosecutors is concerning and dangerous for public safety and will undoubtedly result in numerous criminals going unpunished.

The Administration's pardoning of over 1500 Capitol insurrectionists, and its attempts to dismiss pending cases against January 6th insurrectionists, emphasize the need for an objective, nonpartisan FBI Director. At least one judge has already found that the pardons and dismissals will harm public safety and are unjustified. In fact, the President's reckless pardons included Capitol insurrectionists who purposefully injured police officers and have serious criminal records. One insurrectionist prided himself in harming police, writing "there is definitely something satisfying about pepper spraying cops in riot gear and watching them run from you like a bitch."

Another pardoned insurrectionist had a criminal history for beating his 3-year-old son so badly he could not sit for a week. Another insurrectionist had been convicted for sexually assaulting a 7-year-old child. These are just a few examples of the dangerous January 6th insurrectionists who were pardoned.

Relatedly, we must ask you to take action to oppose the Administration's attacks on public safety and law enforcement. As you know, last week we obtained an injunction to stop the Administration's unconstitutional and illegal attempts to halt federal payments to our States. Freezing federal funds would cause extensive harm across our communities, including to public safety. For example, the HIDTA initiatives must be funded to lead the effort to combat the Mexican cartels' efforts to flood our communities with deadly fentanyl. Defunding the DEA's HIDTA initiatives just helps cartels smuggle drugs into and across this country. Yet, despite controlling the federal budget, Congress has sat silent.

Now is the time for Congress to act. In just two weeks, President Trump has made our country less safe with his attacks on law enforcement and public safety. We expect you to protect Americans and hold the Administration accountable. You can start by making Mr. Patel answer questions about the pending FBI purge before voting on his nomination.

Sincerely,



Kris Mayes
Arizona Attorney General



Rob Bonta
California Attorney General



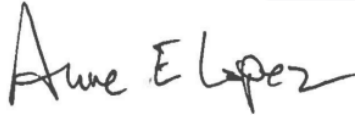
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