

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

June 27, 2022

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We write to you today regarding extreme risk of targeted attacks, intimidation, and threats following release of the opinion in the Supreme Court case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*. Since the leak of the draft opinion earlier this year, pro-life pregnancy centers, religious institutions, and Supreme Court Justices have become targets for violence. Now that the official opinion has been released, it is critical that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) prevent future attacks and hold those committing threatening and violent acts responsible for their actions, and prosecute them to the full extent of the law.

On June 7, radical pro-abortion activists targeted Mountain Area Pregnancy Services (MAPS) in Asheville, North Carolina. These violent criminals shattered windows at the organization, vandalized the building with red paint, and threatened agency staff with the following message in red spray paint: “[i]f abortions aren’t safe, neither are you!”<sup>1</sup> On June 15, a radical organization called “Jane’s Revenge” claimed responsibility for this violent attack and 15 others nationwide, and promised to take “increasingly drastic measures” before declaring “open season” on pro-life pregnancy centers.

This admission of guilt and threat of further violence is chilling. According to a June 16 report, there have been more 40 nationwide incidents of political violence against pro-life individuals and organizations including pro-life pregnancy centers and religious institutions since the *Dobbs* leak.<sup>2</sup> Further, pro-abortion activists have targeted the homes of Supreme Court Justices for aggressive protests. The heated rhetoric from activists and their advocates in the liberal, mainstream media have fostered an environment of violence that resulted in the foiled plot to assassinate Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

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<sup>1</sup> Ryan Oehrli, *Asheville police: Mountain Area Pregnancy Services vandalized, threatened*, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN TIMES (last updated June 8, 2022, 10:51 AM) <https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/2022/06/07/asheville-police-mountain-area-pregnancy-services-vandalized-threatened/7544848001/>.

<sup>2</sup> Press Release, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, *Biden Must Unequivocally Condemn Attacks on Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers & Peaceful Advocates* (June 16, 2022) <https://sbapro-life.org/newsroom/press-releases/biden-must-unequivocally-condemn-attacks-on-pro-life-pregnancy-centers-peaceful-advocates>.

We are deeply disturbed about past and future violence committed by radical, pro-abortion activists. Jane's Revenge has already signaled that increased violence is warranted in service of its pro-abortion agenda.<sup>3</sup> For example, the group recently posted the name of Justice Amy Coney Barrett's church, identified the school that her children attend, and encouraged followers to "voice your anger" by demonstrating there.<sup>4</sup> This kind of provocation invites potential violence against not only government officials, but their families as well.

It is essential that DOJ and the Federal Bureau of Investigation commit themselves to investigating these acts of violence and threats of violence. Your Department must clearly communicate that these actions are not only wrong, but that you will take every action to prosecute those who use violence to push their radical agenda. Failure to act, despite clear threats of violence by organizations such as Jane's Revenge, will only lead to more threats and more violence against pro-life pregnancy centers and religious institutions.

We ask that DOJ forcefully condemn the ongoing violence against pro-life and religious groups and prosecute the criminals engaging in these attacks to the fullest extent of the law. With the release of the *Dobbs* opinion, it is incumbent on you to take action to show these criminals they will be held responsible for their violent acts, lest there be another wave of violence. The American people need to know and understand your commitments to protecting them from political violence carried out by pro-abortion extremists. We ask that you respond to the following questions no later than July 11, 2022:

1. What efforts is DOJ taking to curb the rise in targeted violence against religious organizations, pro-life pregnancy centers, and individuals who are pro-life?
2. In how many instances has DOJ opened investigations into these acts of violence and vandalism across the country?
3. What steps is DOJ taking to investigate groups, including Jane's Revenge, who are actively inciting violence against religious and pro-life organizations?
4. What steps is DOJ taking to inform and to protect organizations at risk of targeted violence from radical pro-abortion activists? What actions has DOJ taken to prevent acts of violence against religious and pro-life organizations?
5. Will DOJ clearly communicate to the American people that political violence against religious and pro-life organizations will be vigorously prosecuted?
6. To date, how has DOJ contributed to the investigations of the over 40 recorded incidents of political violence since the *Dobbs* opinion leak?

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<sup>3</sup> Danielle Wallace, *Letter signed by radical abortion group Jane's Revenge declares 'open season' on pro-life pregnancy centers*, FOX NEWS (June 16, 2022, 12:04 PM) <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/letter-abortion-group-janes-revenge-open-season-pro-life-pregnancy-centers>.

<sup>4</sup> Arjun Singh, *Pro-Abortion Group 'Ruth Sent Us' Suggests Targeting Amy Coney Barrett's Children*, NATIONAL REVIEW (June 10, 2022, 1:44 PM) <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/pro-choice-group-ruth-sent-us-suggests-targeting-amy-coney-barretts-children/>.

Our First Amendment rights to freedom of religion and freedom of speech are foundational rights under our Constitution. Using violence to target and intimidate those with views one disagrees with is unacceptable and un-American. It is critical that you take all necessary precautions to prevent violence and prosecute those who would use violence to achieve their radical political agenda. We look forward to your swift response on this urgent issue.

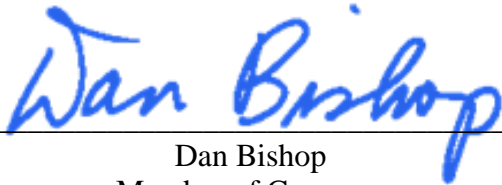
Sincerely,



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



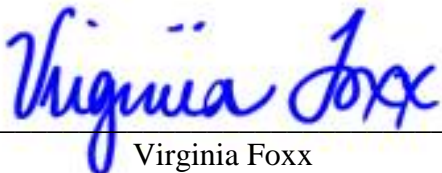
Richard Burr  
United States Senator



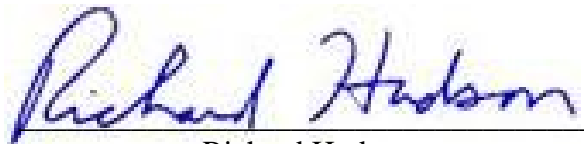
Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



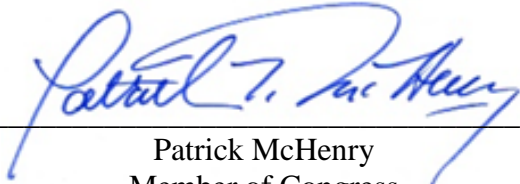
Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



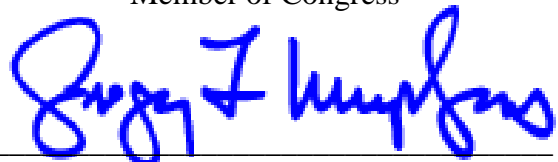
Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry  
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



David Rouzer  
Member of Congress