

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2022

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

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
953 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland and Director Wray:

We write to ask that you update Congress on the status of investigations into the recent threats against Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). We also ask what outreach the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation are conducting to HBCUs targeted by threats to keep them apprised of the status of the investigation and measures to hold perpetrators accountable. Finally, we ask what additional protections are being considered to protect the students, faculty, and staff at HBCUs from the threats that have been made against them and any future threats.

Since January of this year, HBCUs across the country have received over 55 threats. In Georgia, this includes Spelman College, Fort Valley State University, and Albany State University.

Historically, African American institutions have been the victims of domestic threats, attacks, and terrorism. We must do more to protect these historically Black institutions from the threat of future attacks.

On March 1, the FBI held an unclassified briefing for Members of Congress and their staff to provide an update on its investigation into the nationwide threats targeting HBCUs and faith-based houses of worship. In early February, the FBI reportedly identified six juvenile suspects in conjunction with the threats.

Given these threats and their toll on the mental and physical health of students, we hope to better understand the whole of government response providing resources to these institutions to help protect, prevent, and prepare against future threats. We also want to ensure that the affected institutions are made aware of the status of the investigation and made aware of the resources available to prepare for future threats.

As members of the Judiciary Committee in both the House and the Senate, we respectfully request that you update Congress on the current actions being taken to hold those responsible accountable. Second, we request that you also provide information on what outreach the DOJ and FBI are making to affected HBCUs, so that their leaders are aware of the status of these investigations. Third, we ask that you share all protections being considered to prevent future threats and protect these institutions from attacks.

Thank you for your ongoing support in the critical matter. Students, employees, and worshippers deserve to feel safe, and we appreciate your efforts to ensure all Americans feel safe in their schools, at their workplaces, and in their houses of worship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucy McBath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Ossoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator