Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

"A Jewish Voice for Veterans; a Veteran's Voice for Jews since 1896."

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May 27, 2026

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman, Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Andrew Garbarino
Chairman, Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member, Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member, Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Paul and Garbarino, and Ranking Members Peters and Thompson:

On behalf of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV), I write to urge the Senate and House Homeland Security Committees to hold a hearing and swiftly advance and pass the Pray Safe Act (S.2947, H.R.5645). As our nation's longest continuously active veterans service organization, JWV is deeply committed to protecting the fundamental freedoms that our members have fought to defend, including the right of every American to worship freely and without fear.

Today, faith-based institutions across the United States face an increasingly dangerous threat environment. Houses of worship: synagogues, churches, mosques, and other religious centers have been subjected to acts of violence, arson, and targeted hate. These institutions serve as pillars of their communities, providing not only spiritual guidance but also education, childcare, and critical social services. Yet, too often, they are forced to divert scarce resources toward security in response to credible threats.

The bipartisan Pray Safe Act offers a practical and urgently needed solution. By directing the Department of Homeland Security to establish a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices, this legislation will provide nonprofit and faith-based organizations with a centralized, accessible hub for security guidance, training resources, and information about federal grant opportunities, including the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. This commonsense approach will help ensure that institutions of all sizes, regardless of location or capacity, can better protect their communities.

JWV stands alongside a broad coalition of organizations, including the American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Hillel International, and the Jewish Federations of North America, in supporting this critical legislation. Together, we recognize that safeguarding houses of worship is not a partisan issue, but a moral and national imperative.

No American should ever be forced to weigh the risk of violence against the act of prayer. Protecting religious freedom begins with ensuring the safety and security of those who gather to practice their faith.

We respectfully urge you to advance the Pray Safe Act (S.2947, H.R.5645) in the Senate and House for prompt consideration and passage. JWV stands ready to work with you to advance this important measure and strengthen protection for faith communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

Scott P. Stevens, CWO4, USA (R)
National Commander 2025-2026

cc: Majority Leader John Thune and Democratic Leader Charles Schumer
Speaker Mike Johnson and Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries