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CHRISTOPHER M. GEBHARD

48TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



Senate of Pennsylvania

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Dec. 1, 2025

Honorable Dave Sunday, Attorney General
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
16th Floor, Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Attorney General Sunday:

I am writing to request the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General investigate patterns of organized and targeted political violence towards Pennsylvanians. This includes financial connections for groups operating in the commonwealth seeking or actively committing violent actions that intimidate or harm individuals based on their ethnic identity, political beliefs or their profession in federal law enforcement.

Over the past few years, our commonwealth and the broader country have been rocked by consistent politically motivated acts of violence. The murder of a National Guardsman and wounding of another in Washington, D.C. is the latest tragic example. These acts violate the rule of law and democratic principles upon which the commonwealth and our nation were founded.

Following the horrific crimes committed by Hamas on October 7, 2023, we have seen an unprecedented increase in violations against the civil rights of Jewish residents and students in the commonwealth. In fact, the Anti-Defamation League reported the number of antisemitic incidents increased by more than 300% in 2024 compared to 2022.

At the University of Pennsylvania, in addition to the travesty of former President Magill refusing to call antisemitic threats of violence harassment, we have specifically seen the following:

- A swastika painted in an academic building.
- Hateful, antisemitic graffiti on a vacant building near a Jewish fraternity.
- An individual shouting antisemitic obscenities and destroying property at Penn Hillel.
- University disciplinary records documented 14 unique incidents on campus between Sept. 2023 and May 2024.

In addition to our Jewish neighbors being terrorized, we have seen a growing trend across the nation and here in the commonwealth of targeted acts of political violence against leading conservatives and conservative-leaning organizations.

The first example of this disturbing trend took place following the leak of the Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs*. Two pro-life organizations located in Philadelphia were attacked: the Hope Center, which suffered \$15,000 in damages, and CompassCare, which was firebombed.

While the nation was rightfully horrified about the political assassination of Charlie Kirk, the conservative leader of Turning Point USA, it was only providence that prevented President Trump from suffering a similar tragedy on Pennsylvania soil.

The most common form of political violence we have witnessed over the past 18 months are the unprecedented incidents involving attacks on federal law enforcement officers, including attacks on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has documented alarming increases in violence against ICE personnel. Specific documented incidents include:

- An 830% increase in assaults on ICE officials from Jan. 21 to July 14, 2025, compared to the same period in 2024.
- More than 1,000 rioters surrounding a federal law enforcement building in Los Angeles, assaulting ICE officers, slashing tires and defacing federal property.
- A July 4 attack on a Texas ICE detention facility resulting in 10 suspects being charged with terrorism and aggravated assault on public servants with deadly weapons.
- An ICE officer being dragged 50 yards by a car while arresting a suspect.
- Organized doxxing efforts in Portland targeting ICE officers and their families, putting them at risk from criminal organizations.
- An attack at an ICE facility in Dallas which took the life of one detainee and injured two others. While no law enforcement personnel were injured, it was a direct attack on ICE officers.

Considering this clear, ideological trend of politically motivated acts of violence, I am requesting that your office conduct an investigation into the following:

1. **Investigate funding sources** for groups operating in the commonwealth who are involved in or have incited politically motivated acts of violence, including:
 - Activities that deprive Jewish residents and students of their civil rights.
 - Attacks on ICE personnel or facilities, along with any attempts to obstruct legal enforcement activities by ICE.
 - Attacks on conservative leaders or political figures in the commonwealth or conservative-leaning organizations.
2. **Examine financial networks** that provide monetary support utilized to foment acts of political violence, including, but not limited to, coordinated efforts to obstruct federal law enforcement operations or commit political acts of violence as outlined in paragraph 1 in other states.
3. **Review existing intelligence** regarding organized efforts to target federal immigration enforcement officers, conservative leaders and conservative-leaning organizations or Jewish community members.

4. **Consider enhanced protective measures** for both ICE personnel and community members who face elevated threats from this trend of politically motivated violence.
5. **Cooperate with any similar federal investigation.**

I understand the U.S. Department of Justice takes threats against federal officers and civil rights violations seriously, and I trust that appropriate resources will be dedicated to investigating these concerning patterns. The safety of our law enforcement personnel, the protection of civil rights and the integrity of our democratic institutions depend on swift and thorough action.

In addition to asking for your support in investigating the funding and organization of these violent groups, I have introduced Senate Bill 1021 to enhance penalties for criminal offenses committed against federal immigration enforcement officers and agents operating within Pennsylvania. I hope to have your support as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to learning about the steps taken to address these serious concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Gebhard", written in a cursive style.

Christopher M. Gebhard
48th Senatorial District