

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
4TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:

MONMOUTH
112 Village Center Drive
Freehold, NJ 07728-2510
(732) 780-3035

MERCER
4573 South Broad Street
Hamilton, NJ 08620-2215
(609) 585-7878

OCEAN
405 Route 539
Plumsted, NJ 08514-2303
(609) 585-7878
By Appointment



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 30, 2021

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER, AFRICA, GLOBAL
HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE

WESTERN HEMISPHERE SUBCOMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL-
EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA

www.chrissmith.house.gov

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Homeland Security Appropriations bill, I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding for security enhancements at Beth Medrash Govoha, a world-renowned Yeshiva in my district in Lakewood, New Jersey.

As Co-Chair of the House Task Force on Combating Anti-Semitism and as the author of the recent law to elevate the State Department position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism to the rank of Ambassador, I have worked hard to combat the global rise of Anti-Semitism. We must do everything possible to protect against such hate and secure Jewish institutions of education here at home and abroad.

The largest Talmudic institution of higher education in the United States and the second largest in the world, Beth Medrash Govoha (BMG) has been the target of disgusting anti-Semitic threats and hate speech. In recent years, threats and hate crimes have been directed toward BMG, its student population—which is approximately 7,000—and the local Jewish community. These attacks include but are not limited to tire slashings, defacement of property, and calls to commit violence against Jewish people. BMG has also been the target of repeated online anti-Semitic hatred, underscoring the added need for security measures and federal support.

The total amount of funding requested for this Community Project from the Non-Profit Security Grant account within the Homeland Security Appropriations bill is \$500,000. This project will cover the purchase and installation of remote-controlled electronic locking security doors for the exterior doors on eight of BMG's buildings.

With a large student population and even more faculty and staff members, the ability to remotely secure the campus in the event of an active shooter or anti-Semitic terrorist attack could save lives. Unfortunately, we've witnessed violence targeting Jewish Americans in our region in Monsey, New York where a Rabbi died after an attacker with a machete broke into his home during a Hanukkah celebration, and in Jersey City where a gunman walked into a kosher market and killed four Jewish citizens. In May 2020, the Anti-Defamation League of New York and

New Jersey announced that in 2019 anti-Semitic incidents rose 73 percent in New Jersey and 157 percent in Ocean County—this includes vandalism, harassment, and assault.

This critical security project request is widely supported by local elected officials including the Ocean County Board of Commissioners and the Mayor of Lakewood Township, as well as the Lakewood Police Department and the Lakewood Township Office of Emergency Management.

Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of my request for Community Project Funding for Beth Medrash Govoha. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me or my staff should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress