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September 28, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Jeffries,
and Minority Leader Schumer:

RE: United States Supreme Court Fiscal Year 2027 budget
request for security

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, write in strong support of fully funding the United States Supreme Court's security needs in its Fiscal Year 2027 budget request. As the chief legal officers of our respective states, we have witnessed an alarming spike in threats of violence against judges at every level of government. Threats against federal judges have continued to multiply and increase in severity. Threats against the Supreme Court of the United States have reached a level not seen in many decades, and the threats have escalated not just in volume but in risk and credibility.

Our constitutional order depends on the checks and balances provided by Article III officials. The Court can only play its assigned role in that order if the individual Justices are free to exercise judicial independence without fear or favor. Providing members of the Court with adequate protection secures not just the well-being of the Justices, but the well-being of the Republic. On July 14, Justices Elena Kagan and Amy Coney Barrett testified before a House Appropriations subcommittee about these mounting threats to jurists and their families. They shared chilling

personal examples, including the recent swatting of Justice Barrett's home. Just four years ago this summer, a gunman armed with a Glock, a knife, and zip ties attempted to assassinate Justice Brett Kavanaugh at his home. And in 2020, an assassin murdered Daniel Anderl, the son of New Jersey Federal District Judge Esther Salas, at his home while attempting to kill his mother. That assassin had also developed a dossier on Justice Sonia Sotomayor.¹

These incidents are not isolated anecdotes. They reflect a sustained and troubling pattern. According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, "security incidents of significant concern" for judges surged by 57 percent in FY 2025 and were expected to increase again in FY 2026.² This is unprecedented in modern American history.³

At its foundation, our Constitution exists to allow us to resolve disputes through nonviolent mechanisms. This political infrastructure has given Americans the opportunity to reach unparalleled heights of liberty, prosperity, and security. Its framework lets us work through even the most sensitive disagreements about the most deeply held convictions. Normalizing violence and threats of violence robs future generations of that extraordinary inheritance. And because the bench is "the least dangerous branch" and therefore the least capable of defending itself, threats against jurists are particularly insidious and corrosive.⁴ The rule of law necessarily depends on judges maintaining decisional independence, including freedom from threats, intimidation, and other forms of coercion.

Those who threaten our Justices strike at an institution the whole country depends on, whatever their view of its decisions. The loss of a member of the Court to political violence would be more than a national tragedy. It would harden every disagreement that followed and risk descent into a cycle of retaliation no institution could easily arrest. We must defend the institutional stability and security of our High Court to protect our cherished way of life.

The undersigned enjoy spirited disagreements about politics and the principles of law that propel our judiciary. Those disagreements even extend to the decisions and reasoning of our Supreme Court. But we are indissolubly united in urging you to fully

¹ Federal judge whose son was killed in attack says gunman targeted Sonia Sotomayor, CBS News (Feb. 19, 2021), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/esther-salas-sonia-sotomayor-60-minutes-2021-02-19/>.

² Admin. Office of the U.S. Courts, *The Judiciary: Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Budget Summary* iv (2026), <https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/document/fy-2027-congressional-budget-summary.pdf>.

³ Supplemental data may be found in a December 9, 2025, National Association of Attorneys General letter to Congressional leadership encouraging the funding of the Judiciary's Court Security program.

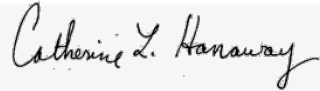
⁴ Federalist No. 78 (Alexander Hamilton), <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Hamilton/01-04-02-0241> (last visited Aug. 13, 2026). The Constitution invests the legislative branch with the power of the purse and the executive branch with the sword.

fund the Court's requested security enhancements. We recognize the difficult choices you confront in stewarding taxpayer money, but this comparatively modest budget request is an investment in the security and stability of our entire system of government. Accordingly, we respectfully encourage Congress to provide all funding necessary to ensure the safety of the Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



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Missouri Attorney General



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Tennessee Attorney General



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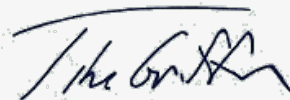
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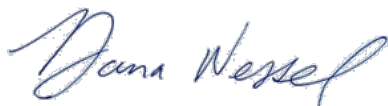
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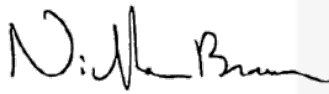
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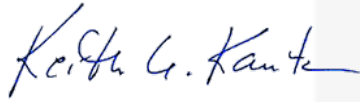
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