



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Homeland Security Advisory Council

March 15, 2016

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Secretary Jeh Johnson
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

This is an official letter from the Homeland Security Advisory Council (Council) to express our support for your recent statements on the vital importance of outreach to Muslim communities across the country. The Council is grateful for the opportunity to amplify your message of fairness and tolerance for all Americans.

On January 13, 2016, you spoke at the University of Michigan Dearborn Campus about how we are facing a new age of global terrorism with an ever-increasing number of "terrorist directed and terrorist inspired attacks." During your remarks, you emphasized that today's challenge "requires a whole new approach to counterterrorism and homeland security" and addressed the importance of reaching out to all Muslims across the country. Your message that day was clear: "we must not throw a net of suspicion over American Muslims and an entire religion."

The Council applauds your efforts to speak out against the discrimination and vilification of American Muslims, and affirms the need to engage them to help prevent the recruitment and radicalization to violence perpetrated by terrorist organizations that are targeting the youth in their communities.

We commend you and the Department for your service to this country and the ongoing efforts to counter violent extremism.

Sincerely,

William H. Webster
Chair, Homeland Security Advisory Council