

LUKE CLIPPINGER  
Legislative District 46  
Baltimore City

Chair  
Judiciary Committee  
Rules and Executive  
Nominations Committee



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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May 11, 2020

The Honorable Walter F. "Pete" Landon  
Governor's Office of Homeland Security  
Fred L. Wineland Building  
6 Francis St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Director Landon:

I write to request that the Governor's Office of Homeland Security report on the State's efforts and plans to prevent, detect, and address domestic terrorism, to the extent that the publication of such information does not jeopardize public safety or security.

This session, the House Judiciary Committee considered House Bill 1164, Criminal Law-Domestic Terrorism. The legislation proposes the creation of a new criminal statute for the crime of Domestic Terrorism.

Americans today are three times more likely to suffer a terrorist attack by an American than to suffer an attack by a foreigner.[1] In January, the FBI arrested three men, two from Maryland, who belonged to a white supremacist group called the "Base." These men were in possession of a machine gun and accused of planning a mass attack in Richmond, Virginia during an upcoming gun rights rally.[2]

The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness 2020 Terrorism Threat Assessment Report states "some white supremacist extremists argue that participating in mass attacks or creating other forms of chaos will accelerate the imminent and necessary collapse of

[1] See e.g., Peter Bergen and David Sterman, *The Real Terrorist Threat in America: It's No Longer Jihadist Groups*, Foreign Affairs, Oct. 30, 2018; see also Max Rose and Ali Soufan, *We Once Fought Jihadists. Now We Battle White Supremacists*. The New York Times, Feb. 11, 2020; Peter Bergen, et. al., "Terrorism in America 18 Years After 9/11" *New America*, last updated on Sept. 18, 2019, <https://www.newamerica.org/international-security/reports/terrorism-america-18-years-after-911/>

[2] Jessica Anderson, Baltimore Sun, Jan 16, 2020, *FBI arrests alleged white supremacists from Maryland before Virginia gun rally; detention hearings set*, available at <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-cr-alleged-white-supremacist-members-charged-20200116-ybghu15yjc5pehu6fes4ooyne-story.html>.

society in order to build a racially pure nation.”

Addressing terrorism as an act committed solely by foreigners will place Marylanders at greater risk and ignore the current reality. In keeping with the mission of the Office of Homeland Security to develop policies, priorities, and strategy for homeland security in Maryland, the Committee is eager to consider your response to domestic terrorism as we continue to examine how state government can create a safer future for our all Marylanders.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luke Clippinger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee