## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

May 6, 2022

The Honorable Merrick Garland Attorney General United States Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland,

We write to you today extremely concerned by multiple reports surfacing that left-wing activists intend to protest, and possibly disrupt, church services this weekend in direct response to the leaked opinion authored by Justice Alito that would overturn *Roe* v. *Wade*. <sup>1,2,3</sup> We believe these rumors should be taken seriously as protests have already begun occurring across the country this week, with the Sacred Heart of Mary Church in Boulder, Colorado vandalized. <sup>4</sup>

Regardless of one's position on abortion, the free exercise of religion is a core tenet of our Constitution.<sup>5</sup> We condemn behaviors that infringe upon the freedom to exercise one's religious beliefs and respectfully ask that you swiftly alert and coordinate resources with state and local law enforcement to ensure that any organized effort across the country is properly addressed and the rights of Americans are protected.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Lee

**United States Senator** 

Chip Roy

Member of Congress

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> O'Neil, Tyler, Pro-Abortion Groups Target Churches for Mother's Day Protests, Fox News (May 6, 2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Lovelace, Ryan, <u>"Ruth Sent Us" Activists Plan Abortion Protests at Churches, Supreme Court Justices' Homes,</u> The Washington Times (May 5, 2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Mary Margaret Olohon (@MaryMargOlohan), Twitter (May 6, 2022), https://twitter.com/MaryMargOlohan/status/1522621941676494860?s=20&t=R-DPuETUs1mmaKJ8euvI3Q.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Thomas, Dillon, Catholic Church in Boulder Vandalized with Abortion-Rights Graffiti, CBS News Denver (May 4, 2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> U.S. Const. Amend. I.