

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader of the United States Senate
United States Senate SD-511
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary
Committee
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader of the United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, 322,
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Grassley, Durbin, Thune, and Schumer,

As a group of retired FBI Special Agents and former Intelligence Analysts from across the country dedicated to restoring public trust in the FBI and returning the FBI to its original mission, we support President Trump's nomination of Kash Patel as the FBI's next Director.

Many Americans have lost faith in the FBI, and for good reason. The FBI is broken. And with this loss of trust has come a rise in threats at home and abroad. Drug cartels and Mexican gangs have taken control of the border and have infiltrated cities across the country bringing violent crime and drugs with them. At the same time, China has grown more brazen, engaging in espionage that robs U.S. businesses of their intellectual property and undermines our national security. Terrorist groups are on the rise again in the Middle East, with unknown numbers having flooded into our country over the past four years through a wide-open border.

Just as these many, varied threats have increased, the FBI has been used as a tool in the weaponization of the Department of Justice to go after its political enemies. Lives have been shattered and the targets of these weaponized investigations have been forced to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars of their own personal funds to defend themselves and their reputations. This needs to stop.

As the FBI has veered away from its core mission over time, perhaps no one has been more devastated than the rank and file men and women of the FBI who devote and risk their lives alongside other law enforcement partners in service of their country as FBI Special Agents. Once revered as the world's premier law enforcement agency, the FBI has gradually become an agency that many citizens view as ineffective, corrupt, and weaponized. This is a big problem, not only for the FBI, but for our country.

In response, a group of retired and former Special Agents formed Reform the Bureau (RTB). Reform the Bureau is an association of retired federal law enforcement professionals committed to helping reform the FBI and return it to its founding mission: protecting the public, fighting crime, and upholding the rule of law. We believe that a strong FBI, rooted in meritocracy and ethical integrity, and trusted by citizens as fair and impartial arbiters of justice, is essential to the safety and prosperity of our nation.

More than ever, our country is in desperate need of a highly capable, non-partisan, and legally compliant FBI it can trust. More than ever, America needs an FBI that is refocused on its core mission, and back on track. More than ever, America needs Kash Patel as its next FBI Director.

As a former public defender and prosecutor, Kash Patel has operated on both sides of the justice system, giving him a unique and important perspective as the FBI's next Director. Mr. Patel understands the need for a professional, nonpartisan law enforcement agency to enforce federal law while vigorously protecting the rights of the accused. As a former congressional aide, he understands the importance of congressional oversight and the need for the FBI to be responsive and transparent to members of Congress as they perform this important function. And as a former Executive Branch national security official who has served at the National Security Council, at the Directorate of Intelligence, and at the Pentagon, he understands the scope of national security threats our country faces. Mr. Patel also understands how organizations such as the FBI function and collaborate with other agencies to keep America safe, and the need for highly capable but legally compliant agencies to take on these threats and protect the American people. Never has the FBI faced such an urgent and compelling need for comprehensive reform as it does today. Mr. Patel has proven he possesses the breadth of experience required to address these challenges. His leadership, expertise, and vision make him uniquely qualified to guide the FBI through this pivotal moment. For these reasons, we stand in full support of Kash Patel's nomination.

The FBI needs significant reform that not only fixes the organization in the way it operates, but that helps restore trust in the organization by the citizens it serves. This will require an unprecedented level of reform and transparency that only a strong, principled leader can bring. For all of these reasons, we offer our support for Kash Patel as the next Director of the FBI.

Sincerely,

Richard Stout



Director, Reform the Bureau
FBI Special Agent (Retired)

J. Clay Price	FBI Supervisory Special Agent Section Chief (SES) Retired
Dr. J. Richard Kiper	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Joaquín "Jack" García	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Chad Kaestle	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
John W Crouthamel	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
Thomas V Fuentes	Assistant Director FBI (Retired), Special Agent 1979-2008
Erin Marciniak	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Michael F. Popolano	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
Mark D. Ferbrache	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
John E. Nantz	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
William Gawthrop, PhD	FBI Supervisory Intelligence Analyst (Former)
Donald Albracht	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
John W. Swartzwelder Jr.	FBI Special Agent (Retired)

Gregory B. Dillon	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Mark Safarik	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
Dave Couvertier	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Paul J Erickson	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Brian Kensel	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
James D (Drew) Barnett	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
Alan A. Malinchak	FBI SSA (Retired) / CEO Eclat Transitions LLC
Jerry Hester	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
J. Stephen Veyera	FBI Supervisory Special Agent, Unit Chief, (Retired)
Jeffrey A. Danik	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
Robert L Fricke	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Kathleen Mitchell	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
David Cudmore	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
Robert W Clark	FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge (Retired)
Francis X. Gramlich	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
Bryan L. Travers	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
T. David Church, Jr.	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Gregory B. Dillon	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
William Hekel	FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)
David Shellenberger	FBI Special Agent, Unit Chief HRT (Retired)
Sean Cox	FBI Special Agent HRT (Retired)
John P. Fagan	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
James Bryant	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Whit Darnell	FBI Special Agent, Unit Chief HRT (Retired)
Lonnie R Cox	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Michael J. Wyatt	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
Todd Dawson	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
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Daniel Powers	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
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Michael Adams	FBI Special Agent (Retired)
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Amber Evans	FBI Supervisory Intelligence Analyst (Former)
Chris Evans	FBI Special Agent HRT (Retired)
W. Dale Anderson	FBI Special Agent HRT (Retired)
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