



FAITHFUL DEMOCRACY

August 26, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

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

As a national coalition of faith-based organizations committed to protecting the integrity of our democratic institutions while advocating for the common good of all persons, we, [Faithful Democracy](#) and partners write to express deep alarm over President Trump's recent decision to deploy the national guard throughout Washington, D.C. and place the Metropolitan Police Department under the authority of the U.S. Attorney General's office and U.S. Marshals Service. This first-of-its-kind federal takeover of local law enforcement in our nation's capital is an unprecedented overextension of executive authority.

As people of faith, we stand against this government overreach. We express our solidarity with those who are often made invisible—including unhoused individuals, people of color, and young people—yet bear the brunt of militarized policy approaches. **Now more than ever, it is essential to center the inherent dignity and personhood of every individual and refocus our efforts on investing in our communities rather than punishing them.**

Implemented under Section 740 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, the actions of the Administration represent an extraordinary and dangerous breach of democratic norms, supplanting the will of locally elected officials. While federal law grants limited emergency powers under the Home Rule Act for up to 30 days, this intervention was justified through a misleading "public safety emergency." Crime in the District has declined significantly and [violent crime at its lowest levels in 30 years](#), according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The use of military forces and federal policing authority—without demonstrable necessity—against local citizens in a city whose residents are predominantly people of color **threatens civil rights protections and undermines community trust. Furthermore, it risks**



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violating the Posse Comitatus Act, an 1878 law restricting the military's involvement in domestic law enforcement. The deployment of the National Guard and multiple federal law enforcement agencies has confused the existing chain of command, making it more difficult for local law enforcement to serve their communities. The takeover of D.C.'s police—despite declining violence—serves as a stark reminder: our capital remains constitutionally vulnerable. This moment must strengthen our resolve to support D.C. statehood and full local authority, so justice and self-determination are not deferred any longer.

We urge Congress to act immediately by:

1. **Rejecting** any requests for continued federalization of the Metropolitan Police Department, continued emergency power under the Home Rule Act for more than the initial 30 days, and continued or expanded deployment of the National Guard.
2. **Demanding** full transparency from the Administration, including the intelligence, crime data, and internal communications used to justify this takeover.
3. **Affirming** a commitment to D.C. autonomy as the only safeguard to ensure the District's residents enjoy the same rights to self-governance as all other Americans by co-sponsoring HR 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, and restoring D.C.'s budget.

Faithful Democracy believes that genuine public safety is achieved through investment in community-based solutions, robust social services, and trust between residents and local law enforcement—not through militarized intervention imposed from above. **Given what has transpired earlier this year in other U.S. cities, this unprecedented federal action risks setting a dangerous precedent that could extend to additional jurisdictions, eroding the United States' bedrock principles of autonomy and federalism.**

Across our diverse faith traditions, we are united to resist executive overreach, to stand with the vulnerable, and to safeguard the democratic institutions that protect the dignity and rights of every person. We urge you to use the full power of your offices to reverse this dangerous course and restore the rights and autonomy of Washington, D.C. and its residents.

The Faithfully Undersigned:

National Organizations

Alliance of Baptists

American Friends Service Committee

Central Conference of American Rabbis



Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Faith in Action National Network

Franciscan Action Network

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Interfaith Alliance

Japanese American Citizens League

Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Latin America Working Group

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Council of Churches

National Council of Jewish Women

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

OHALAH - Association of Rabbis and Cantors for Jewish Renewal

Pax Christi USA

Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

Sojourners

The Prophetic Convening

The Religious Nationalism Project—TRNP



The Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference

United Church of Christ

The General Board of Church and Society- The United Methodist Church

State and Local Organizations, Congregations, and Clergy

All Souls Church Unitarian (Washington, DC)

Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church

Baltimore Washington Conference UMC Advocacy & Action – Rev. Dr. Stacey Wilson, Executive Minister of Beloved Community

Brand Yourself Ministries LLC – Rev. Margaret Fountain Coleman (NY)

Cedabridge Baptist Church – Rev. Amy S. Andrews (Greenville, NC)

Chevy Chase United Methodist Church - Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton (Chevy Chase, MD)

Church of God in Christ (MD)

Circle of Hope Church (Seattle, WA)

Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) – Rev. Jennifer Gutierrez (Los Angeles, CA)

Columbia Jewish Congregation (Columbia, MD)

First Trinity Lutheran Church (Washington, DC)

Foundry UMC – Rev. Ben Roberts (Washington, DC)

Glen Rock Jewish Center – Rabbi Jennifer Schlosberg (Glen Rock, NJ)

John Wesley AME Zion Church (Washington, DC)



Judson Memorial Church – Rev. Micah Bucey, Senior Minister (New York, NY)

National Council of Jewish Women Arizona Section (AZ)

National Council of Jewish Women Atlanta Section (GA)

National Council of Jewish Women Austin Section (TX)

National Council of Jewish Women Bergen County Section (NJ)

National Council of Jewish Women California

National Council of Jewish Women Chicago North Shore Section (IL)

National Council of Jewish Women Colorado Section (CO)

National Council of Jewish Women Contra Costa Section (CA)

National Council of Jewish Women Essex County Section (NJ)

National Council of Jewish Women Florida

National Council of Jewish Women Georgia

National Council of Jewish Women Greater Dallas Section (TX)

National Council of Jewish Women Greater Long Beach and Orange County Section (CA)

National Council of Jewish Women Greater New Orleans Section (LA)

National Council of Jewish Women Greater Philadelphia Section (PA)

National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section (NY)

National Council of Jewish Women Jersey Hills Section (NJ)

National Council of Jewish Women Kendall Section (FL)

National Council of Jewish Women Kentucky



National Council of Jewish Women Maryland

National Council of Jewish Women Massachusetts

National Council of Jewish Women Michigan Section (MI)

National Council of Jewish Women Michigan

National Council of Jewish Women Palm Beach Section (FL)

National Council of Jewish Women Peninsula Section (NY)

National Council of Jewish Women Pittsburgh Section (PA)

National Council of Jewish Women Rockland Section (NY)

National Council of Jewish Women Sacramento Section (CA)

National Council of Jewish Women Saddleback Section (CA)

National Council of Jewish Women San Francisco Section (CA)

National Council of Jewish Women SE Atlantic Section (FL)

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis Section (MO)

National Council of Jewish Women Utah Section (UT)

National Council of Jewish Women Valencia Shores Section (FL)

National Council of Jewish Women Virginia

National Council of Jewish Women West Morris Section (NJ)

Northwood Appold UMC (Baltimore, MD)

Old Cambridge Baptist Church (Cambridge, MA)

Pastoral Clinical Services – Rev. Dr. Christine Wiley (Washington, DC)



Randall Memorial United Methodist Church – Rev. Jessica Hayden, Pastor (Washington, DC)

Ravensworth Baptist Church (Annandale, VA)

Ray of Hope Christian Church – Cynthia L. Hale, Senior Pastor (Decatur, Georgia)

Reservoir District, Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church (MD)

Scott United Methodist Church – Rev. Annettra Jones (Indianapolis, IN)

Social Action Committee, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City (Redwood City, CA)

Soul Awakening (Chico, CA)

Temple Emeth, Social Action Committee (Teaneck, NJ)

Temple Sinai of Bergen County (Tenafly, NJ)

The First Baptist Church of the City of Washington DC – Julie Pennington-Russell, Senior Pastor (Washington, DC)

Unitarian Universalist FaithAction New Jersey – Rev. Charles Loflin (Summit, New Jersey)

Washington Plaza Baptist Church – Rev. Michelle Nickens (Reston, VA)

Ohio Interfaith Collective – Rev. Dan Clark (OH)

Sardis Baptist Church – Rev. Dr. Christopher Hensley (Charlotte, NC)

Sharp Street UMC (Sandy Spring, MD)

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice (WI)

Rabba Melissa Scholten-Gutierrez (Denver, CO)



Rabbi Barry H. Block (Little Rock, AK)

Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel (Arlington, VA)

Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz (Washington, DC)

Rabbi Gabriel Kretzmer-Seed (Bronx, NY)

Rabbi Hannah Spiro (Washington, DC)

Rabbi Jessie Wainer (Lombard, IL)

Rabbi Joshua Gischner (Chevy Chase, MD)

Rabbi Rachel Ackerman (Washington, DC)

Rev. Dr. Sara Day (AZ)

Sister Carren Herring (Cincinnati, OH)

CC: Members of the US Senate and US House of Representatives