

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
US. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Director Patel:

We write to you today concerning recent reports that students, faculty and staff at Clark Atlanta University, Alabama State University, Virginia State University, Hampton University, Bethune Cookman University, Southern University, and Morgan State University faced threats to campus on September 11th and 12th, 2025.¹ Other universities, including Spelman College, locked down or cancelled classes out of an abundance of caution.² The 5th Congressional District of Georgia is the proud home of the largest consortium of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the country - including Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Morris Brown College, Spelman College, and the Interdenominational Theological Center. Across the country, these and other HBCUs are under threat.

We echo our colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) in urging the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) to fully investigate the recent threats to HBCUs.³ Further, we urge the Department of Justice (DOJ) to prosecute any persons found to have made these threats to the fullest extent of the law, including consideration of whether any actions violated federal, state, or local hate crime or anti-terrorism statutes.

Many HBCUs were founded in the Reconstruction Era to provide a source for education for communities excluded from existing formal education. They have become a source of pride, resilience, and investment within Black communities. When there are threats to HBCU campuses, the intended message is clear: institutions of Black communities, and hubs for Black achievement are not safe.

Threats of violence, and targeting Black students and institutions are an ongoing and extreme threat against Black communities. While we are grateful that last week's threats were not carried out, violence against Black communities is a real and present danger. The Department of Justice reports that in 2024, the majority (53.3%) of all hate crimes were motivated by race, ethnicity, or ancestry-related bias.⁴ Further, a recent analysis of FBI data shows that hate crime incidents have doubled since 2015, and are at an all time high since hate crime data began to be collected in 1991. Frighteningly, hate crimes against Black people have increased even more drastically – rising by 81% - since 2015.⁵

We cannot and will not stand by while students are unable to learn, while institutions are on-edge, and while our communities are not safe. We stand with the students, faculty, and staff that call HBCUs home, and urge you to fully investigate the disturbing threats made against HBCUs across the country last week.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/12/us/false-threats-target-hbcus-forcing-closures.html>; <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/morgan-state-receives-threat-against-campus-days-after-other-hbcus-locked-down>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/12/us/false-threats-target-hbcus-forcing-closures.html>

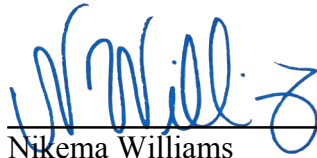
³ <https://cbc.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=3056>

⁴ <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics>

⁵ <https://usafacts.org/articles/which-groups-have-experienced-an-increase-in-hate-crimes/>

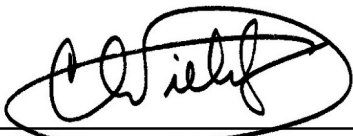
Sincerely,

Sincerely,



Nikema Williams

Member of Congress



Cleo Fields

Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Member of Congress