



Department of Justice

STATEMENT OF

**KASH PATEL
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**AT A HEARING ENTITLED
“A REVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT’S FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION; THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT
ADMINISTRATION; THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE; AND THE
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES”**

**PRESENTED
MAY 12, 2026**

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Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Van Hollen, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to appear before you today to discuss the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. Each day, the men and women of the FBI are making a real impact in communities across the Nation, tackling some of the most complex national security and criminal threats we face with perseverance, professionalism, and integrity—sometimes at the greatest of costs. On their behalf, I ask for your support of our request.

The FY 2027 budget request proposes a total of \$12.53 billion and includes the addition of approximately 3,200 positions, nearly 1,300 of which are Special Agents. The request includes a total of \$12.5 billion for Salaries and Expenses, which will support 37,702 positions (14,190 Special Agents, 3,016 Intelligence Analysts, and 20,496 Professional Staff), and \$30 million for Construction.

Keeping Americans safe at home and abroad is a no-fail mission. Our work to combat violent crime, gangs, cartels, fentanyl, terrorism, cyber threats, fraud, and a myriad of other threats has never been more important. This budget request will allow the FBI to build upon our achievements in FY 2025 and thus far in FY 2026. The request includes \$1.2 billion in program enhancements under Salaries and Expenses, including \$94 million to support Intelligence Community efforts. Additional national security initiatives in the FY 2027 budget request include \$105 million for national security-related cybersecurity requirements; \$111 million to enhance the FBI’s cybersecurity posture, modernize infrastructure, and protect internal networks; \$29 million to support intermediate and advanced training at Redstone Academy; \$19 million to help prevent insider threats; and \$31 million to promote transparency to the American public and support the prevention of unauthorized disclosures.

The FBI's priorities are to crush violent crime, defend the Homeland, rebuild public trust, and ensure fierce organizational accountability. This year's budget request reflects carefully considered increases to ensure the FBI can successfully carry out its national security, intelligence, criminal law enforcement, and criminal justice services missions.

Combatting Violent Crime

In 2025, the FBI's dedicated focus on combatting violent crime led to historic results. The FBI made 34,000 violent crime arrests, a 112% increase from 2024, disrupted 1,800 gangs and criminal enterprises, a 210% increase from 2024, and seized over 2,250 kilograms of fentanyl—enough lethal doses to potentially kill 178 million Americans. FBI's Operation Coast to Coast surged personnel to 33 FBI field offices to focus on open-air drug markets and violent crime prevalent in various communities and resulted in over 1,200 arrests, 336 firearms recovered, and 396 indictments. Operation No Escape, a targeted effort to apprehend fugitives with violent crime warrants spanning all violations—to include crimes against children—resulted in the arrests of nearly 800 violent crime fugitives across the nation. The FBI's FY 2027 budget request would dedicate an additional \$311.7 million and 686 positions to build upon our achievements in FY 2025 and thus far in FY 2026 and enhance our ability to combat criminal cartels, foreign gangs, and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) across the country.

Violent crimes against children threats such as financially motivated sextortion, Sadistic Online Exploitation, and AI-generated content are ushering in a host of new actors spread globally who are committed to exploiting children and thwarting the FBI's efforts to capture them. In 2025, the FBI identified and/or located over 6,000 children, a 30% increase from 2024, and arrested over 2,000 child predators and human traffickers. Through three dedicated crimes against children surges—Operation Restore Justice, Operation Enduring Justice, and Operation Relentless Justice—the FBI and our partners collectively made 732 arrests and identified 453 victims. Within the 686 new positions requested to combat violent crime, the FBI plans to dedicate 33 additional positions to combatting crimes against children and human trafficking (CAC/HT). With additional dedicated personnel, the FBI's CAC/HT program will be better positioned to properly address this evolving threat and increase our analytical capabilities and keep pace with emerging technologies.

In accordance with President Trump's Executive Order (EO) 14159, "Protecting the American People Against Invasion," the FBI partnered with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to co-lead 59 Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs) across the Nation, staffed with over 9,000 Federal agents, Task Force Officers (TFOs), and analysts. The HSTFs bring together over 20 federal agencies and 440 state, local, and international law enforcement partners in a whole-of-government model. To illustrate the power of the HSTF to the public and TCOs, from August 25 to October 7, 2025, HSTF participating agencies surged in a unified approach to combat TCOs in the United States and around the world. Those surge efforts resulting in 400 operations, 3,266 Federal arrests, 91 metric tons of drug seizures, 1,067 weapons seized, and over \$3.2 million in seized U.S. currency. To build on our success from 2025, this year's request includes 148 additional positions, including 135 Special Agents, for this critical mission.

Counterterrorism

For more than a century, the FBI has occupied a critical role in defending the Homeland from terrorism threats. Domestic terrorists motivated by a range of ideologies exploit a variety of popular social media platforms, smaller websites with targeted audiences, and encrypted chat applications. They leverage these platforms to recruit, plan and garner support, and disseminate materials encouraging radicalization and mobilization to violence. In particular, the greatest domestic violent extremism threat we currently face are from anarchist violent extremists and nihilistic violent extremists (NVEs). NVEs encompass threats or use of violence in furtherance of political, social, or religious goals that derive primarily from a hatred of society at large and a desire to bring about its collapse by sowing indiscriminate chaos, destruction, and social instability. This is a growing threat and we have already seen a steady increase in cases opened in 2026 as compared to 2025.

International terrorists continue to pose one of the greatest, most immediate threats to the Homeland. The FBI continues to monitor the Government of Iran's intent to pursue violent efforts within the United States. In recent years, we have disrupted multiple Iranian plots targeting U.S. officials and activists living in the United States. The FBI's Iran Threats Mission Center—a cross-programmatic effort between the FBI's Counterterrorism, Counterintelligence and Espionage, and Cyber Divisions—has been working to synchronize intelligence and operations to increase our understanding of the Iranian threat, in line with the President's direction in National Security Presidential Memorandum-2. Homegrown Violent Extremists inspired by violent extremist ideologies aspire to carry out attacks in the United States or travel overseas to participate in terrorist activity. Meanwhile, the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) continues to seek direct confrontation with the United States and will exploit any opportunity to attack the Homeland or our interests. Al-Qa'ida senior leadership and its affiliates continue to issue statements and publish media calling for attacks against the United States, some of which include guidance on how to acquire materials and ways to conduct attacks. Similarly, Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) continues to threaten U.S. officials and encourage lone actor attacks.

In September 2025, President Trump signed National Security Presidential Memorandum-7 (NSPM-7), directing the FBI and our Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs) to coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to investigate, prosecute, and disrupt entities and individuals engaged in acts of political violence and intimidation designed to suppress lawful political activity or obstruct the rule of law. As a result, the FBI now oversees the recently created NSPM-7 Joint Mission Center (JMC), which is composed of personnel from 10 agencies possessing counterterrorism and criminal operational and analytical expertise. The JMC is actively working to counter domestic terrorism and organized political violence by integrating intelligence, operational support, and financial analysis to proactively identify networks and prosecute domestic terrorists and related criminal actors.

The FBI's FY 2027 budget request dedicates \$166.1 million and 328 positions—including 130 Special Agents—to countering the constantly evolving terrorism threats facing the Homeland. The additional requested resources will help to ensure the FBI stays ahead of the threat by allowing the FBI to develop artificial intelligence (AI)-powered capabilities to

respond to the impacts of global terrorism events, enhance and maintain enterprise platforms supporting the Intelligence Community, and continuing to implement requirements of NSPM-7 in addition to other classified efforts. Finally, the request includes \$60 million to support the FBI's security preparations and protect people and infrastructure for the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California, which will bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to the United States.

Cyber

Nation-state actors and cyber criminals pose a growing threat to the United States through increased cyber espionage, theft, and attacks. Our adversaries are investing significant resources to plan and conceal their malicious operations. In particular, Nation-state actors also collaborate with profit-motivated hackers to form a blended threat against the United States—one the FBI's combination of criminal and intelligence authorities is uniquely positioned to address. But this is not just an abstract problem. The effects of cybercrimes are felt by everyday Americans in the form of identity theft, account hacking, email compromise schemes, and cyberstalking. In 2025, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) received over 1 million complaints reporting losses of nearly \$21 billion. And the rise of cryptocurrencies enables these criminal actors to acquire tools, collaborate, and launder their proceeds in new and challenging ways that are outside the regulatory framework.

The FBI strategically imposes costs on cyber adversaries through unique authorities, world-class capabilities, and enduring partnerships. Human and technical resources enable the FBI and our partners to defend networks, attribute malicious activity, sanction bad behavior, and attack adversaries overseas. As part of this strategy, the FBI has elevated the leadership, engagement, and coordination assets of the FBI-led, multiagency National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force (NCIJTF), creating new mission centers based on key cyber threat areas. These mission centers are led by senior executives from partner agencies, further integrating operations and intelligence across agency lines to sequence actions for maximum impact against cyber adversaries.

The FY 2027 budget request will provide an additional \$95.6 million and 152 positions to combat cyber threats and enhance focus on cyber operations and investigative capabilities. These resources will increase the FBI's capacity for both unilateral and joint-enabled, sequenced operations with Federal, state, local, and international partners, particularly focused on two critical areas: victim engagement and incident response; and data management, exploitation, and tool development.

Counterintelligence

Counterintelligence operations against Nation-state adversaries mitigate grievous risk to U.S. national security. U.S. adversaries, including Russia, the PRC, and Iran continue to undermine our core institutions, and they are becoming more aggressive and more capable. Our adversaries target U.S. national defense information, attempt to recruit former or current federal employees and military members to obtain sensitive information, gain insight into decision making, create vectors for foreign malign influence, and undermine U.S. intelligence operations. In February 2026, the FBI arrested a former U.S. Air Force pilot for allegedly

providing unauthorized defense services to Chinese military pilots, betraying our country and jeopardizing our service members and national security. Hostile foreign actors include criminal organizations targeting non-governmental information, corporations profiting from evading export controls and economic sanctions, and even academic researchers leveraging American grant funding for the benefit of foreign-government programs.

The FBI's National Counterintelligence Task Force (NCITF) and multiple FBI-led, field-based Counterintelligence Task Forces (CITFs) drive a whole-of-government approach to addressing counterintelligence matters, combining the authorities of the Intelligence Community with our Federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement partners. The FBI also continues to facilitate robust engagements with the private sector to aid us in understanding and mitigating risks to critical infrastructure and to protect our intellectual property from adversaries.

In 2025, the FBI had a 42% increase in counterintelligence arrests. In January 2026, the FBI achieved its first AI-related economic espionage conviction against a Google engineer that tried to sell AI technology related to trade secrets to China. In addition to making arrests, the FBI uses strategic tools to disrupt bad actors and work with our partners to mitigate counterintelligence threats. The FBI coordinates with our partners at the Department of State and DHS to facilitate the removals of foreign intelligence threats, with 62 removals this year in our China program alone. For example, in the past year, FBI has charged seven Chinese researchers with attempting to smuggle biological materials into the U.S., five of whom have been deported. The FBI's FY 2027 budget request would provide an additional \$73.2 million and 154 positions to continue mitigating threats from foreign intelligence services and shore up our capabilities.

Conclusion

The FBI takes its responsibility of fiscal stewardship seriously and is looking at all available options to optimize existing resources and deliver more efficiently. Under the leadership of President Trump, since January 2025, we have realigned 604 Special Agents from the National Capital Region to our field offices across the country to enhance investigative capacity and provide better support to our Federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial partners.

Additionally, the FBI has long advocated to be granted authority to deputize its TFOs with Title 18 authorities, as approximately half of all TFOs holding Title 18 authorities support FBI-led task forces but are deputized by outside agencies. After close collaboration with the Department of Justice, on April 9, 2026, the FBI secured the direct authority to deputize state and local law enforcement officers and to cross-designate federal law enforcement officers joining FBI-led task forces with Title 18 authorities. This enables the FBI to significantly improve the efficiency with which task forces are staffed and will have a lasting impact on the U.S. government's work to crush violent crime and defend the Homeland.

In conclusion, the threats we face as a Nation have never been greater or more diverse and the expectations placed on the FBI have never been higher. With the requested resources, the FBI will have the talent, tools, and authorities to do more to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution.

Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Van Hollen, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.