

It is with thoughtful and collective frustration that we submit this statement. On Saturday, May 14, 2022, 18-year-old ***domestic terrorist*** Payton Gendron drove over 200 miles to a Tops grocery store in Buffalo, New York. Gendron entered Tops, massacred ten patrons and injured three others, terrorizing a community and scarring this nation, yet again. Our deepest condolences go out to the families and loved ones of those lost and injured.

SAY THEIR NAMES:

- Aaron Salter, 55
- Heyward Patterson, 67
- Ruth Whitfield, 86
- Andre Mackneil, 53
- Katherine Massey, 72
- Celestine Chaney, 65
- Roberta Drury, 32
- Margus D. Morrison, 52
- Geraldine Talley, 62
- Pearl Young, 77
- Zaire Goodman, 20 (survived)
- Jennifer Warrington, 50 (survived)
- Christopher Braden, 55 (survived)

The plots, schemes, and blatant intent behind this horrific act revealed the all-too-familiar fact that Payton Gendron is a ***domestic terrorist***. To simply call Gendron a white supremacist is not enough. Not only does it provide comfort to those adopting a similar rhetoric and perspective on racism, but it simply does not paint the justified picture of Gendron's evil acts, or that of many white gunmen just like him. Putting it plainly, Gendron committed an act, in the United States, dangerous to human life, a violation of the criminal laws of this country, intended to intimidate a civilian population in Buffalo—meeting ***every component*** of the codified definition of “***domestic terrorism***.” See 18 U.S.C. 2331(5).

H.R.350, the *Domestic Terrorism* Prevention Act of 2022, is going before the Senate, and is written “[t]o authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.”

(<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr350/BILLS-117hr350eh.pdf>).

We need not—and cannot—sit idly by and hope for the best; we must take action and hold our legislators accountable for bringing this bill to full fruition. Let us turn our frustration into fuel for our fight against racism and the ever-present racial inequities in how armed white men—even those having already committed acts of *domestic terrorism*—are given the dignity and basic humanity that many unarmed Black persons do not receive.

We ask that you write a letter of support for passing H.R.350—*Domestic Terrorism* Prevention Act of 2022. Then, write a supplemental letter imploring your legislator to place a similar state bill up for consideration. We have boundless power in numbers. Imagine if we had one letter from every person reading this statement. How mighty our roar would be. Louder than the rumbles of racism that have muted so many concerns, and diminished so many initiatives. Louder than the pleasantries of calling someone a comforting, even endearing term, rather than the appropriately demeaning term. *Imagine. And then, make it happen.*

1. Draft your letter of support: <https://www.nlacrc.org/home/showdocument?id=272>
2. Select one of Nevada’s current United States Senate members to which you would like to address your letter:
 - a. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto:
<https://www.congress.gov/member/catherine-cortez-masto/C001113>
 - b. Representative Steven Horsford:
<https://www.congress.gov/member/steven-horsford/H001066>
 - c. Representative Susie Lee:
<https://www.congress.gov/member/susie-lee/L000590>
 - d. Senator Jackie Rosen:
<https://www.congress.gov/member/jacklyn-rosen/R000608>

- e. Representative Dina Titus:
<https://www.congress.gov/member/dina-titus/T000468>
3. Mail your letter to the listed address, or submit it to us.

We are offering our services to collect statements and submit on your behalf. Please submit your signed letter of support to jammer.esq@gmail.com, with the subject line: Letter of Support, H.R.350–Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2022.

Together, we can.

In service,

The Racial Justice Committee
Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association