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Memorandum of Support

The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty supports the Non-Profit Homeland Security Preparedness Act currently being presented to the legislature by Assemblyman Rory Lancman and State Senator Dean Skelos. Non-profit organizations, such as our network of Jewish Community Councils, need funding for their communities since they are potential targets of terrorist activity.

Security for Jewish organizations and places of worship are critical since the tragedy of September 11, 2001. There have been reports of plots against Jewish institutions in many cities as well as a shooting incident at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, which killed one woman. The threat is real and not overstated. Furthermore, New York especially is a prime terrorist target so non-profits here are especially vulnerable.

In addition to terrorism concerns, there has been a recent rise in hate crimes in New York. Incidents such as the painting of swastikas on synagogues and the hanging of nooses point to the need for assistance from the State. Hate crimes are a serious problem that need to be combated with a proactive approach. Your bill would help address this important issue.

William E. Rapfogel
Executive Director