

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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judiciary.house.gov

August 19, 2024

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray:

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government of the Committee on the Judiciary, I remain concerned with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) weaponization of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act against Americans who stand for life. Of particular concern is your recent testimony before the Committee that seems to contradict the DOJ's own data that shows the FACE Act is being used almost exclusively against pro-life individuals. Americans deserve an accurate accounting of the facts.

Enacted in 1994, the FACE Act is a federal law designed to ensure safe access to abortion clinics, pregnancy resource centers, and places of worship.¹ On May 14, 2024, DOJ responded to my repeated requests for FACE Act prosecution data and confirmed that it has brought a disproportionate number of cases against pro-life protestors.² Since January 2021, the Civil Rights Division has charged 24 FACE Act cases against 55 defendants, with only two of these cases – consisting of five defendants – originating from attacks on pregnancy resource centers.³ This data is particularly troubling in light of the fact that there have been at least 90 individual cases of attacks on pro-life organizations and pregnancy resource centers since the May 2022 leak of the Supreme Court's draft opinion for the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case.⁴

¹ P.L. 103-259.

² See Letter from Chip Roy to Kristen Clarke, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights (Feb. 12, 2024); [See](#) Letter from Carlos Uriarte, Assistant Attorney General, to Chip Roy (May. 14, 2024).

³ U.S. Department of Justice, *Justice Department Sues Five Individuals for Violation of Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act*, [justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov). (2024, June 20).

⁴ See, e.g., CatholicVote, *Tracking Attacks on Pregnancy Centers & Pro-Life Groups*, CatholicVote.Org (May 26, 2024).

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Page 2

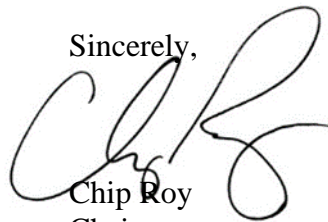
During your testimony before the Committee on July 24, 2024, you appeared to contradict this data provided by the Department. Specifically, you stated, “[S]ince the *Dobbs* decision, actually more of our abortion-related violent extremism investigations have focused on violence against pro-life facilities as opposed to the other way around”⁵ The fact that the Department’s own data shows that a mere 8 percent of FACE Act cases filed by the Biden-Harris Administration are against agitators at pregnancy resource centers would seem to belie your assertion that a majority of “abortion-related violent extremism investigations have focused on violence against pro-life facilities” following the *Dobbs* decision.⁶

To assist the Subcommittee in its oversight of the Department’s use of the FACE Act, please provide the following documents and information:

1. Documents sufficient to substantiate your assertion that the FBI has undertaken more abortion-related violent extremism investigations focusing on violence against pro-life facilities as compared to abortion facilities since May 2, 2022.

Please provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 2, 2024. The Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction over criminal law and federal law enforcement pursuant to House Rule X.⁷ If you have questions about this matter, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Chip Roy

Chairman

Subcommittee on the Constitution
and Limited Government

cc: The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government

⁵ Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on the Judiciary, 118th Cong. (2024).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Rules of the House of Representatives, R. X, 118th Cong. (2023).