

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 9, 2015

The Honorable Loretta Lynch  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

We write with great concern that you, President Barack Obama, and his Administration are leading and managing our national and homeland security in ways that are dangerous to America and our citizens. As our country faces a growing threat both inside and beyond our national borders, families in Alabama and across this country are looking for strong leadership and a commitment to keep our citizens safe from terrorists and the violence they wish to inflict. Over the past few weeks, the President, you, and other government officials have taken actions and made statements that suggest to us that the Department and the Administration are focused on efforts that are not up to the challenge that ISIS and the Islamic terrorists pose.

Immediately after the terrorist shootings in San Bernardino, we were alarmed to hear your reported reaction – that your “greatest fear” after these terrorist murders was of anti-Muslim backlash. While we are wary of parsing phrases of public officials, this statement was widely reported enough to warrant outrage. We strongly disagree with your response to the unthinkable murder of innocent Americans. Our greatest fear after the heinous acts of Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik is that other Islamic terrorists will see an opportunity to enter our country and kill Americans – and that this Administration is doing nothing to stop it.

Further, President Obama’s suggested actions after San Bernardino would neither address the tragedy nor keep us safe. We agree with his assessment that the strength of America rests squarely on our free and open society and values as crafted by our Founding Fathers. For the President to then suggest that our response to these murders should be to limit our Second Amendment rights is both ridiculous and irrelevant to the shootings. Neither Mr. Farook nor Ms. Malik’s actions would have been stopped by the policies that the President has suggested. Instead, we believe that President Obama is once again using a tragedy to push liberal gun control policies that would not even address the crime we witnessed – and make Americans less safe by restricting the lawful exercise of their Second Amendment rights.

As you lead the law enforcement efforts for this President and our country, we demand that you put the safety and needs of our country first, and leave the politically correct efforts of interest groups to the advocacy and campaigns of those outside of our government. It is long past

time that you and President Obama focus on the real threat facing our great nation: radical Islamic terrorism – not law-abiding Americans.

We hope to hear back from you expeditiously on your efforts to keep our country and communities safe from terrorists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Shelby". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Richard Shelby  
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Sessions". The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font.

Jeff Sessions  
U.S. Senator