

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2026

President Christina Paxson
Brown University
Office of the President
Box 1860
Providence, RI 02912

Re: Members of Congress Demand Full Accountability and Immediate Reform Following the Horrific Tragedies of December 13, 2025.

Dear President Paxson:

We write as concerned Members of the United States Congress to express profound outrage and demand accountability for the tragic and preventable murders that occurred on the Brown University campus on December 13, 2025. The deaths of Ella Cook, Mukhammad Aziz Umurzokov, and the wounding of nine others were not unforeseeable tragedies. Public reporting, sworn testimony, police union statements, Brown's public records, and the assailant's own words clearly establish that these deaths were made possible by more than a decade of deliberate policy decisions that prioritized activists' radical demands over student safety.

We are particularly appalled by Brown University's pattern of eager capitulation in the face of anti-police activism – pouring hundreds of millions into race-centric programming, adopting a “phased approach to reliance on policing,” and issuing a personal apology to activists branding campus security cameras “an instrument of oppression” – while repeatedly disregarding clear and urgent warnings that campus security had been dangerously compromised.

After more than a decade of poor choices, Brown leadership's decisions left its campus and students vulnerable on December 13, 2025. The University had only five officers on duty, a system of non-functional or unstaffed security cameras, and ignored multiple warnings from campus employees about the assailant. These alarming failures, compounded by an incomprehensible 17-minute delay in activating the BrownAlert system, allowed the assailant to fire off 44 unchallenged shots – killing two innocent students and injuring nine others. Brown's mistakes were not isolated lapses; they were the predictable outcome of an institutional culture so corroded that it treated legitimate law enforcement and physical security as ideological threats rather than essential protections.

In our view, Brown University clearly violated the *Jeanne Clery Campus Safety Act* through the deliberate concealment of threats, failure to maintain adequate security infrastructure, and grossly inadequate emergency notification protocols. As you know, the Department of Education is already investigating these events. We expect Brown University to cooperate fully and transparently with that investigation and with all congressional oversight that follows.

Accordingly, we demand that Brown University provide our offices with a detailed written response no later than June 1, 2026, addressing the following:

1. An accounting of all changes to security-related protocols since your adoption of a “phased approach to reliance on policing,” including the rationale for prioritizing race-based investments over campus security.
2. Full documentation and narrative explanations of the University’s handling of prior threats to and warnings concerning safety on campus, including:
 - a. In 2021, when Brown police leadership ordered its officers turn off their recorded radio channels amid a bomb and AR-15 threat.
 - b. In 2022, when Thony Greene trespassed into at least three dorms, including the Sear House in April, the Harkness House in May, and the Wayland House in December.
 - c. In 2023, when Brown University leadership refused to cancel a children’s reading event amid a mass-shooting threat and urgings from law enforcement.
 - d. In 2024, when the Everett-Poland dorm was breached by armed robbers.
 - e. In 2025, when the Brown University Police Sergeants Union issued a unanimous vote of no confidence for the Brown University Police Chief and his Deputy.
 - f. In 2025, when the Patrolmen’s Association issued an additional no-confidence vote and warned you of exhausted offers, forced overtime, and “ongoing technology failures.”
 - g. In 2025, when Custodian Bill Cain emailed Brown’s Executive Vice President concerned about unauthorized access and lack of patrols.
3. A full timeline and detailed explanation for the 17-minute delay in activating the “BrownAlert” system on December 13, 2025, and the status of campus security cameras in the hours prior to and during the attack.

4. A detailed explanation of the immediate steps being taken to restore adequate sworn law enforcement presence, functional surveillance, and emergency notification systems.
5. A concrete, comprehensive plan to reverse the institutional culture that eroded campus safety and treated campus police and security measures as political liabilities rather than protective measures and potentially life-saving necessities.

The safety of students on an American college campus must never be subordinate to identity politics. Brown University's leadership failed its most basic duty: to ensure the safety of its students. We will not allow this negligence to be overlooked.

We look forward to your prompt and thorough response.

Sincerely,



Senator Katie Boyd Britt (R-Ala.)



Representative Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.)



Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)



Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas)



Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah)



Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.)



Representative Robert Aderholt (R-Ala.)



Representative Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.)



Representative Barry Moore (R-Ala.)



Representative Mike Rogers (R-Ala.)



Representative Dale Strong (R-Ala.)



Representative Gary Palmer (R-Ala.)