

Questions for the Record for Dr. Claudine Gay

Committee Hearing “Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism” December 5, 2023 10:15 a.m.

Representative Bob Good (R-VA)

- Dr. Gay - Between 2018-2022, Harvard received over \$3.2 billion in federal grants and contracts. For the 2020-2021 school year, Harvard received \$104 million through Title IV student aid. You have personally issued statements condemning antisemitism, yet these statistics from the *Harvard Crimson* tell a different story about the atmosphere on campus: In a survey of the Harvard Class of 2022, 34% of students have a favorable view of the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement. Only 21% of students view it unfavorably, while 45% answered unsure, or no opinion. These students graduated from Harvard without an understanding of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Your institution is clearly producing a number of students who are sympathetic to a terrorist organization.
 - Would you call this a misuse of taxpayer dollars?

Harvard appreciates the opportunity to provide further information in follow up to the Committee’s December 5, 2023 hearing. Harvard and its leadership are deeply committed to combatting antisemitism; we have expressly condemned all forms of antisemitism, including the abhorrent atrocities committed by the Hamas terrorist group on October 7. We have made our position clear: antisemitism has no place at Harvard.

With respect to the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement, University leadership has publicly rejected calls to participate in the movement.

Additionally, Harvard respectfully submits that maintaining federal funding for research and financial aid to students from moderate- and low-income families is consistent with this Committee’s commitment to “promoting access to high-quality education for students.” Federal grants and contracts are crucial to Harvard fulfilling its core educational and research missions. For example, last month Harvard researchers achieved a breakthrough in quantum computing, which may lead to significant advancements in the fields of medicine, science, and finance. This and countless other societal benefits arising from research and study at Harvard would not be possible without federal funding.

Federal student aid is equally important. It goes directly to assist students from moderate- and low-income households to help make higher education attainable. Without this necessary assistance, fewer students from modest means could access these educational opportunities.

We appreciate the American public’s longstanding support for higher education and recognize our important role as stewards of these investments—investments that have made American colleges and universities the envy of the world, have strengthened the American economy, and have improved health and well-being. We are committed to continuing to be thoughtful stewards of all grants and funding, including from the federal government.