

Dear Members of Congress,

We write to you in advance of your April 17 hearing on higher education and the national rise in reports of antisemitism on campuses — including at Columbia — to which you have invited our university's President and Board co-chairs, for whom we express our full support. Indeed, this comes at a time of great challenge for our campus. As we face the hard and necessary work ahead of us as a community and society, we also reaffirm our commitment to navigating these challenges with humility and purpose, and to shaping a safe and welcoming environment across our university.

As we reflect on the last several months, we acknowledge that we may have different opinions of world politics and events on campus. Despite those differences, there is one thing we all agree on: throughout, we have had the privilege of continuing the research, scholarship, teaching, and service that are central to the identity of this great university.

Columbia has a legacy spanning centuries and is dedicated to two fundamental goals: delivering outstanding education to our students and conducting impactful research that drives innovation necessary for a thriving society well beyond our campus. This is our mission, and this is our responsibility.

Our groundbreaking research has shaped the landscape of the modern era. By pioneering new fields — from nuclear physics to nanoscience and tissue engineering, from genetics and neuroscience to medicine and clinical care — and leading in both practice and policy, our faculty have continuously made milestone contributions by pushing the boundaries of knowledge, creativity, and discovery. Their work has had and continues to have far-reaching implications. Year in and year out, for over a century, we have welcomed undergraduates to study works in our foundational Core Curriculum, by writers who have shaped society over millennia. We educate the next generations of scientists, artists, engineers, historians, architects, and physicians, and future leaders in business, policy, and civic life. Our alumni network today serves as a testament to the transformative power of a Columbia education.

The university's combination of breadth, impact, and attention to the fundamentals of education has defined an extraordinary contribution to the world since our founding in 1754. As in moments of challenge in the past, the university will find its way forward by drawing on its values: a commitment to education and research undertaken as a shared enterprise serving one another and the world.

We appreciate all the efforts to strengthen and protect the role of universities in American life. Our universities generate discovery, ideas, science, art, and scholarship that America and the world need now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Angela Olinto, Provost

Amy E. Hungerford, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Costis Maglaras, Dean of Columbia Business School

Lisa Rosen-Metsch, Dean of the School of General Studies

Josef Sorett, Dean of Columbia College

Shih-Fu Chang, Dean of The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science

Keren Yarhi-Milo, Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs

Troy J. Eggers, Dean of the School of Professional Studies

Katrina Armstrong, Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Lorraine Frazier, Dean of the School of Nursing

Linda P. Fried, Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health

Sarah Cole, Interim Dean of the School of the Arts

Jelani Cobb, Dean of Columbia Journalism School

Jeffrey Shaman, Interim Dean of Columbia Climate School

Gillian Lester, Dean of Columbia Law School

Melissa Begg, Dean of the School of Social Work

Carlos J. Alonso, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Andrés Jaque, Dean of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

Daphna Shohamy, Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute