



May 5, 2025

The Honorable Members of the House Education & Workforce Committee

2176 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Submission for the Record – Beyond the Ivy League: Stopping the Spread of Antisemitism on American Campuses

Dear Members of the House Education & Workforce Committee,

Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott, thank you for holding this important hearing on the rise of antisemitism on college campuses across the United States. On behalf of Jewish Federations nationwide, we appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter in support of today's hearing.

We write to you today with deep concern regarding the alarming rise of antisemitism, particularly following the horrific attacks of October 7, 2023.

Jewish people are facing unprecedented levels of discrimination, harassment, and exclusion within various institutions across the United States. This issue demands urgent attention and decisive action.

Since October 7, Jewish students on college campuses across the country have experienced high levels of antisemitism and have voiced their deep dissatisfaction with the inadequate response from university administrations. An overwhelming majority of Jewish students report encountering hostility toward Israel on campus, with many feeling compelled to hide their Jewish identity due to fears of harassment or exclusion.

In student-led organizations, Jewish students have been deliberately excluded, as many groups have adopted policies—unrelated to their stated missions—that explicitly declare "Zionists" unwelcome. This type of discrimination has created a chilling environment in which Jewish students feel isolated and unwelcome within their academic communities. Jewish students who express

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support for Israel or identify as Zionists often face social ostracization, verbal harassment, and, in some cases, outright physical threats.

These conditions have led to a pervasive sense of fear and insecurity among Jewish students, severely impacting their ability to fully participate in campus life. Universities must be held accountable for ensuring that Jewish students have the same protections and opportunities as their peers—and that academic institutions do not become breeding grounds for unchecked antisemitism.

Anti-Zionism has become a proxy for antisemitism, serving as an excuse to exclude and vilify Jewish people. Given that 90% of Jews worldwide support the Zionist vision of a Jewish state in Israel, this exclusion is nothing short of discrimination. In the wake of Hamas's October 7 attack, the level of harassment, discrimination, and violence against Jews in the United States and worldwide has escalated dramatically. Today, Jews are nearly twice as likely as the general public to fear for their personal safety, with over three-quarters of American Jews feeling less secure since the attacks and nearly half altering their behavior to avoid antisemitic incidents.

Congress has a moral and legal obligation to protect Jewish Americans from discrimination. We urge the swift passage of H.R. 1007, the **Antisemitism Awareness Act**, which will ensure that the Department of Education uses the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism when evaluating claims of antisemitic discrimination. Additionally, we urge other federal agencies to adopt the IHRA definition to ensure a consistent and comprehensive approach to combating antisemitism across all areas of government enforcement.

The United States has long stood as a beacon of religious freedom and equal opportunity. The alarming rise in antisemitism threatens these fundamental values and must not be tolerated. We urge the Committee and Congress to take decisive action in addressing this crisis and upholding the rights and protections of Jewish Americans.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to addressing this urgent issue. We appreciate your consideration of this submission.



Sincerely,

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