

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott:

As Jewish faculty members at Northwestern University, we write to express our grave concern regarding the Majority’s ongoing assault on higher education under the false pretense of combating antisemitism.

In light of the Chairman’s recent interview request to Northwestern University President Michael Schill, we write to bring your attention to a recent [statement](#) signed by more than 115 of our Jewish colleagues at Northwestern. The statement, attached to this letter, rejects the Secretary of Education’s depiction of “relentless antisemitic eruptions that have severely disrupted campus life for more than a year,” and Chairman Walberg’s claim of a “disturbing climate of antisemitism” on our campus. As we write, the federal government’s “unwarranted threats to our university... in the name of Jews is deeply offensive to us. We believe it should stop.”

Antisemitism is a serious problem in the United States and around the world. We welcome serious efforts to combat threats to the Jewish community. But, as we write, “we are united by the conviction that our Jewishness must not be used as a cudgel to silence the vigorous exchange of ideas that lies at the heart of university life. To punish Northwestern financially or to limit academic freedom in the name of protecting Jewish students could itself spark antisemitism – and would be an injustice to those very students and an injury to American society at large.”

Sincerely,



Shana Bernstein
Clinical Associate Professor of Legal Studies



Deborah Cohen
Richard W. Leopold Professor of History



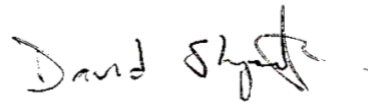
Sanford Goldberg
Chester Tripp Professor
Department of Philosophy



Adam Goodman
Clinical Professor
McCormick School of Engineering



Lilah Shapiro
Charles Deering McCormick
Distinguished Professor of Instruction
School of Education and Social Policy



David Shyovitz
Director of Jewish and Israel Studies
Associate Professor of History

cc: Members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce

The Honorable Joe Wilson
The Honorable Virginia Foxx
The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson
The Honorable Glenn Grothman
The Honorable Elise M. Stefanik
The Honorable Rick W. Allen
The Honorable James Comer
The Honorable Burgess Owens
The Honorable Lisa C. McClain
The Honorable Mary E. Miller
The Honorable Julia Letlow
The Honorable Kevin Kiley
The Honorable Michael A. Rulli
The Honorable James Moylan
The Honorable Robert F. Onder, Jr.
The Honorable Ryan Mackenzie
The Honorable Michael Baumgartner
The Honorable Mark Harris
The Honorable Mark B. Messmer
The Honorable Randy Fine
The Honorable Joe Courtney
The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
The Honorable Mark Takano
The Honorable Alma S. Adams
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The Honorable Donald Norcross

The Honorable Lucy McBath
The Honorable Jahana Hayes
The Honorable Ilhan Omar
The Honorable Haley M. Stevens
The Honorable Greg Casar
The Honorable Summer L. Lee
The Honorable John W. Mannion

[Statement enclosed on the next page.]

Statement from Jewish faculty and staff at Northwestern University

As Jewish faculty and staff at Northwestern University, we write today to defend the values of academic freedom, pluralism and independence that animate Northwestern and undergird its commitment to teaching, learning, and research. We write to dispel misconceptions that are being wielded by outsiders to weaken the university and harm our students. The fact that U.S. government leaders are making unwarranted threats to our university and stripping rights from students, faculty, and researchers nationwide in the name of Jews is deeply offensive to us. We believe it should stop.

In [announcing](#) Title VI investigations of 60 universities, including Northwestern, the U.S. secretary of education spoke of “relentless antisemitic eruptions that have severely disrupted campus life for more than a year.” As Jews who walk the campus every day and teach in its classrooms, we can reliably report that this depiction bears little resemblance to life at Northwestern. Some of us have been disappointed at times by Northwestern’s response to campus events. We recognize that antisemitism is present on college campuses, as it is in the world. Yet a fair-minded assessment would reveal a faculty and a university administration committed to the education of our students through rigorous and respectful debate.

We come from different points on the political compass. We express our identities as Jews in myriad ways. But we are united by the conviction that our Jewishness must not be used as a cudgel to silence the vigorous exchange of ideas that lies at the heart of university life. To punish Northwestern financially or to limit academic freedom in the name of protecting Jewish students could itself spark antisemitism — and would be an injustice to those very students and an injury to American society at large.

Signed:

1. Shana Bernstein, Legal Studies
2. Sanford Goldberg, Chester Tripp Professor, Department of Philosophy
3. Adam Goodman, Clinical Professor, McCormick School of Engineering
4. Lilah Shapiro, SESP
5. David Shyovitz, Director of Jewish and Israel Studies, Associate Professor of History
6. Ken Alder, Professor of History
7. Karen J. Alter, Norman Dwight Harris Professor of International Relations
8. Joe Bass FSM Professor of Medicine
9. Lisa Beutler, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine
10. Julie Biehl, Clinical Professor, Director Children and Family Justice Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law,
11. Jonathan Brack, Assistant Professor, History
12. Ann Bradlow, Abraham Harris Professor of Linguistics, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
13. Noah Chaskin, Assistant Professor of Instruction, English
14. Nate Cohen, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Instruction
15. Deborah Cohen, Leopold Professor of History
16. Richard A. Cohn, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics
17. Jonathan Copulsky, Senior Lecturer, Medill
18. David Dana, Professor, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
19. Zayd Dohrn, Professor, Radio/TV/Film
20. Jack Doppelt, Emeritus Professor in Journalism, Medill
21. David Dranove. Professor of Strategy. Kellogg School of Management
22. John Elson, Emeritus professor of law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
23. Steven Epstein, Professor of Sociology and John C. Shaffer Professor in the Humanities
24. Joshua Ewen, MD; Professor of Pediatrics, Feinberg School of Medicine
25. Michelle Falkoff, Clinical Professor of Law
26. Andrew Fano, Clinical Professor of Computer Science

27. Joe Feinglass, PhD, Research Professor of Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine
28. Peter Fenves, Professor of German
29. Alison Flaum, Clinical Professor, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
30. Ezra Friedman, Professor, Pritzker School of Law
31. Benjamin Frommer, Department of History
32. Ezra Getzler, Professor, Department of Mathematics
33. Danielle Gilbert, Assistant Professor, Political Science
34. Michal P. Ginsburg, Professor Emerita of French and Comparative Literature
35. Jonathon Glassman, Professor Emeritus, Department of History
36. Bennett Goldberg, Professor of Physics and Astronomy
37. Jeffery A. Goldstein, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology
38. Paul Goren, PhD, Director E4 Center, School of Education and Social Policy
39. Susannah Gottlieb, Professor of English and Comparative Literary Studies
40. Izzy Grosof, Assistant Professor, Industrial Engineering and Management Science
41. Devora Grynspan, Vice President for International Relations
42. Joshua Hauser, Professor, Department of Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine
43. Penny L. Hirsch, Prof. Emerita, Weinberg College
44. Lisa Hirschhorn, Professor in Medical Social Sciences, Feinberg School of Medicine
45. Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Professor of Religious Studies and Political Science
46. Daniel Immerwahr, Bergen Evans Professor in the Humanities, History Department
47. Emily Kadens, Williams Memorial Professor of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
48. Dean Karlan, Frederic Essel Nemmers Distinguished Professor of Economics and Finance
49. Ben Z. Katz, MD
50. Heidi Kitrosser, William W. Gurley Professor of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
51. Jonathan Koehler, Beatrice Kuhn Professor of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
52. Andrew Koppelman, John Paul Stevens Professor of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
53. Alex Kotlowitz, Professor, Medill
54. Bryna Kra. Sarah Rebecca Roland Professor of Mathematics
55. Debbie Kraus, Senior Director, Kellogg School of Management
56. Robert Launay, professor of anthropology
57. Jules Law, Professor, English
58. Donna R. Leff, Professor Emeritus, Journalism, Medill
59. Alissa Levy Chung, Associate Professor of Instruction, Psychology
60. Hilarie Lieb, Associate Professor of Instruction, Department of Economics Emerita
61. Joan Linsenmeier, Senior Lecturer Emerita, Psychology
62. Reba London, Associate Director, Alumni Relations and Development
63. Steven Lubet, Williams Memorial Professor Emeritus, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
64. Michael Maltenfort, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Weinberg Advising and Dept. of Mathematics
65. Jon Marshall, Associate Professor, Medill
66. Kate Masur, Professor of History
67. Sarah Maza. Professor Emerita of History
68. Joel Mokyr, Robert H. Strotz Professor of Arts and Sciences
69. Wendy Muchman, Professor of Practice, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
70. Shmuel Nili, Associate Professor, Political Science
71. Leslie Oster, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
72. Wendy Pearlman, Jane Long Professor of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Political Science
73. Abe Peck, Prof. Emeritus in Service, Medill
74. Michael Rakowitz, Alice Welsh Skilling Professor of Art, Department of Art Theory and Practice/MENA Studies
75. Martin H. Redish, Louis and Harriet Ancel Professor of Law and Public Policy, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law

76. Brian J. Reiser, Orrington Lunt Professor of Learning Sciences, SESP
77. Jeff Rice, Political Science
78. Leonard L. Riskin, Visiting Professor of Law, Northwestern U. Pritzker School of Law
79. Andrew Roberts, Associate Professor of Political Science, Northwestern University
80. Gabriel Rocklin, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology
81. Ariel Rogers, Associate Professor, School of Communication
82. Judy Rosenbaum, Clinical Professor of Law, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
83. Jesse Rosenberg, Clinical Associate Professor in Musicology
84. Laura Sauer-Shah, Bienen School of Music, Assistant Director of Admission
85. Joseph L. Schofer, Emeritus Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering
86. Sarah Schulman, Ralla Klepak Professor of English
87. Kenneth Seeskin, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy
88. Rebecca Seligman, Associate Professor, Dept. of Anthropology
89. Elisheva Shanes, MD
90. Gail Shapiro, Associate Professor of Instruction, Theatre Department, School of Communication
91. Nitasha Sharma, Professor, Asian American Studies and Black Studies
92. Mark Sheldon, Distinguished Senior Lecturer Emeritus, Department of Philosophy
93. Doron Shiffer-Sebba, Assistant Professor of Sociology
94. Shayna Silverstein, Associate Professor, Performance Studies, School of Communication
95. Eric Sirota, Clinical Associate Professor of Law, Tenant Advocacy Clinic
96. H. David Smith, Distinguished Senior Lecturer, Northwestern University
97. Alexandra H. Solomon, PhD, School of Education and Social Policy (SESP)
98. Lynn Spigel, Frances Willard Professor of Screen Cultures, RTVF
99. Peter Sporn, MD; Professor of Medicine, Cell and Developmental Biology, and Medical Education; Feinberg School of Medicine
100. Amy Stanley, Professor of History
101. Julia Stern, Henry Sanborn Noyes Professor of Literature, Department of English
102. Yael Tessler, Admin Assistant at CARE/HPaW
103. Debra Tolchinsky, Associate Professor, RTVF
104. Boris Tsygan Professor Department of Mathematics
105. Lauren S. Wakschlag, PhD, Professor, Department of Medical Social Sciences, Feinberg School of Medicine
106. Caryn Ward, Professor, Medill
107. Adriana Weisleder, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences & Disorders
108. Mimi White, Professor, Department of Radio/TV/Film
109. Barry Wimpfheimer, Associate Professor, Religious Studies and Law
110. Roy Wollen, Lecturer, Medill
111. Deborah Wood, retired, Writing Program
112. Jared Wunsch, Professor of Mathematics, Northwestern University
113. Sandy Zabell, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Northwestern University
114. Anne Zald, Government Information Librarian, Northwestern University Libraries
115. David Zarefsky, Owen L. Coon Professor Emeritus of Argumentation and Debate, School of Communication
116. Eric Zaslow, Henry S. Noyes Chair in Mathematics, Department of Mathematics
117. Cliff Zimmerman, Professor of Practice, Pritzker School of Law
118. Richard Zinbarg, Professor, Psychology Department