

Chairman Walberg, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Just half a year ago I served in the Florida House of Representatives.

I never in my wildest imagination would have thought I would be an America's newest Jewish Republican Congressman.

But God has the plan for us all.

I grew up the victim of rampant systemic physical antisemitism, where it was not safe for me to eat in the cafeteria, with the other students. Where the brave school principal saved my life by letting me hide in his office when I needed to - facing violence 12-years old never should have to.

On the day on my Bar Mitzva I promise I would do anything that I could to make sure my children did not face what I did.

And for my eight years in the Florida Legislature, I worked hard to deliver that promise to make Florida to be safest place in America to be Jewish.

In my state, people gave me the name Hebrew Hammer. It was not something I chose for myself. I wear it with pride, because it was earned over years of standing up for Jewish students and families when others stayed silent. For years, I fought against the rising hate, even as that fight brought threats not only to me, but to my wife and my children.

Florida was the first state to adapt IHRA definition of antisemitism, to name CAIR a terrorist organization, to ensure Jewish day schools have adequate security and to make sure terrorist encampments could never took hold of Florida Universities.

Every one of those was my bill.

I share this because antisemitism has touched the people I represent and the people I love - and because of that, my fight against antisemitism will not end. Not now. Not ever.

Today, we are witnessing an explosion of antisemitism in America unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes.

And nowhere is it more visible, and more dangerous, than on the college campuses.

Jewish students don't feel safe.

I wear the kippa now – something I did not do before. It's a new habit of mine at my son's request because of all the students who don't feel protected wearing theirs.

And we need to face the hard truth. What we are witnessing is not mere political disagreement. It is calculated targeted hostility.

It is Jewish students being hunted across campuses: followed, threatened, blocked from buildings, shouted down, excluded from student life, physically attacked and assaulted.

We have watched Jewish students barricade themselves inside libraries for safety.

We have watched mobs gather outside dormitory doors.

And we have heard chants that openly call for violence against Jews.

And at far too many institutions, the response has been inadequate, inconsistent, or entirely absent.

That is why I am here today to ask you to consider my bill - legislation modeled directly on the law I passed in Florida, a law that is already protecting students every day.

My bill is simple and straightforward; it does two things:

FIRST: It adopts the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

The IHRA definition is the international gold standard used by the U.S. State Department, every major Jewish organization, and democratic nations.

Without a definition, you cannot enforce the law.

You cannot track hate.

You cannot stop it.

The IHRA definition makes things clear. It shows exactly what antisemitism is and stops schools from pretending they don't understand it.

The SECOND thing my bill does is it directs institutions to treat antisemitism the same way they treat racism.

And that matters.

Because for years, universities have built vast bureaucracies to police every form of bigotry, except the one Jews actually face.

If a student were targeted for their race or gender, we know exactly how a university would react.

But when the victim is Jewish, we suddenly get committees, task forces, statements, and more often – absolutely nothing.

My bill ends that double standard.

If you target a student because they are Jewish, it will be treated the same way as if you targeted them because they are Black or Hispanic or Asian.

In Florida, we passed this law with overwhelming bipartisan support, and we have seen immediate impact:

Universities updated their codes of conduct.

Administrators know exactly what qualifies as antisemitism.

Jewish students have a mechanism to report hate that will actually be acted on.

And incidents that were previously ignored are now taken seriously, investigated, and addressed.

Higher education institutions have a responsibility to protect every student. And right now, too many are failing Jewish students. That needs to be stopped.

No student in America should have to choose between getting an education and being safe because of who they are.

Not one.

And if the universities do not fix this themselves - then we in Congress have a responsibility to act.

I passed this law in Florida because Jewish students were being targeted and no one was doing enough.

Today, Jewish students across the country are facing the same threat.

I have a bill that works.

Florida proves it. We see clarity. Accountability. And safety.

It's time to extend it nationwide.

I am preparing to introduce this legislation, and once it's filed, I'm ready to work with you and every Member to bring it across the finish line.