

MORE ANTISEMITISM SCRUTINY? Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), the House education committee's ranking member, wants to know if the panel is probing the recent string of alleged incidents of antisemitism on college campuses — particularly those committed by college Republicans, Mackenzie writes in.

Scott sent a letter to Chair Tim Walberg (R-Mich.) on Friday asking about a potential hearing into the issue. The letter comes as colleges are once again seeing heightened tensions on their campuses driven by the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and the U.S.-Israel attacks in Iran.

Under Walberg and former Chair Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), the committee spent the past couple of years probing the rise of antisemitism on college campuses since the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas, which sparked high-profile hearings, several resignations of college presidents and countless oversight letters.

Given these events, Scott pressed Walberg to consider scrutinizing reports of college Republicans carrying out acts of antisemitism and to keep him posted if there are any plans to call a hearing or draft an oversight letter on these incidents.

“I have consistently imparted to you and former Chairwoman Foxx my concern that the Committee is the wrong venue to address these

issues, and that when students' rights are violated, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) should investigate and take action. However, Committee hearings and investigations continued," Scott wrote. "As such, I want to ensure you are aware that there have been recent reports of antisemitic activity in and around U.S. colleges and universities, and that the Committee has yet to hold a hearing on them."

Scott pointed to an incident at the University of Florida, where a photo allegedly shows a member of the school's College Republicans group making a Nazi salute. There's currently an ongoing free speech lawsuit over the university's decision to disband the group (a federal judge declined to reinstate it while litigation proceeds).

Scott also noted the leaked chats of Young Republican groups reported by POLITICO that included a host of antisemitic, racist and violent rhetoric, among other incidents on college campuses.

Walberg denounced antisemitism and noted that panel Republicans condemned the incident at the University of Florida in a social media post earlier this year. He encouraged Democrats to join Republicans in calling out antisemitism across the political spectrum.

"We condemn antisemitism. Period. Because it is wrong no matter who's doing it. Don't forget, we called out, publicly, University of Florida College Republicans," Walberg said in a statement to POLITICO. "It was the Democrats who spent the last two years making excuses for it when it was coming from campus groups on the left. Remember also, unlike the liberal Ivy League universities the University of Florida suspended its radical students and organizations. If Democrats have decided they're interested in a consistent standard, we're thrilled they're ready to join us. Better late than never."

The bigger picture: Scott's letter comes four days after the Anti-Defamation League said it was "alarmed by a sharp escalation in disruptive and exclusionary activity on college campuses as the 2025-26 academic year comes to a close," citing what has transpired in colleges over the past week, including at Swarthmore College, the University of Michigan and The New School.

"These developments echo patterns seen in Spring 2024, when campuses experienced a surge in encampments and related disruptions that many institutions were unprepared to manage," the Jewish advocacy group noted.

ADL's statement came one day before it released a report noting that though 2025 was the "third-highest year on record for antisemitic incidents" nationwide, they dropped substantially from

2024 levels — including on college and university campuses, where incidents fell by 66 percent.

“Efforts to address this activity appear to have had a meaningful impact, reducing not only the volume of antisemitic messaging on campuses, but also making those campuses safer for Jewish students and community members,” the report said.

Walberg slammed campus leaders for “doing virtually nothing to stop” the “rampant harassment” Jewish students and faculty continue to face since Oct. 7.

“The incompetence — or indifference — of university leaders to these incidents only emboldens campus radicals and endangers students who are persecuted for their Jewish identity or religious beliefs,” Walberg said in a statement Thursday. “That is deeply shameful.”

Universities are in “better positions” now to handle these incidents and disruptions, said Shira Goodman, ADL’s vice president of advocacy. Procedures to open and handle complaints about bias have improved. And with pressure coming from Jewish groups, Congress and the administration, incidents have gone down. But that doesn’t mean that the threat of antisemitism is gone, she told your host.

“I think it requires continued vigilance, continued commitment to enforcement of these good policies, which I believe strongly don’t just benefit members of the Jewish community on campus, but all members of the campus community,” Goodman added.

Kenneth L. Marcus, chair and CEO of the Brandeis Center, echoed ADL’s findings, adding that they “continue to see anti-Semitic incidents at historically high levels, even if they are not quite as high as the recent peak we saw in 2024,” with reports coming from K-12 schools and other areas, including unions and healthcare facilities.

“The silver lining is that the fight-back is now stronger than ever; the Brandeis Center has grown exponentially, and we now have an ever-increasing group of allied organizations to work with,” he said in a statement.