



June 2, 2026

The Honorable Rick Allen
Chairman
House Education and Workforce
Subcommittee on Health, Employment,
Labor & Pensions
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member
House Education and Workforce
Subcommittee on Health, Employment,
Labor & Pensions
United States House of Representatives

Re: Bad Medicine: Politics, Unions, and Antisemitism in Health Care

Dear Chairman Rick Allen, Ranking Member Mark DeSaulnier and Members of the House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor & Pensions Committee:

On behalf of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, we write to express our deep concern over the alarming rise in antisemitism in the United States, including antisemitism in healthcare. We thank the Subcommittee for recognizing this critical issue and taking the time to hear from members of the Jewish community who are being impacted by this hate during the May 20th hearing, *Bad Medicine: Politics, Unions, and Antisemitism in Health Care*.

Hadassah is the largest women's Zionist and Jewish women's volunteer organization in the United States, with nearly 300,000 members in nearly every congressional district. Hadassah is proud to have a strong US-based membership that includes nearly 5,000 physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and other healthcare professionals. Hadassah also owns and operates a Jerusalem-based hospital system, Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO). Hadassah hospitals' diverse staff conduct cutting-edge medical research and provide lifesaving care to more than one million patients annually, serving as a beacon of healing, teaching and research for patients of every race, ethnicity, religion and background.

As has been widely reported, antisemitism has risen at an alarming rate in the aftermath of Hamas' brutal terrorist attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. Less widely reported is that this hatred has also permeated the healthcare arena, impacting both patients and providers. A 2024 [study](#) published in the Journal of Religion and Health found that [more than twice](#) as many Jewish health professionals reported antisemitic experiences after the events of October 7, 2023, compared with before.

Not only is antisemitism in the health arena rising, but it is now occurring widely across the country. A survey published by the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* found that nearly [40%](#) of Jewish health professionals reported experiencing antisemitism in their workplace environments yet few organizations include antisemitism as part of their anti-bias training. Among the different healthcare settings, academic medical centers – where our nation’s future physicians, nurses and other health professionals receive much of their training – are seeing the greatest rise in antisemitism. A 2025 study found that [63.8%](#) of those who experienced antisemitism in medicine were affiliated with academic medical centers.

Another area of great concern involves social media and healthcare publications. In a study published in the *Journal of Religion and Health* exploring antisemitism in social media and medical publications, the study authors reported that [75%](#) of Jewish health professionals and medical students had been exposed to antisemitism and that antisemitic tropes in social media posts had increased two- to four-fold.

While providers are being affected by antisemitism in professional schools, curricula, professional associations and collegial forums, patients are also facing antisemitism in healthcare settings. This hatred has no place in medical care. Every patient must have a right to respectful medical treatment without fear of reprisal, regardless of their religion, culture, race or ethnicity. Hadassah’s hospitals in Jerusalem – the only American-owned hospitals in Israel -- pride themselves on treating all patients with dignity and respect without regard to race, religion, ethnicity or nationality and strive to cultivate a diverse workplace that models this as well. This is essential to quality patient care.

In the United States, respect for others and the forging of a relationship of trust between providers and patients are core components of being a competent and effective healthcare professional and a key part of health professional training. The [American Medical Association Code of Ethics](#) specifically states: “The health and well-being of patients depends on a collaborative effort between patient and physician in a mutually respectful alliance. Patients contribute to this alliance when they fulfill responsibilities they have, to seek care and to be candid with their physicians.”

Medical students take mandatory bioethics courses that emphasize respecting patient autonomy, informed consent, and understanding that patients have the right to make their own healthcare decisions. Medical school curricula emphasize patient-centered interviewing. Students learn practical skills such as delivering bad news compassionately, breaking down cultural or gender biases, and respecting different belief systems regarding health. Nurses, psychologists, social workers, and other health professionals also undergo rigorous training in treating patients with respect, compassion, and human dignity.

Yet, despite this training and professional ethics codes, antidiscrimination laws such as Title VI and Title VII, and healthcare facilities’ own guidelines for appropriate conduct, Jewish therapists have been blacklisted and health professionals and students have flooded social media with antisemitic commentary. The Committee of Interns and

Residents, the largest house staff union in the United States for resident physicians and fellows, passed a resolution supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and accusing Israel of genocide. During a Capitol Hill briefing, a Jewish therapist [reported](#) that some professionals in the mental health space are pushing a theory known as “decolonizing therapy” in which Jews are treated as oppressors in therapeutic settings and Zionism is treated as a disease.

Also in the mental health arena, members of a Chicago-area Facebook group [attempted to “blacklist” Jewish and Zionist professionals](#) by adding the names of Jewish providers to a list of therapists who practice “white supremacy via Zionism.” Meanwhile, leaders of the American Psychological Association (APA), the largest professional organization of psychologists in the country, failed to hold members and leaders accountable for expressions or acts of hatred that would seem to violate psychology ethical or professional licensing standards. Specific incidents reportedly include emails or social media posts filled with extreme, inflammatory rhetoric, such as glorifying Hamas and the Intifada and conference speakers justifying violence against Jews and Israelis.

What is occurring in the field of mental health is not an anomaly. On listservs maintained by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), for example, hateful antisemitic and anti-Israel rhetoric broke out after the AAP issued a strong statement against antisemitism.

These statements, actions and behaviors among professional associations and their members are not harmless. With increasing frequency, Jews who define their identity as part of a people with an ancestral connection to Israel are disparaged, bullied and shunned. The mental health toll on Jewish health professionals has been significant as they experience exclusion, hatred and relentless personal attacks from colleagues in professional forums. It affects them personally and professionally, affecting opportunities for their health professional education and advancement, as well as patient care.

Several recent reports have documented how American Jews are feeling less safe following October 7, 2023. In 2024, Hadassah found that [over 50%](#) of women surveyed have taken steps to hide their Jewish identity. When Jewish patients feel that they must conceal their religious or ethnic identity out of fear of discrimination, bias or hostility, they risk disrupting a fully open and honest relationship with their healthcare providers.

Hadassah has heard from patients and providers who have experienced antisemitism in medicine. One woman shared, *“I work in a predominantly non-Jewish community for a dentist. I’ve had several new patients cancel when they found out the doctor (my husband) and I were Jewish.”* Another shared, *“My medical care is at a university hospital, where anti-Israel demonstrations have taken place. I worry about who is treating me, what their beliefs are, and how it might affect my medical care.”*

This can have direct consequences on their quality of care. The healthcare system has recognized that race is associated with genetic ancestry, which may affect [disease and](#)

[health outcomes](#). For example, people of Ashkenazi Jewish descent have a [greater chance](#) of carrying a BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutation, critical information for a healthcare provider to be aware of when screening for breast cancer. When patients are afraid to disclose their identity, it directly impacts their quality of care.

Hadassah will always stand up to antisemitism, advocate for change and empower Jewish and Zionist women to take pride in and celebrate their identities.

Antisemitism, like all forms of hatred, puts everyone at risk. Physicians and other healthcare providers have a legal, moral and ethical responsibility to rise above hatred, treat each other with respect and care for all patients equally. Hate and discrimination have no place in healthcare, whether in interactions between professionals, instructors and students, or providers and patients. Jewish patients have a right to respectful medical treatment, without fear of reprisal. Jewish healthcare providers have a right to work in environments free from discrimination and harassment based on their faith, culture or ethnicity.

Hadassah extends our gratitude to the Subcommittee for convening this hearing and listening to the concerns of Jewish professionals, and we urge Congress to take action to hold individuals and organizations accountable for acts of antisemitism that violate ethical and antidiscrimination standards and laws.

Sincerely,



Carol Ann Schwartz
National President, Hadassah



Ellen Finkelstein
Chief Executive Office, Hadassah