

**Testimony of The Honorable Kathy Manning (NC-06)**

**Member Day Hearing**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**November 3, 2023**

Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Nadler, and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate this opportunity to testify before you. I would be grateful to work together with all members of this Committee, on both sides of the aisle, to help strengthen our fight against antisemitism and all forms of hate.

I am here today as a proud co-chair of the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism, together with Representative Chris Smith of New Jersey and six other colleagues on both sides of the aisle, including Representative Ted Lieu, a member of this Committee.

As you know, in recent years, but especially since October 7th, we have witnessed an unprecedented increase in antisemitic incidents and threats targeting Jews in synagogues, on college campuses, and all around the country. The Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland, and the Director of the FBI have all reported an increase in threats against Jewish communities in the United States; and the Anti-Defamation League has recorded an astonishing 388 percent increase in antisemitic incidents since Hamas' brutal attack on Israel.

The United States has a longstanding, bipartisan commitment to the fight against antisemitism. I am here today to urge the Committee to take concrete steps to help counter this rise in antisemitism by improving hate crimes reporting, strengthening DOJ civil rights protections, and implementing key provisions of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.

First, to prevent terrible, antisemitic hate crimes against Americans, we must begin by getting accurate, nationwide data on the threat. As you know, since Congress passed the Hate Crime Statistics Act in 1990, the FBI has collected and reported annual statistics on all hate crimes, including those motivated by religious bias. Last month, the FBI released its 2022 Hate Crime Statistics. This data showed a troubling reality: that anti-Jewish hate crime incidents increased at least 25% from 2021 to 2022, the highest recorded number in decades.

As concerning as the data is, we know that it remains incomplete. That is because 1) law enforcement participation remains voluntary, rather than mandatory, and 2) because many agencies are struggling to transition from the old crime data collection system to the new, National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

I'm glad that Congress passed the NO HATE Act to provide grants to help incentivize law enforcement agencies to improve and transition hate crimes reporting. However, I believe that this Committee can do much more to eliminate the gaps that remain by requiring all law enforcement agencies to report hate crimes data to the FBI.

Second, I believe Congress can and must do more to help support the FBI's investigation, and DOJ's prosecution of antisemitic and other hate crimes. In addition to a rise in threats to the Jewish community, we recently witnessed a horrific incident in Illinois in which a Muslim-American family was attacked by their landlord who stabbed a 6-year-old boy to death, which the FBI's Chicago Field office is currently investigating as a potential hate crime. The Bureau is also currently investigating a sickening series of threats posted over the weekend targeting the Jewish students at Cornell University. This Monday, the DOJ announced it had charged a man who threatened to kill our colleague, Senator Jacky Rosen of Nevada, one of the strongest leaders in the fight to combat antisemitism. We must do more to help deter and prosecute hate crimes.

That is why last week, the House and Senate Bipartisan Task Forces for Combating Antisemitism led a letter from 64 Members of Congress to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and FBI Director Christopher Wray, urging them to provide immediate resources to help protect the safety and security of Jewish Americans, Jewish religious and educational institutions, and organizations that are vulnerable to increased threats and violence.

Finally, I encourage the Committee to help implement key aspects of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. Last year, my colleagues and I led more than 125 members of Congress in a bipartisan, bicameral effort to call for such a national strategy, and we have played a leading role in its development. This Strategy, which the White House released in May, is the first comprehensive, whole-of-society effort to fight antisemitism.

Given the recent spike in antisemitism, it is critical that we swiftly implement, authorize, and codify key aspects of the strategy, especially so that Congress can hold every agency accountable for the commitments they've made. So, we are working on bipartisan legislation to do just that, and I look forward to working with members of this Committee on it.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, thank you for your work on this Committee and in Congress to help fight the scourge of antisemitism. I am grateful for your time today and look forward to working together with you and members of both parties to better protect the Jewish community, and counter antisemitism and hate.