

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2023

To the Members of the Governing Boards,
Harvard University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Pennsylvania

Dear Members of the Governing Board:

On October 7th the world witnessed Hamas terrorists perpetrate the deadliest attack against the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

In the weeks since, there has been an explosion of antisemitic incidents in the United States and around the world. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has recorded 1,481 antisemitic incidents—292 of which occurred on college and university campuses—a nearly 300% increase relative to the same period last year.

Jewish students should have found comfort on their campuses. Instead, many Jewish and Israeli students have faced an increasingly hostile educational environment, in the form of targeted harassment, protesters calling for the elimination of the Jewish state, and even acts of violence. According to a recent survey by ADL and Hillel International, 73% of Jewish college students surveyed have experienced or witnessed some form of antisemitism on campus since the beginning of the school year. This is unacceptable. Antisemitism has been allowed to fester on campuses for years, and in the wake of the October 7th attack, the world is witnessing the consequences.

This is a clear result of the failure of university leadership. To hold universities accountable, Congress held a hearing on confronting campus antisemitism. Testimony provided by presidents of your institutions showed a complete absence of moral clarity and illuminated the problematic double standards and dehumanization of the Jewish communities that your university presidents enabled.

The university presidents' responses to questions aimed at addressing the growing trend of antisemitism on college and university campuses were abhorrent. When pushed on whether calling for the genocide of Jews violates university policies on bullying or harassment, Presidents Gay (Harvard), Kornbluth (MIT), and Magill (Penn) were evasive and dismissive, failing to simply condemn such action. This should have been an easy and resounding “yes.”

Instead, they shocked the world. MIT President Kornbluth responded that calling for the genocide of Jews at MIT would only be considered harassment if it was “targeted at individuals, not making public statements” and if it was “pervasive and severe.”

UPenn President Magill stated, after smiling, that “it is a context-dependent decision.” When pushed again for a “yes” or “no” answer, does calling for the genocide of Jews violate the code

of conduct at UPenn, President Magill shockingly responded, “If the speech becomes conduct. It can be harassment, yes.”

Finally, Harvard President Claudine Gay insisted that it “depends on the context” whether calling for the genocide of Jews violated Harvard’s rules of bullying.

There is no context in which calls for the genocide of Jews are acceptable rhetoric. Their failure to unequivocally condemn calls for the systematic murder of Jews is deeply alarming. It stands in stark contrast to the principles we expect leaders of top academic institutions to uphold. It is hard to imagine any Jewish or Israeli student, faculty, or staff feeling safe when presidents of your member institutions could not say that calls for the genocide of Jews would have clear consequences on your campus.

Some of your presidents took to social media to clarify their responses after excessive public backlash. They confirmed their opposition to genocide — which should not have required clarification — but offered little clarity on your campus’ true commitment to protecting vulnerable students in this moment of crisis. These desperate attempts to try and save their jobs by condemning genocide are too little too late. It should not take public backlash nor 24 hours of reflection to realize that calling for genocide is unacceptable.

There must be accountability for those who threaten, harass, or incite violence toward the Jewish community and clear guidelines for college campuses. If calls for genocide of the Jewish people are not in violation of your universities’ policies, then your universities are operating under a clear double standard.

Considering this, we are compelled to ask whether the testimony provided by your university presidents aligns with the values and policies of your respective institutions. The leadership of top universities plays a pivotal role in shaping the moral compass of our future leaders. It is critically important that such leadership reflects a clear and unwavering commitment to combating antisemitism, along with all forms of hate speech and bigotry.

Given this moment of crisis, we demand that your boards immediately remove each of these presidents from their positions and that you provide an actionable plan to ensure that Jewish and Israeli students, teachers, and faculty are safe on your campuses. Anything less than these steps will be seen as your endorsement of what Presidents Gay, Magill, and Kornbluth said to Congress and an act of complicity in their antisemitic posture. The world is watching – you can stand with your Jewish students and faculty, or you can choose the side of dangerous antisemitism.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Elise M. Stefanik

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

Jared Moskowitz

Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress

Steve Scalise

Steve Scalise
Majority Leader

Mary E. Miller

Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress

Keith Self

Keith Self
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Lisa C. McClain

Lisa C. McClain
Member of Congress

Russell Fry

Russell Fry
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Erin Houchin

Erin Houchin
Member of Congress

Andy Barr

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra

Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



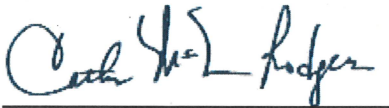
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



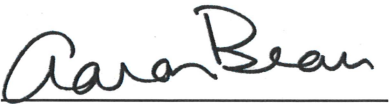
John Rose
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



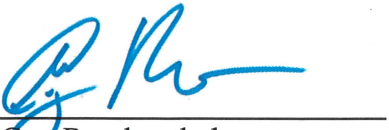
Steve Womack
Member of Congress



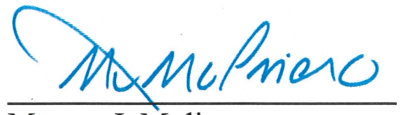
Aaron Bean
Member of Congress



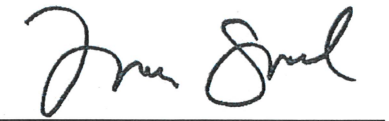
Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



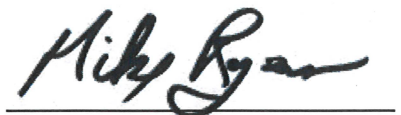
Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



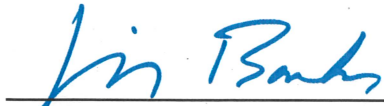
Marcus J. Molinaro
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



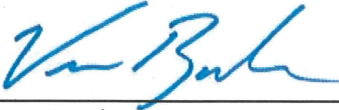
Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Mike Collins
Member of Congress



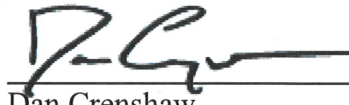
Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



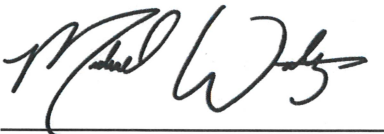
Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



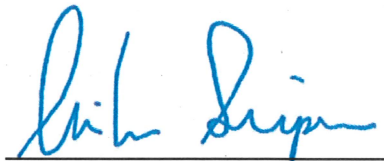
Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



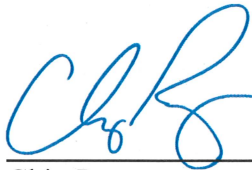
Gary J. Palmer
Member of Congress



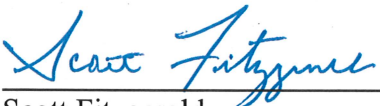
Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



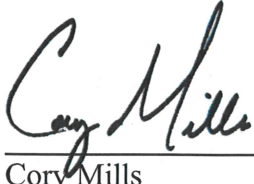
Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



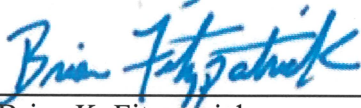
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Cory Mills
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



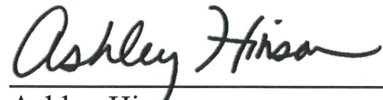
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



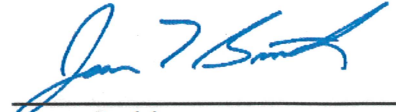
Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



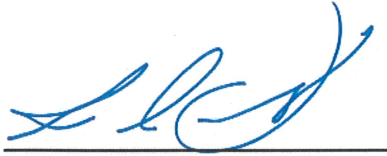
Stephanie L. Bice
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



John S. Duarte
Member of Congress



Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



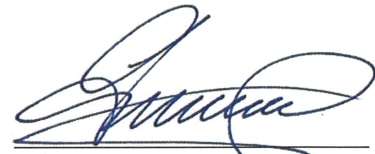
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Carlos Gimenez
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



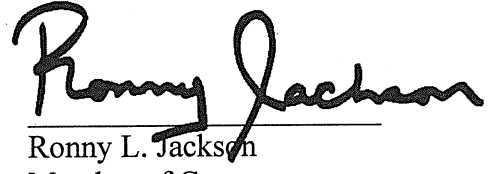
Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



Mike Ezell
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress