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**ADL Foundation**

Michael Sheetz, President

July 10, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Rules Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
Ranking Member  
House Rules Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member McGovern:

Since 1913, the mission of ADL (Anti-Defamation League) has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” ADL is dedicated to combating antisemitism, extremism, and hate in all forms -- from across the ideological spectrum. For decades, ADL has fought against bigotry and antisemitism by monitoring and exposing extremist groups and movements that spread hate and commit acts of violence.

Rising [antisemitism](#), hate, and extremism threaten the safety of all communities and institutions – and our military is no exception. Amid this growing threat, ADL has [documented](#) attempted recruitment from and targeting of government institutions such as the military. This puts our military in danger.

Instances of extremism within the military, as well as forms of hate including antisemitism, are not representative of most military personnel, who are committed to upholding the values of their respective services and their oath to the Constitution. But even a small number of extremists in the ranks causes harm far disproportionate to their number.

Unchecked extremism within the military has repeatedly [been shown to cause serious problems](#): physical harm to servicemembers and civilians, security breaches, and harm to morale, unit cohesion, personnel retention, recruiting efforts, and mission success. There have been [numerous arrests](#) in recent years of members of the military for crimes tied to a range of extremist ideologies, from Islamist extremism to white supremacy to anti-government militia groups.

We urge you to ensure that the Department of Defense is sufficiently protecting our military, its personnel, and our national security from the growing threat posed by antisemitism, extremism, and hate. We must support the Department in overcoming these challenges, instead of undermining programs and training that ensure the success of the military’s forces and operations.

To help protect our military and our country from antisemitism and violent extremism, we write to urge the House Committee on Rules to *support* and make the following amendments to the FY2024 NDAA in order:

## Protect Against Antisemitism and Extremism

- **#775, Sponsored by Reps. Kathy Manning (NC), Chris Smith (NJ), and Brian Fitzpatrick (PA):** Requires the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the Department of Defense's implementation of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.
- **#149, Sponsored by Rep. Pat Ryan (NY):** Requires the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the role of antisemitism in violent extremist movements, and the threat that global antisemitism and violent extremist movements pose to United States Armed Forces and national security.
- **#219, Sponsored by Rep. Pat Ryan (NY):** Requires the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, working with intelligence components, to produce an assessment of the relationship between antisemitism and national security threats.
- **#244, Sponsored by Reps. Steven Horsford (NV), Josh Gottheimer (NJ), and Terri Sewell (AL):** Establishes a Countering Violent Extremism Office within the Department of Defense.
- **#443, Sponsored by Reps. Jared Moskowitz (FL), and Brad Schneider (IL):** Provides a public audit on the status and efficiency of antisemitism training within the Department of Defense.
- **#580, Sponsored by Reps. Josh Gottheimer (NJ) and Mike Lawler (NY):** Requires each military service to report on all substantiated administrative investigations or instances of antisemitism within the Equal Opportunity Program.
- **#740, Sponsored by Rep. Grace Meng (NY):** Requires a report on the status of the Secretary of Defense's updates to relevant policies concerning prohibited activities, including how it is using existing authorities to ensure compliance with these updated policies for Service members who have been found to have engaged in prohibited extremist activities.
- **#761, Sponsored by Reps. Brad Schneider (IL), Pete Aguilar (CA), Dina Titus (NV), Wiley Nickel (NC), and Jared Moskowitz (FL):** Requires Department of Defense to update the recommendations in its December 2021 Report on Countering Extremist Threats Within the Department of Defense.
- **#852, Sponsored by Rep. Jared Moskowitz (FL):** Designates a lead official within Department of Defense who shall be responsible for coordinating all department efforts to identify, monitor, and combat antisemitism within the US Armed Forces.
- **#974, Sponsored by Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD):** Requires the Department of Defense to develop and implement training to address threat indicators and recruitment tactics associated with white supremacist extremism.
- **#1108, Sponsored by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX):** Directs the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress in not less than 180 days the results of its evaluation as to the extent, if any, of the threat to national security posed by domestic terrorist groups and organizations motivated by a belief system of white supremacy.
- **#1027, Sponsored by Rep. Jared Moskowitz (FL):** Requires each military service branch to report on actions to support Jewish American Heritage Month.

## Address Online Harassment

- **#1369, Sponsored by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL):** Directs several agencies to conduct a threat assessment of wide spread cyber harassment conducted by malicious foreign actors.
- **#691, Sponsored by Rep. Haley Stevens (MI):** Establishes a Department of Defense program to provide digital literacy skills to members of the armed services to identify and mitigate internal threat vulnerabilities related to antisemitic, white supremacist, and extremist conspiracy theories.
- **#696, Sponsored by Reps. Josh Gottheimer (NJ) and Mike Lawler (NY):** Requires the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to report to Congress on the use of online social media by U.S. State Department-designated foreign terrorist organizations, and the threat posed to U.S. national security by online radicalization.
- **#1044, Sponsored by Rep. Lori Trahan (MA):** Establishes a Commission to study the rise in extremism, including domestic and international terrorism, in relation to video games and game-adjacent platforms.
- **#309, Sponsored by Rep. Eric Swalwell (CA):** Requires the State Department, in consultation with other relevant departments, to update the comprehensive strategy to promote internet freedom and access to information in Iran. The Comprehensive strategy was required by Section 414 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012.

## Combat Global Hate

- **#826, Sponsored by Rep. Bill Keating (MA):** Requires public release of the strategy to address white identity terrorism as required by PL116-283 and requires an additional report on progress to implement the strategy and necessary resources needed for such implementation.
- **#1262, Sponsored by Rep. Bill Keating (MA):** Authorizes funds to be transferred to counter racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism (REMVE).
- **#141, Sponsored by Reps. Lois Frankel (FL) and Joe Wilson (SC):** Reauthorizes the United States-Israel International Development Cooperation Act to provide cooperative projects among the United States, Israel, and developing countries.
- **#195, Sponsored by Reps. Katie Porter (CA) and Maria Salazar (FL):** Requires the President to issue a report to Congress within 120 days of the enactment of this Act to outline Administration policy related to human rights, nuclear proliferation, the ballistic missile program, and regional terrorism in Iran.
- **#561, Sponsored by Reps. Guy Reschenthaler (PA), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA), Josh Gottheimer (NJ):** Requires DOD to submit to Congress a report on whether any products sold at commissary or exchange stores in fiscal years 2022 or 2023 were produced by companies that have participated in a boycott action against the State of Israel.

- **#1243, Sponsored by Rep. Ogles (TN):** Orders the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense to produce a joint report detailing the extent to which any Major Non NATO Ally (MNNA) has provided financial support for designated foreign terrorist organizations, as well as whether any MNNA has permitted the use of state-owned institutions to promote terrorist propaganda or antisemitism.

We also urge you to *oppose* any amendments that undermine the military's ability to ensure the civil rights, safety, and equitable treatment of servicemembers, and further compromise the effectiveness of the force.

Addressing extremism and antisemitism is not about a political or ideological litmus test, but practical threats to the operations and values of the U.S. military.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Sevilla', written over a horizontal line.

Max Sevilla  
Senior Vice President, National Affairs  
ADL (Anti-Defamation League)