

June 7, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Chairman Aderholt:

As you finalize appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 in your chambers, the undersigned national Jewish organizations, which reflect the depth and breadth of American Jewish life, are united in asking your urgent support to combat growing antisemitism on university campuses. Specially, we urge you to provide the highest possible funding to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) so that it can be empowered with the resources it needs to protect the safety and civil rights of every student.

Jewish students have been experiencing rising antisemitism on their campuses for too long, and after October 7th, reports skyrocketed. ADL has since tracked more than 700 antisemitic incidents on college and university campuses,<sup>1</sup> and, according to a recent ADL and Hillel International study, nearly three-quarters of Jewish college students experienced or witnessed antisemitism in the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year. What is more, less than half (46 percent) of Jewish students reported feeling physically safe on their campuses,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2023>

falling from two thirds (66.6 percent) before October 7.<sup>2</sup> According to AJC, one in five current or recent Jewish students, including parents of current or recent college students, reported feeling or being excluded from a group or event because they are Jewish.<sup>3</sup>

OCR enforces civil rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. Right now, OCR is facing a surge in reported cases, with a caseload of more than 100 Title VI investigations since October 7, including cases raising concern regarding discriminatory harassment of Jewish students on college and university campuses. They are grappling with the highest number of complaints in their history while the number of full-time staff has decreased by over 10%.<sup>4</sup>

OCR has demonstrated a clear commitment to investigating these complaints and is also doing critical work educating students and institutions of higher education about federal civil rights laws, how students can file complaints, and what resources exist for students, colleges and universities.

It is Congress's responsibility to ensure that OCR has the resources it needs to conduct immediate and robust investigations into these complaints. OCR cannot protect the rights, safety, and wellbeing of students if it does not have adequate resources to appropriately investigate and respond to its increased caseload.

We urge you to include robust funding in the upcoming Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bills to ensure the Department of Education has the necessary resources to address growing antisemitism on campus.

Sincerely,

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)  
Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority  
Alpha Epsilon Pi  
American Jewish Committee  
B'nai B'rith International  
Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM)  
Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Hillel International  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Federations of North America  
Jewish Grad Organization (JGO)  
Jewish on Campus  
Olami

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/campus-antisemitism-study-campus-climate-and-after-hamas-terrorist-attacks>

<sup>3</sup> [New AJC Report: 46% of American Jews Altered Behavior Out of Fear of Antisemitism | AJC](#)

<sup>4</sup> [FY 2023 Annual Report - Report to THE PRESIDENT and SECRETARY OF EDUCATION](#)

National Council of Jewish Women  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity  
Sigma Delta Tau  
StandWithUs  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America  
Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity  
Zionist Organization of America (ZOA)