# FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN, AND CEO THE LOUIS D. BRANDEIS CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER LAW "CONFRONTING THE RISE OF DOMESTIC ANTISEMITIC VIOLENCE: PROTECTING

JEWISH AMERICANS FROM ANTI-ZIONIST EXTREMISM" TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY OF HON. KENNETH L. MARCUS

JUNE 24, 2025

CHAIRMAN JORDAN, RANKING MEMBER RASKIN, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

I am honored to appear before you today at this hearing on "Confronting the Rise of Domestic Antisemitic Violence: Protecting Jewish Americans from Anti-Zionist Extremism." My name is Kenneth L. Marcus. I am the Chairman and CEO of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, which I founded to advance the civil and human rights of the Jewish people and promote justice for all. Through both education and litigation, the Brandeis Center partners with Jewish students, employees, and everyday Americans across the country to combat anti-Semitism and protect their civil rights under federal law. Additionally, I am a former Assistant U.S. Secretary of Education for Civil Rights, Staff Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and General Deputy Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

### I. The Rise of Anti-Semitic Violence in the United States

In recent weeks, America has reeled from a drumbeat of lethal anti-Semitic violence that has surged from campus encampments into the streets, fueled by the same extremist rhetoric and fostered by institutional complacency. The same confrontation between terror and democracy that has sparked war between Israel and Iran now also plays out in the United States, where anti-Israel activists have called for the eradication of Western civilization. Since October 7, 2023, much violence has focused on Jewish targets, but we know that what begins with the Jews does

<sup>1</sup> Ray Lewis, "Columbia University's Anti-Israel Group Seeking 'Total Eradication of Western Civilization," *New York Post*, August 17, 2024, updated August 17, 2024, 9:02 a.m., <a href="https://nypost.com/2024/08/17/us-news/columbia-universitys-anti-israel-group-seeking-total-eradication-of-western-civilization/">https://nypost.com/2024/08/17/us-news/columbia-universitys-anti-israel-group-seeking-total-eradication-of-western-civilization/</a>.

not end with the Jews, and we see that what developed on our campuses does not remain on our campuses. This lethal unrest is a threat to all Americans and must be stopped.

In 2025, Jewish Americans are under attack in our schools, places of work, health care settings, and on the streets of our major cities. In April, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro's residence was set ablaze on the first night of Passover, targeted for being both Jewish and a vocal supporter of Israel.<sup>2</sup> Here in D.C., two Israeli Embassy staffers were brutally gunned down outside the Capital Jewish Museum by a man shouting, "Free Palestine." Earlier this month in Boulder, Colorado, peaceful pro-Israel demonstrators (including an 88-year-old Holocaust survivor) were attacked with Molotov cocktails and a makeshift flamethrower by a man who had spent a year planning an attack on Zionists. This violence is not occurring in a vacuum. It is the product of a dangerous convergence of anti-Zionist extremism, support for designated foreign terrorist groups such as Hamas, and institutional complacency across key sectors of American life. According to the Anti-Defamation League, there were a record-breaking 9,354 anti-Semitic assaults, harassment incidents, and acts of vandalism in 2024, nearly a 900% surge compared to a decade ago. 5.6

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hate-crimes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Colby Itkowitz, "Josh Shapiro Details Passover Arson Attack, Condemns Political Violence," *Washington Post*, June 15, 2025, <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/06/15/shapiro-passover-arson-attack/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/06/15/shapiro-passover-arson-attack/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Nidhi Prakash, "Shooting in D.C. Jewish Museum Kills Two Israeli Embassy Staffers," *NBC News*, May 22, 2025, https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/shooting-dc-jewish-museum-rcna208427.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Emily Shapiro and Luke Barr, "Holocaust Survivor Among Boulder Attack Victims: 'She's Victimized Again," *ABC7*, June 2, 2025, <a href="https://www.abc7.com/post/holocaust-survivor-among-boulder-attack-victims/16632609/">https://www.abc7.com/post/holocaust-survivor-among-boulder-attack-victims/16632609/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Anti-Defamation League, *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2024*, April 22, 2025, https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Meanwhile, FBI data shows anti-Jewish hate crimes jumped by nearly 63% in 2023, reaching the highest level in almost thirty years, accounting for 68% of all religion-based hate crimes. Anti-Defamation League, "New FBI Data Reflects Record-High Number of Anti-Jewish Hate Crimes," *ADL*, press release, May 9, 2025, <a href="https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/new-fbi-data-reflects-record-high-number-anti-jewish-">https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/new-fbi-data-reflects-record-high-number-anti-jewish-</a>

The roots of this crisis are both global and domestic. Israel's ongoing war with Hamas - and now also with Iran - have emboldened anti-Jewish sentiment worldwide. At home, that sentiment has taken on a violent and organized character. On college campuses in particular, anti-Israel rhetoric has escalated into overt acts of aggression and intimidation. The occupation of Hamilton Hall at Columbia University, for example, was not a spontaneous protest - it was a premeditated and highly organized action, orchestrated by outside agitators and student groups with known ties to terrorist-affiliated organizations. The Brandeis Center recently filed a federal complaint, highlighting that participants established barricades, deployed coordinated communication systems, and distributed materials glorifying violent resistance, all while intentionally creating an environment hostile and dangerous to Jewish students and staff.<sup>7</sup>

One significant and often overlooked driver of this radicalization is foreign influence. For years, hostile regimes, including Qatar and China, have funneled billions of dollars into American schools, often in the darkness, and frequently used to promote anti-Israel narratives and to marginalize or vilify Jews. According to the U.S. Department of Education, over \$14 billion in foreign funds flowed to U.S. universities between 2014 and 2024, much of it undisclosed.<sup>8</sup> Qatar alone has provided billions to elite institutions which host speakers who glorify terrorism or promote anti-Semitic narratives.<sup>9</sup> In K–12 classrooms, a 2025 ISGAP

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, *Complaint*, filed April 25, 2025, U.S. District Court, Central District of California, <a href="https://brandeiscenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-04-25-ECF-No-1-Complaint.pdf">https://brandeiscenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-04-25-ECF-No-1-Complaint.pdf</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Education, *Section 117 Foreign Gift Reporting Data* (2024), <a href="https://studentaid.gov/data-center/school/foreign-gifts">https://studentaid.gov/data-center/school/foreign-gifts</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Theodore Schwarz and Ari Cicurel, "Explosion in Foreign Funding for American Universities," *Foreign Policy*, March 28, 2024, <a href="https://www.thefp.com/p/explosion-in-foreign-funding-for-american-universities">https://www.thefp.com/p/explosion-in-foreign-funding-for-american-universities</a>; Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, "Cornell's Ten-Billion-Dollar Deal: The Political and Educational Implications of Qatar's Monopoly," March 2024, <a href="https://isgap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Cornell\_Ten\_Billion\_Dollar.pdf">https://isgap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Cornell\_Ten\_Billion\_Dollar.pdf</a>; Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, "Follow the Money: The Hidden Flow of Foreign Funds into American Campuses," 2024, <a href="https://isgap.org/follow-the-money/">https://isgap.org/follow-the-money/</a>.

investigation revealed that Qatar-funded materials, used in thousands of schools, erase Jewish indigeneity and frame Israel's existence as colonial oppression. <sup>10</sup> This foreign influence is not just ideological – it's strategic, and it's capturing the minds of the next generation.

What we are witnessing on American campuses is not a collection of spontaneous protests. They are part of a broader, well-resourced campaign coordinated by student activists, external organizations, and aligned faculty networks. As described in our Brandeis Center complaint filed on behalf of Columbia Facilities workers, the violent takeover of Hamilton Hall was premeditated and planned in concert with outside pro-Hamas groups like The People's Forum, Inc. (TPF), which held a strategy meeting just hours before the takeover, attended by over 100 individuals and featuring breakout sessions on "resistance." TPF had already played a central role in staging campus walkouts, coordinating media messaging, and amplifying the encampment through social media instructions on how to support it with food, supplies, and legal defense funds. The complaint names professional agitators and affiliated groups such as Within Our Lifetime, WESPAC, and Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine as participants in a broader conspiracy to escalate anti-Israel and anti-Semitic action under the guise of student activism. Similarly, at UCLA, one encampment organized in part by Students for Justice in Palestine created a de facto exclusion zone, where Jewish students were physically prevented from entering parts of campus. 12 Participants used coordinated messaging, occupation tactics,

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encampments/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, "New ISGAP Report Exposes Anti-Israel Bias Fueled by Secretive Qatari Influence in U.S. K–12 Classrooms," March 13, 2025, <a href="https://isgap.org/post/2025/03/new-isgap-report-exposes-anti-israel-bias-fueled-by-secretive-qatari-influence-in-u-s-k-12-classrooms/">https://isgap.org/post/2025/03/new-isgap-report-exposes-anti-israel-bias-fueled-by-secretive-qatari-influence-in-u-s-k-12-classrooms/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law et al. v. U.S. Department of Education et al., No. 1:25-cv-03474 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 25, 2025), PDF file at Brandeis Center, "Complaint," April 25, 2025, https://brandeiscenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-04-25-ECF-No-1-Complaint.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, "Columbia University Janitors, UCLA Jewish Community Members Sue Organizations Behind Encampments," press release, https://brandeiscenter.com/columbia-university-janitors-ucla-jewish-community-members-sue-orgs-behind-

and physical intimidation to advance a hostile agenda. These incidents reflect a national trend toward planned and deliberate anti-Semitic agitation.

Mounting evidence suggests that foreign governments are actively seeking to amplify this unrest, including through covert funding and embedded operatives. Intelligence and congressional investigations are underway. <sup>13</sup> Last year, former Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines confirmed that "Iranian government actors have sought to opportunistically take advantage of ongoing protests regarding the war in Gaza," noting that individuals tied to Iran have posed as activists online, encouraged demonstrations, and even provided financial support to protesters. <sup>14</sup> She warned that "Americans who are being targeted by this Iranian campaign may not be aware that they are interacting with or receiving support from a foreign government." What we are facing is not merely a breakdown of campus governance. It is a transnational campaign to destabilize life in the United States and erode the civil rights.

Mechanisms that were originally created to combat discrimination like Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives have in many cases been co-opted to excuse or normalize anti-Semitism. At major universities and corporations, DEI programming frequently omits Jews from discussions of marginalized groups, erases anti-Semitism from training modules, and even frames Jewish identity as an expression of privilege or complicity in oppression.<sup>15</sup> This

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Algemeiner Staff, "U.S. Congress Launches Investigation into Outside Funding of Anti-Israel Campus Demonstrations," *Algemeiner*, May 15, 2024, <a href="https://www.algemeiner.com/2024/05/15/us-congress-launches-investigation-outside-funding-anti-israel-campus-demonstrations/">https://www.algemeiner.com/2024/05/15/us-congress-launches-investigation-outside-funding-anti-israel-campus-demonstrations/</a>.; JINSA Staff, "Iran Finances U.S. Campus Protests, Top Intel Official Reveals," *Jewish Institute for National Security of America*, October 2023, <a href="https://jinsa.org/iran-finances-u-s-campus-protests-top-intel-official/">https://jinsa.org/iran-finances-u-s-campus-protests-top-intel-official/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Alexa Schwerha, "Iranian Government Funding Anti-Israel Protests, US Says: Top Intelligence Official," *Campus Reform*, May 2, 2024, <a href="https://www.campusreform.org/article/iranian-government-funding-anti-israel-protests-us-says-top-intelligence-official-/25859">https://www.campusreform.org/article/iranian-government-funding-anti-israel-protests-us-says-top-intelligence-official-/25859</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Ben Cohen, "Jewish Legal Group Urges Trump to Investigate DEI Programs in K–12 Schools for Promoting Antisemitism," *New York Post*, January 2025, <a href="https://brandeiscenter.com/jewish-legal-group-urges-trump-to-investigate-dei-programs-in-k-12-schools-for-promoting-antisemitism-new-york-post/">https://brandeiscenter.com/jewish-legal-group-urges-trump-to-investigate-dei-programs-in-k-12-schools-for-promoting-antisemitism-new-york-post/</a>.

framework often collapses into centuries-old stereotypes of Jewish power, conspiracy, and control, recasting Jews as oppressors or even white supremacists. In systems that rigidly divide people into categories of oppressor and oppressed, Jews are routinely mischaracterized based on anti-Semitic tropes. As a result, Jewish individuals are not only left out of civil rights protections; Jews are excluded and harassed by the very structures designed to ensure inclusion.

Let me be clear: nothing in this testimony is intended to restrict legitimate free speech.

Criticism of any government, including Israel's, is protected under the First Amendment. But speech that crosses the line into targeted harassment, incitement to violence, or material support for terrorism is not protected, and it must be treated as a civil rights or law enforcement matter.

The harmful and often violent ideology plaguing universities is no longer confined to the campus - it has seeped into K–12 classrooms, healthcare facilities, workplaces, unions, and even taxpayer-funded programs. To understand the scale and urgency of this crisis, we must examine how anti-Zionist anti-Semitism is metastasizing across critical sectors of American society, often under the radar of traditional civil rights enforcement mechanisms.

In education, both K–12 schools and universities have become breeding grounds for anti-Israel and anti-Semitic indoctrination. Under the banner of "decolonization" or "liberated ethnic studies," curricula increasingly portray Jews as colonial oppressors, erasing their indigenous connection to the Land of Israel and reframing Jewish identity as inherently oppressive. This false narrative does more than distort history, it actively legitimizes violence and social exclusion against Jewish students. On college campuses, anti-Zionist ideology is often embedded within official programming, residence life training, and even faculty instruction. In K–12 settings, students report being penalized for expressing pro-Israel viewpoints or facing harassment without meaningful intervention. For example, in Santa Ana, California, the Brandeis Center

filed suit after the school district approved ethnic studies curricula that erased Jewish identity, promoted anti-Semitic narratives, and excluded Jewish voices from the curriculum process. Steering committee members openly stated that "Jews are not oppressed," referred to the sole Jewish participant as a "colonized Jewish mind" and a "f---ing baby," and discussed scheduling meetings on Jewish holidays to reduce Jewish participation. <sup>16</sup> In Berkeley, the Brandeis Center filed a federal complaint documenting pervasive anti-Semitic harassment across multiple schools. Jewish students were subjected to slurs like 'kill the Jews,' asked what their Holocaust tattoo numbers were, and had classroom posters targeting them (such as "Stop Bombing Babies") displayed directly outside their doors. Many students reported hiding their Jewish identity out of fear. These are not isolated incidents, they reflect a systemic failure by school districts to protect Jewish students from escalating anti-Zionist hostility and harassment.<sup>17</sup>

In healthcare, anti-Semitism is increasingly surfacing under the guise of "social justice" or "decolonial" frameworks, most notably in so-called *Decolonizing Therapy*, a pseudo-scientific approach that redefines mental health through a politicized, anti-Zionist lens. This model routinely casts Zionism as pathology and frames Jewish identity as a symptom of colonial privilege, marginalizing Jewish patients and professionals alike.<sup>18</sup> A recent letter to Congress from the Jewish Federations highlighted multiple alarming examples.<sup>19</sup> In one case, a Jewish

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, *Petition for Administrative Review and Enforcement Action*, filed November 2023, <a href="https://brandeiscenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/final-petition-as-filed-1.pdf">https://brandeiscenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/final-petition-as-filed-1.pdf</a>; The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, "Santa Ana Unified School District Agrees to Overhaul Curriculum Process Following Settlement," press release, February 20, 2025, <a href="https://brandeiscenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/SAUSD-Press-Release-2.20.25.pdf">https://brandeiscenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/SAUSD-Press-Release-2.20.25.pdf</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, "Legal Claims Against Berkeley Unified School District," press release, <a href="https://brandeiscenter.com/legal-claims-against-berkeley-unified-school-district/">https://brandeiscenter.com/legal-claims-against-berkeley-unified-school-district/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Adam Decker, "Introducing Decolonisation Therapy: The Pseudoscience That Seeks to Erase Your Zionism," *The Jewish Chronicle*, April 4, 2025, <a href="https://www.thejc.com/opinion/introducing-decolonisation-therapy-the-pseudoscience-that-seeks-to-erase-your-zionism-kk5xhh2a">https://www.thejc.com/opinion/introducing-decolonisation-therapy-the-pseudoscience-that-seeks-to-erase-your-zionism-kk5xhh2a</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Jewish Federations of North America, "Jewish Federations Urge Congress to Investigate Healthcare Antisemitism," press release, <a href="https://www.jewishfederations.org/fedworld/jewish-federations-urge-congress-to-investigate-healthcare-antisemitism">https://www.jewishfederations.org/fedworld/jewish-federations-urge-congress-to-investigate-healthcare-antisemitism</a>.

patient was denied a prenatal appointment after the provider described Israel as a "colonial oppressor." Another patient reported that her therapist equated Jewish identity with "white supremacy." A public health clinic in one county was found promoting Gaza-focused political messaging, compromising the expectation of neutral, unbiased care. These incidents reflect a troubling trend in which political ideology is allowed to override professional ethics and civil rights protections.

In the workplace, major employers have failed to protect Jewish employees from harassment, exclusion, and retaliation tied to anti-Zionist hostility. Last month, the Brandeis Center sent a letter to Microsoft, detailing how the company supports nine identity-based Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) but has refused to approve a Jewish ERG.<sup>20</sup> As a result, Jewish employees are denied access to mentorship, networking, leadership development, and internal advocacy opportunities available to other groups. Anti-Semitic comments, including calls to eradicate Israel, have circulated widely on internal messaging platforms, especially during the Israel-Gaza conflict. Meanwhile, the company has failed to recognize Jewish Heritage Month or to avoid scheduling major events on Jewish holidays. This pattern of institutional exclusion fosters a hostile work environment and may violate Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The EEOC and Department of Justice must act to ensure that employers are held accountable wherever anti-Zionist ideology gives rise to workplace discrimination against Jews.

In labor unions, anti-Israel activism has increasingly targeted Jewish members under the guise of political solidarity. Recently, the Brandeis Center filed complaints with the National

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, "Legal Claims Against Microsoft," press release, May 14, 2025, <a href="https://brandeiscenter.com/legal-claims-against-microsoft/">https://brandeiscenter.com/legal-claims-against-microsoft/</a>.; JNS Staff (via *New York Post*), "Jewish Group Urges Trump to Investigate DEI Programs for Promoting Antisemitism," *New York Post*, April 30, 2025, <a href="https://nypost.com/2025/04/30/us-news/jewish-group-urges-trump-to-investigate-dei-programs-for-promoting-antisemitism/">https://nypost.com/2025/04/30/us-news/jewish-group-urges-trump-to-investigate-dei-programs-for-promoting-antisemitism/</a>.

Labor Relations Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of Jewish employees at the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG).<sup>21</sup> Their union, the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys—UAW Local 2325, allegedly failed to protect Jewish members from a hostile work environment. According to the complaints, union leaders resisted NYLAG's efforts to maintain a neutral workplace and allowed inflammatory materials, such as posters reading "Resisting colonialism is not terrorism" and "Long live the resistance", to remain in employee spaces. Jewish staff reported feeling isolated and excluded. Rather than addressing the concerns of its Jewish members, the union filed an unfair labor practice charge against NYLAG for limiting political expression, despite growing safety concerns. This conduct reflects a union prioritizing ideological activism over its duty to fairly represent all members. It also raises serious concerns under federal labor and anti-discrimination law. The National Labor Relations Board and the Department of Labor must act to ensure that no worker is coerced into ideological conformity or denied representation based on religion or political identity.

In publicly funded programming, including arts grants, educational initiatives, and cultural institutions, taxpayer dollars have been used (whether knowingly or not) to advance anti-Israel propaganda and anti-Semitic messaging. From museum exhibits to community lectures and academic conferences, government-backed content has, in some cases, elevated speakers who praise terrorism or spread conspiracy theories about Jewish power. Federal funding must never be a vehicle for hate. Agencies must implement rigorous civil rights compliance mechanisms to ensure that all grantees uphold basic constitutional and statutory standards, including protections for Jewish Americans.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, "NLRA & EEOC Filing on Behalf of Jewish NYLAG Staffers," press release, <a href="https://brandeiscenter.com/nylag-filing-press-release/">https://brandeiscenter.com/nylag-filing-press-release/</a>.

# II. Federal Responses to Rising Anti-Semitism

Given the extraordinary and unprecedented nature of the current crisis in violent anti-Semitism, we have called for an unprecedented and extraordinary response. I want to acknowledge the important efforts already undertaken by the Trump Administration and this Congress to confront the alarming rise in anti-Semitism. Under this administration, the federal government has reasserted leadership through a forceful, whole-of-government approach mobilizing multiple agencies to respond decisively to anti-Jewish discrimination.<sup>22</sup> Following President Trump's Executive Order on Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism, the Department of Justice formed a multi-agency Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism.<sup>23</sup> The DOJ Task Force has launched investigations into anti-Semitic harassment on numerous college campuses and canceled federal grants and contracts.<sup>24</sup> The DOJ has also pursued hate crimes cases with urgency, including filing federal charges against the alleged perpetrator of the terror attack in Boulder.<sup>25</sup> The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has proactively opened Title VI investigations into anti-Semitism at both universities and K-12 schools including in cases filed by the Brandeis Center against Yale, UMass-Amherst, Scripps College, American University, and Cal Poly Humboldt, and Fulton County.<sup>26</sup> Additionally, the General

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Executive Order 14188: Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism, January 29, 2025, The White House, <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/additional-measures-to-combat-anti-semitism/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/additional-measures-to-combat-anti-semitism/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, "Justice Department Announces Formation of Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism," press release, February 3, 2025, <a href="https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-formation-task-force-combat-anti-semitism">https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-formation-task-force-combat-anti-semitism</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, "Federal Task Force to Combat Antisemitism Announces Visits to 10 College Campuses That Experienced Harassment," press release, April 14, 2025, <a href="https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/federal-task-force-combat-antisemitism-announces-visits-10-college-campuses-experienced">https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/federal-task-force-combat-antisemitism-announces-visits-10-college-campuses-experienced</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, "Justice Department Files Federal Charges Against Alleged Perpetrator of Anti-Semitic Terror," press release, May 8, 2025, <a href="https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-files-federal-charges-against-alleged-perpetrator-anti-semitic-terror.">https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-files-federal-charges-against-alleged-perpetrator-anti-semitic-terror.</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, "U.S. Department of Education Opens Investigations into Anti-Semitism Complaints," press release, <a href="https://brandeiscenter.com/u-s-department-of-education-opens-investigations-into-anti-semitism-complaints/">https://brandeiscenter.com/u-s-department-of-education-opens-investigations-into-anti-semitism-complaints/</a>.

Services Administration has taken unprecedented steps to review federal funding of universities, including grants and contracts across the federal government.<sup>27</sup> Immigration law has been aggressively enforced to prevent anti-Semitic violence by visitors to the United States. These actions reflect a coordinated federal response that prioritizes Jewish civil rights not just as a legal obligation, but as a national imperative.

I also commend this Congress for holding rigorous oversight hearings, holding university presidents' feet to the fire, and allowing victims of anti-Semitism to testify. I urge this committee to advance the Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2025 and thank this committee for passing the DETERRENT Act earlier this year. Legislation aimed at protecting Jewish Americans from harassment, discrimination, and ideological coercion is not only timely - it is essential. Together, these efforts signal a growing recognition that anti-Semitism, especially in its anti-Zionist forms, requires sustained, cross-agency enforcement and strategic leadership at the highest levels of government.

### III. The Congressional Role in Addressing this Rise in Anti-Semitic Hate

To meet the scale of the challenge, a Whole-of-Congress approach has been necessary and appropriate, and we have seen its initial successes under Speaker Johnson's Whole-of-the-House strategy. Congressional oversight, including by this committee, has provided crucial transparency and facilitated stronger enforcement. Support for public safety has been crucial.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. General Services Administration, "HHS, ED, and GSA Announce Additional Measures to End Anti-Semitic Harassment on College Campuses," press release, March 3, 2025, https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/newsroom/news-

releases/hhs-ed-and-gsa-announce-additional-measures-to-end-antisemitic-harassment-on-college-campuses-

03032025.

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Numerous bills have been drafted containing important proposals that would address various facets of the current crisis.

The most important has been to codify the standards for defining and containing anti-Semitism contained within President Trump's Executive Order on Combating Anti-Semitism, particularly in the Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2025. This legislation is essential to ensuring clarity and consistency, and moral courage in how our government responds to anti-Semitic conduct, particularly on college campuses and in K–12 settings.

Congress should consider additional measures to address this crisis. Congress should, for example, require that courts and agencies consider whether an institution has stated its compliance with applicable federal laws and executive orders, including especially President Trump's Executive Order 13899 (on combatting anti-Semitism) when determining whether their responses to anti-Semitism constitute "deliberate indifference" to discrimination and harassment under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Congress, the President, or the Secretary of Health and Human Services should defund *Decolonizing Therapy* a discriminatory framework that politicizes and undermines health care. This ideology, which labels Zionism as a form of oppression, equates Jewish identity with white supremacy, and encourages providers to pressure Jewish patients to disavow their Jewish history and heritage, has no place in publicly funded medical or mental health settings. These practices are legally and ethically indefensible.

Numerous other proposals have been made, many of them good. These include, for example, creating a government-wide coordinator for anti-Semitism enforcement; strengthening Section 117 of the Higher Education Act and expand and better enforce disclosure rules on

foreign contributions, even criminalizing noncompliance with federal requirements for disclosure of foreign funding; tightening student-visa rules for students who endorse, espouse, or otherwise support terrorism; requiring tax-exempt corporations to disclose foreign donations; and withholding government contracts with institutions that boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel.

## IV. Final Thoughts

In sum, anti-Zionist anti-Semitism has emerged as a coordinated, transnational threat that endangers Jewish Americans across numerous sectors of society. It is fueled by foreign adversaries, enabled by institutional failure, and cloaked in the language of activism and equity. This ideology is not merely discriminatory; it is increasingly violent, with the potential to kill more Jews on U.S. soil. The federal government must respond with clarity, consistency, and determination to ensure that civil rights protections extend fully to Jewish Americans and that existing laws are properly enforced. I urge this Committee to continue exercising strong oversight, advancing critical legislation, and making clear that anti-Semitism in any form, and from any source, has no place in the United States.