October 11, 2023

Hon. Miguel Cardona
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

We write to express our concern for the wellbeing and safety of Jewish students in the United States. Within hours of the unprovoked and horrific attack on Israeli citizens, collegiate organizations released alarming and inflammatory statements supporting the violence that has left over 1,000 innocent civilians dead, including Americans.

Organizations like the Students for Justice in Palestine have called for a “National Day of Resistance” this Thursday, October 12, with demonstrations occurring on college campuses that could result in the creation of a hostile environment for Jewish students and acts of harassment against them.

Many student groups have issued statements condoning and even celebrating the terror attack, which should be considered a modern-day pogrom. Some student groups have even utilized imagery of a paraglider to advertise their rallies, unequivocally celebrating the despicable tactics used by Hamas—a terrorist organization that President Biden stated is “a group whose stated purpose for being is to kill Jews” in his October 10 remarks.1

As you are aware, schools have a legal obligation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to provide all students, including Jewish students, a school environment free from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics. In May, the U.S. Department of Education launched its Antisemitism Awareness Campaign. An aspect of the Awareness Campaign was the promise to visit college campuses to learn more about antisemitism. However, as demonstrated by the rhetoric and recent actions of students across the country, antisemitic beliefs on college campuses are rampant and must not go unchallenged.

In light of developing events, we encourage the Department to engage immediately with colleges and universities on their obligations to take prompt and appropriate action to respond to harassment that creates a hostile environment for Jewish students. This should include placing

1 https://www.instagram.com/p/CyHNxvsyOu/?
2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7v40bJgAfEO
those universities that have instances of student support for terrorism at the top of the list of universities to visit. Please immediately inform us of any actions that have been a part of the Antisemitism Awareness Campaign, including any prior or planned campus visits.

We appreciate your timely attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

August Pfluger
Member of Congress
Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress

Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

Lisa C. McClain  
Member of Congress

Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress

Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress

Ron Estes  
Member of Congress
Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress

C. Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress

Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

Thomas P. Tiffany  
Member of Congress

Andrew Ogles  
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress

Nick LaLota  
Member of Congress

Russell Fry  
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress
John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Lance Gooden
Member of Congress

Barry Moore
Member of Congress

Aaron Bean
Member of Congress