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June 24, 2024

The Honorable Joanna McClinton
The Honorable Matt Bradford
The Honorable Pete Schweyer
P.O. Box 202191
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Speaker McClinton, Majority Leader Bradford, and Chairman Schweyer:

On October 7, 2023, the world witnessed an unprovoked terrorist attack in which over an estimated 1,400 Israelis were killed, 3,400 Israelis were wounded, and approximately 200 Israelis were taken as hostages by Hamas terrorists. The entire civilized world condemned these attacks with clarity and many nations offered support to the State of Israel's defense of itself and its citizens. In our communities, we offered support and comfort to our Jewish friends and neighbors, many of whom saw shades of the destruction wrought during the Holocaust in Hamas' attacks.

Since the unanimous passage of Chairman Frankel's House Resolution 245, urging Congress to provide help to Israel in order to secure its safety and security and to condemn the terrorist attack, there has been very little legislative action to address the rise of antisemitic actions and confrontations that have been occurring on college campuses and in our communities.

While a number of legislators, including the signatories of this letter, have introduced legislation to counter antisemitism, the House of Representatives has failed to take a sufficiently clear stance on this issue.

Several bills have been introduced to address the rise of destructive actions taken during protests against Israel on our college campuses. For example, House Bill 2001 recognizes antisemitism as bullying and harassment on college campuses, and House Bills 2351 and 2352 help underscore the importance of lawful protest activities while addressing those who veer into unlawful activities.

To address the misinformation surrounding Israel and its founding in the aftermath of the Holocaust, House Bill 2371 would require the State Board of Education to conduct a thorough study every five years, beginning in the 2024-25 school year, on how school entities are offering Holocaust, genocide, and human rights instruction. House Bill 1986 would require transparency in the curriculum and materials used in that instruction.

As we enter the final months of the legislative session, we feel the time has come for the House of Representatives to address some of these remaining issues. In that spirit, we have filed a discharge resolution for House Bill 1986. We hope that doing so will galvanize support for these issues among the membership and lead to the enactment of meaningful legislation to counter misinformation about the State of Israel and its founding in the aftermath of the Holocaust, as well as to counter antisemitism and destructive actions on college campuses.

We look forward to continuing this discussion of ideas during the final stretch of the budget process and, if necessary, until the end of the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Kristin Marcell

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