Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

As members of the House and Senate Bipartisan Task Forces for Combating Antisemitism, we write to urge you to ensure leaders working within your Administration are working together to execute a unified national strategy to monitor and combat antisemitism. With Jewish communities worldwide facing increasing discrimination, as well as threats and acts of violence, we believe a whole-of-government approach is needed to effectively address the scourge of antisemitism. History has taught us that attacks and conspiracy theories that target Jews not only threaten Jews, but frequently grow to threaten the security of other communities and the foundations of democracy.

Rising antisemitism puts Jews both in the United States and around the world at risk. Antisemitic voices, inciting hateful and violent action, are finding new audiences, with anti-Jewish conspiracies gaining traction across the globe and through social media. In the United States, the evidence of rising antisemitism is clear and alarming. The Federal Bureau of Investigation found that antisemitic hate crimes rose by six percent in 2020, representing the highest total in 12 years and constituting 60 percent of all incidents based on religion. Similarly, nonprofits focused on monitoring and combating antisemitism have also noted record-breaking highs in antisemitic incidents, with 2021 being the highest year on record – an increase of more than a third from 2020. Jewish communal institutions and synagogues are increasingly targets of violent attacks, as evidenced by the violent and often deadly assaults on the Jewish community in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2018, Poway, California in 2019, Jersey City, New Jersey and Monsey, New York in 2019, and Colleyville, Texas in 2022.

We welcome the measures the Administration has taken thus far to address antisemitism. However, combating a growing threat of this magnitude, particularly here at home, requires a strategic, whole-of-government approach. Interagency coordination also could benefit from considering a broadly understood definition of antisemitism, as several agencies have adopted or recognized individually. Because many individual agencies play a critical role in combating antisemitism, closer coordination is needed to share best practices, data, and intelligence; identify gaps in efforts; streamline overlapping activities and roles; and execute a unified national strategy. The strategic collaboration of such entities would also send a key message to the American people and the international community that the United States is committed to fighting antisemitism at the highest levels.

As such, we urge you to prioritize coordination among all agencies working in this space, including, but not limited to, officials from the Department of Homeland Security; the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Department of Education, including the Office for Civil Rights; and the Department of State, including the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, the Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, and the Office of International Religious Freedom; in addition to representatives from the Intelligence Community; the Office of Management and Budget; the National Security Council; the Homeland Security Council; the Domestic Policy Council; the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; in order to ensure all relevant entities within the Executive Branch and Congress are working in tandem. Creation of an interagency task force led by an official at the Assistant Secretary rank or higher is one way to accomplish such coordination.

Likewise, we request that agencies working collaboratively to combat antisemitism work with the leadership of the House and Senate Bipartisan Task Forces to Combat Antisemitism and key non-profit community stakeholders to develop a National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism. Doing so will provide a cohesive and comprehensive plan for interagency efforts in this critical space.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response and continuing to work with you to combat antisemitism at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

James Lankford
United States Senator

Kathy Manning
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Rob Portman
United States Senator

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

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United States Senator

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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United States Senator

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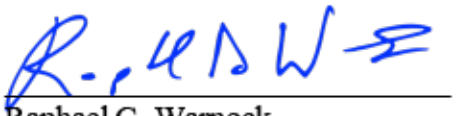
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



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United States Senator

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United States Senator

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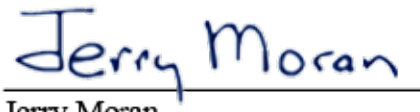
Member of Congress

Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
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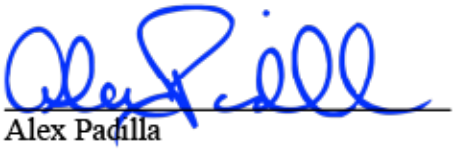
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



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United States Senator

Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator

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United States Senator

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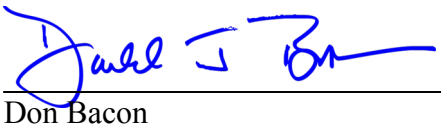
Member of Congress

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

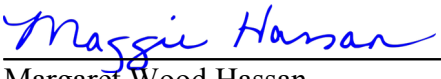
John Cornyn
United States Senator

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress

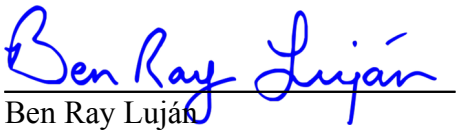
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

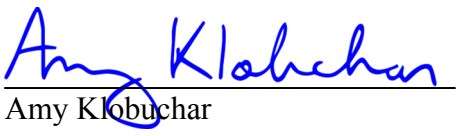
Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
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United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Shontel M. Brown
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Member of Congress

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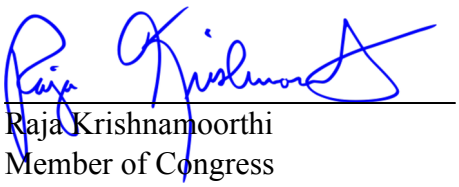
Member of Congress

Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

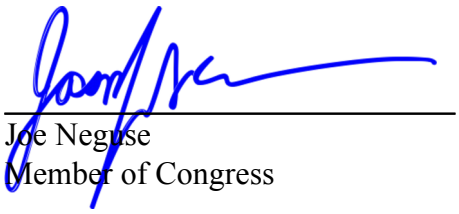


Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

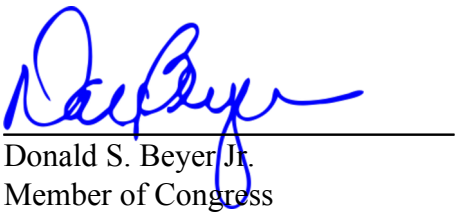
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

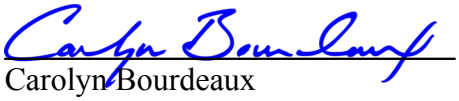
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



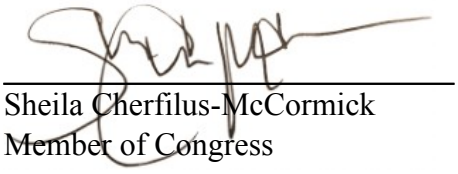
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



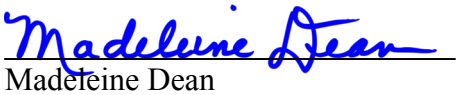
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress



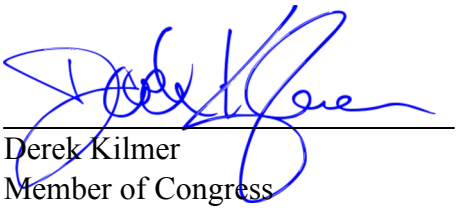
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

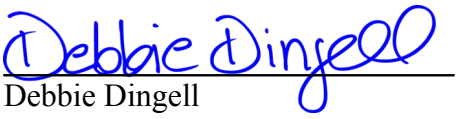
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



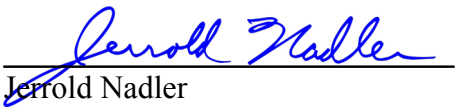
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



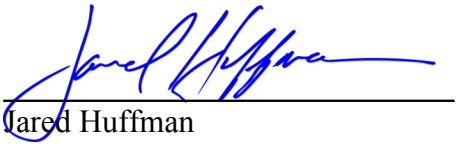
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

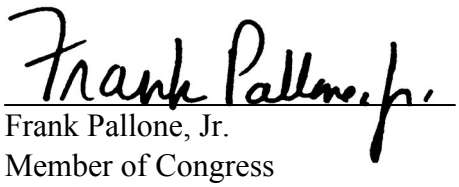


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Jim Himes
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Member of Congress