



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Honorable Kathy Hochul,
Governor, New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

November 2, 2023

Dear Governor Hochul,

Considering the recent terrorist attacks in Israel that started with intentional war crimes, as well as the dangerous surge in antisemitic attacks and rhetoric in our own state, we write to respectfully request an increase in security funding made available to New York's nonpublic schools in your executive budget proposal for fiscal 2023-2024.

We are incredibly grateful for your efforts since the latest terror attack and know that you stand with Israel, Israelis, and Jews in New York State. As you are aware, New York is home to the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, and it is our responsibility to be as prepared as possible to protect our Jewish brothers and sisters in our state.

In 2022, you proposed, and the legislature allocated, \$45 million for the **Nonpublic School Safety Equipment (NPSE) Grant**, a streamlined grant for nonpublic school safety and security equipment in our annual budget. That \$45 million allocation translates into slightly more than \$100 per pupil. Under the current circumstances, we are requesting an increase of the NPSE funding to **\$90 million**.

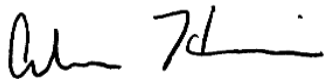
We are all aware of the sharp spike in antisemitic attacks and hate crimes throughout the country and in our state. In New York City alone, there were 263 hate crimes reported in 2022, more than doubling the 121 antisemitic crimes reported in 2020 and soaring past the 196 incidents reported in 2021.

In recent years, we have consistently heard about verbal and physical attacks on our constituents that are identifiable Jewish residents of New York State. We hear from our neighbors that they no longer feel safe in their communities and our schools and places of worship have expressed heightened concern about the safety of their students and congregants.

Considering that nonpublic schools are already forced to spend thousands of dollars annually on security needs, a figure that will significantly increase following the recent attacks, we believe it is a moral imperative that we increase New York State's commitment to keeping our constituents safe.

We are deeply grateful for your efforts and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Andrew Hevesi, Chair
Committee on Children and Families

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