



March 26, 2024

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

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Temporary President & Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
The Capitol, Room 332  
Albany, New York 12247

Hon. Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker, NYS Assembly  
LOB932/CAP 349  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

In light of the ongoing and growing antisemitism surrounding us, we as elected officials must do everything we can to protect New Yorkers from all forms of hate and violence. Hate and violence have no place in our state and nation and no one should feel threatened, especially on the basis of their faith.

The Senate Republican Conference, in an effort to combat the growing antisemitism in our communities and across our state, formed a working group to examine the issue. The antisemitism working group held multiple meetings and convened two roundtable hearings last

Fall, the first in Rockland County on Tuesday, September 19th and the second in Nassau County on Tuesday, September 26th.

These roundtables were effective in allowing state representatives to hear firsthand from community stakeholders their concerns and ways to address and combat antisemitism.

Listed below are five priority legislative recommendations resulting from our discussions that we believe would immediately help New York State to combat antisemitism.

- **S.3275 (Griffo)**- places a definition of antisemitism within the state human rights law; provides that antisemitism that incites, causes or results in any act of violence, or injury to a person, or the damage to or destruction of real or personal property, shall be deemed to constitute a hate crime.
- **S.7752 (Weber)**-prohibits students from receiving TAP if engaging in antisemitic behavior.
- **S.7773 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick)**- creates the “Dismantling Student Antisemitism (DSA) Act”- implements antisemitism awareness and prevention sensitivity training in colleges with threat of loss of funding.
- **S.8625 (Martins)**-Enacts the “New York State Antisemitism Vandalism Act” which establishes the crime of vandalism of pro-Israel print- provides a class A misdemeanor for any individual who intentionally destroys, damages, removes any banner, poster, flyer or billboard which is located in a public space, where the intent or purpose of such banner, poster, flyer or billboard is to bring awareness for Israeli individuals who have been victims of a crime, or to positively support the country or citizens of Israel.
- **S.8774 (Oberacker)**-expands the prohibition of harassing conduct involving Nazi symbols.

In an effort to address and reverse the rising trend of antisemitism, we must work together to ensure resources are provided. As such, we strongly urge you to include the above listed proposals as well as funding in the final budget. Specifically, there should be dedicated funds for synagogues and yeshivas so they may increase their security and protect their surrounding communities. There should also be funding allocated to provide education and awareness training for antisemitic behavior and how to prevent such behavior.

Additionally, we urge you to consider the following proposals as we continue through the legislative session:

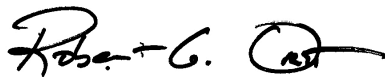
- **S.4665 (Lanza)** – make hate crimes bail eligible.
- **S.5247 (Weik)** – protects the identity of hate crime victims during the discovery process in hate crime prosecutions.

- **S.6418 (Martins)** - regulates social media companies and platforms; provides for age requirements and time limits for the use of social media and parental consent; prohibits certain data collection from social media accounts.
- **S.7040 (Weber)**-makes the offense of trespass at a house of worship a hate crime.
- **S.7761 (Tedisco)**-provides for expulsion of any SUNY or CUNY student convicted of a hate crime.
- **S.8225 (Rhoads)**- prohibits funding for SUNY, CUNY or community colleges which permit terrorist organizations on campus.
- **S.8457 (Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick)** -increases funding for the program Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes from \$25 million to \$100 million a year; expands the program's eligibility to include small businesses.
- **S.8646 (Martins)** - enhances penalties for those who obstruct traffic and access to buildings during protests and allows for it to qualify as a hate crime.

As we stated above, no individual should feel threatened or unsafe. These proposals and dedicated funding are imperative to ensure the safety of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues.

Sincerely,



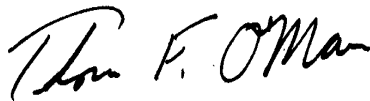
Robert G. Ort  
Senate Minority Leader  
62<sup>nd</sup> District



Senator Andrew Lanza  
24<sup>th</sup> District



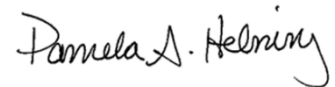
Senator Peter Oberacker  
51<sup>st</sup> District



Senator Tom O'Mara  
58<sup>th</sup> District



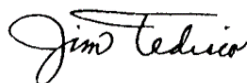
Senator Anthony Palumbo  
1<sup>st</sup> District



Senator Pam Helming  
54<sup>th</sup> District



Senator George Borrello  
57<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Jim Tedisco  
44<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Daniel G. Stec  
45<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Patrick Gallivan  
60<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Alexis Weik  
8<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Joseph Griffo  
53<sup>rd</sup> District



Senator Mario Mattera  
2<sup>nd</sup> District



Senator Rob Rolison  
39<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Jake Ashby  
43<sup>rd</sup> District



Senator William Weber  
38<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Jack M. Martins  
7<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Steve Rhoads  
5<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick  
9<sup>th</sup> District