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September 5, 2024

The Honorable Eric Adams
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York New York 10007

Dear Mayor Adams,

I am writing to express my grave concerns with the safety and security of Jewish students at college and university campuses throughout New York City this Fall semester. We simply cannot let vile antisemitism and dangerous harassment of Jewish students continue for yet another year in our colleges and universities.

That is why I am demanding that you ensure independent monitors are sent to college and university campuses in New York when an educational institution shows signs of allowing antisemitism to flourish. I have spoken with many Jewish students from campuses across New York City who feel deeply unsafe attending college this fall, purely because of their religious and ethnic identity. They feel completely abandoned by school administrators and have nowhere else to turn. This is a blatant violation of Title VI and we cannot allow this illegal abuse to continue in light of many education institutions abject failure to provide a safe, non-hostile environment inclusive of Jewish students and staff.

According to a recent report by the New York State Comptroller, hate crimes against Jewish New Yorkers rose by 89% from 2018 to 2023. In 2023, nearly 44 percent of all recorded hate crime incidents targeted Jewish victims, the largest share of any other targeted group. Anti-Semitic incidents have been steadily and exponentially rising for years with the brunt borne by students. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including Executive Order 13899 Combatting Anti-Semitism, make clear that discrimination and harassment on the basis of ethnic characteristics, shared ancestry, national origin, and affiliation therewith, is illegal. The Executive Order was issued to ensure that Title VI is enforced against anti-Semitism as vigorously as against other forms of prohibited discrimination and failure to comply with these laws is subject to a complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights.



The list of college and universities which experienced antisemitic incidents over the last 2 years is too long to list here, but the incidents highlight the undeniable need for an independent monitor NOW. That is why I am calling for independent monitors to be sent to college and university campuses that receive City, State and Federal funding, when an educational institution shows signs of allowing antisemitism to flourish, detracting from students' ability to learn. The monitor would be tasked with evaluating the progress that a college or university has made toward combating antisemitism on campus. Failure to comply with the monitorship would result in the loss of City, State and Federal funds. The expenses of the monitorship would be paid by the college or university that has been assigned monitorship.

Only a few days ago, HAMAS, a known terrorist organization, murdered American hostage Hersh Polin-Goldberg. For nearly a year after blowing off his arm, HAMAS held him captive in unspeakable conditions before executing him to ensure he could not be rescued. Instead of protecting American students and providing a plan to make sure no more Americans are murdered, we are allowing HAMAS supporters to harass, intimidate and threaten our students, incite violence against our citizens, recruit on our college campuses, and advocate for intifada terrorism on American soil. These are not protected rights- this is illegal, it is dangerous, and it must be stopped at any cost.

The administration at too many colleges and universities have utterly failed to provide a safe, non-hostile environment inclusive of Jewish students. Now, it is incumbent upon us, as leaders, to weed out the hotbeds of hate and violence. All decent New Yorkers expect that you will take these necessary steps at once.

I look forward to hearing from you in the immediate future.

Sincerely,



Simcha Felder
Senator, 22nd Senatorial District