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November 19, 2025

Senator James Risch, Chairman
Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Mem.
Members of the Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator,

We write to you on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (“Orthodox Union”) regarding the Committee’s consideration of Yehuda Kaploun to be the Special Envoy for Combatting Antisemitism.

The Orthodox Union is the nation’s largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization serving thousands of congregations nationwide. As a nonpartisan religious organization, it is our practice not to endorse or oppose a president’s nominees before the Senate for confirmation. However, we wish to express our view regarding the importance of this position and Rabbi Kaploun’s understanding of the issues facing our community.

Since the attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023, antisemitism, already on the rise, has seen a dramatic spike across the globe. Both domestically and abroad, the Jewish community is facing increasing instances of assault and harassment, at schools, shuls and community centers.

In this environment of rapidly increasing hate against our community, it is critical that the role of Special Envoy be filled as quickly as possible to continue coordinating US led global efforts to combat such hatred. As an easily identifiable member of the Jewish community, and longtime activist, Rabbi Kaploun is familiar with the issues facing Jews around the world. As a member of the Orthodox community, we are familiar with Rabbi Kaploun and his commitment to combatting antisemitism.

Additionally, Rabbi Kaploun has shown a willingness to cross the partisan divide. He worked with two of his predecessors, Deborah Lipstadt and Elan Carr, to issue a joint response to a horrible antisemitic attack and issue a bipartisan call for an international and domestic response that goes beyond politics.¹ This too is crucial in the fight against antisemitism

¹ [Take it from us, antisemitism envoys for Trump and Biden: The fight against Jew-hatred must not be politicized - Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#)

In short, Rabbi Kaploun has proven an eager and capable ally in the fight against antisemitism.

We appreciate this Committee's serious consideration of these issues. We thank you for taking our perspective into account as you consider Rabbi Kaploun's nomination.

Sincerely,

Nathan Diament

Nathan J. Diament
Executive Director

Isaac Pretter

Isaac Pretter
Chairman, Advocacy