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Chairman Tim Walberg
Ranking Member Robert Scott
United States House of Representatives
Education and Workforce Committee
Washington, DC
by electronic mail

Dear Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott,

We write on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the nation's largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization, to express our strong support for the "Student Protection and University Accountability Act" (H.R. 9203). We also express our thanks to Rep. Stefanik and Rep. Gillen for their leadership of this bill.

Over the past several years, the Committee on Education and the Workforce has held multiple hearings revealing to the American people the alarming and rising rate of antisemitism condoned on our university campuses. Testimony has demonstrated too much indifference by too many university officials leading to their failure respond adequately given their moral and even legal responsibilities. Furthermore, despite investigations and lawsuits brought by the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, too few American university administrators have put in place strong enough procedures and policies to address the hate on their campuses. It is time for Congress to enact substantive legislation to provide more effective enforcement of the nondiscrimination promise of Title VI.

H.R. 9203 accomplishes this by requiring universities to implement the same policies and protections for students' rights under Title VI as those which exist under Title IX. The bill will compel universities to provide Title VI training to staff and students, create an office of a Title VI coordinator and publish their investigatory procedure as well as display any materials regarding these issues produced by the Department of Education. These kinds of requirements are of the sort that will give strength and meaning to the demands of Title VI and hopefully compel recalcitrant administrators to do what they ought to already. Critically, H.R. 9203 provides that if a university fails to comply with these requirements for two years post enactment the university will thereby lose its eligibility for receiving federal funds until it comes into compliance. This legislation is the chance for Congress – as our elected representatives – to tell universities that they must protect the civil rights of all their students or face real consequences.

We urge the Committee to approve H.R. 9203.

Sincerely,
Nathan Diament
Nathan Diament

Issac Pretter
Issac Pretter