



September 16, 2024

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor  
The State of Washington  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

VIA EMAIL

Dear Governor Inslee:

You are undoubtedly aware of the events that occurred at the public meeting of the University of Washington board of regents this past Thursday, September 12, 2024. In brief, after a number of speakers appeared to criticize the State of Israel and urge certain actions on the university, all of whom were listened to with respect and without disruption, speakers who appeared to address the concerns of Jewish students about the tone and tenor of the anti-Israel atmosphere on campus and the resulting antisemitism experienced by Jewish students were constantly disrupted and verbally harassed. The fifth such speaker, Solomon Kane, the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, representing the Seattle Jewish community, attempted to deliver prepared remarks that respectfully urged the board to take necessary steps to protect Jewish students on campus from antisemitism. His remarks were met with one of the most vile, outrageous displays of antisemitism to be witnessed at a public meeting in the United States of America in recent memory. To make matters worse, the board, a public body duly chartered by the State of Washington, did nothing to remove the disrupters, but instead chose to adjourn the meeting rather than to ensure the right of this speaker and the others who had planned to speak to proceed. The board has so far taken no legal or disciplinary action against the disrupters. The speaker had to be escorted from the premises for his physical safety.

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National Campaign Chair

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**Honorable Eric D. Fingerhut**

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Governor, this incident is a stain on the reputation of the State of Washington and the University of Washington that you must personally address. As the chair and CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America, of which the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle is a leading affiliate, we request the Jewish community of Seattle to receive an appropriate apology, we request the perpetrators of this heinous act to be punished, and we request that the issues that the speaker sought to raise will be heard and considered by you personally and by all responsible officials of the university in your presence. These are all basic expectations that shouldn't need to be requested. Nothing short of these steps can hope to restore confidence in the integrity of the university or its intention to uphold the values of free speech, mutual respect, and opposition to antisemitism that are cornerstones of American civil society.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Julie Platt, Chair

Honorable Eric D. Fingerhut, President and CEO

CC: All interested parties

