



March 6, 2024

Dear esteemed member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee:

As leaders of the Jewish Federations of North America, the umbrella organization that represents Jewish Federations in every congressional district across the United States, we write to urge your prompt and affirmative action on HR 7521, introduced by Representative Gallagher and Representative Krishnamoorthi with 20 bipartisan cosponsors, to provide the President with the tools necessary to protect American citizens from the harm that is currently being done to our nation by TikTok.

The single most important issue to our Jewish communities today is the dramatic rise in antisemitism, documented both by the federal government, which showed FBI Hate Crime data reaching “historic levels” last year, and the ADL, which tracks a 336% rise in antisemitic incidents since the Hamas terror attacks on Israel of October 7th. We are particularly sickened and outraged by the impact that antisemitism is having on our children on college campuses and increasingly in primary and secondary education as well. Each of you, together with many members of Congress, have spoken out against this development. Now is the time for action.

Our community understands that social media is a major driver of the rise in antisemitism, and that TikTok is the worst offender by far. Recently, TikTok’s governmental affairs advisor in Israel [resigned](#) from the company in protest of the app’s overt bias and sympathy to terror with regard to the events of

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October 7th. Researchers found that people who use TikTok for over 30 minutes a day are 17% more likely to hold antisemitic or anti-Israel views, compared with 6% for Instagram and 2% for X/Twitter. This biased information, flooding onto the phones of Americans, is a major driver of the rise in antisemitism we are experiencing, which is most notable among the demographics that heavily use TikTok.

The rise of antisemitism is a threat not just to the Jewish community but to all Americans. Bias against Jews has, throughout history, been the “canary in the coal mine.” A society that cannot control the virus of antisemitism soon finds itself facing existential threats to the very fabric of civic life. Congress must act now.

The sponsors of HR 7521 have worked long and hard to develop an approach to this problem that appropriately balances free speech and individual rights with regulatory action. We support giving the President and the Executive Branch the tools they need to address this grave problem. The bill incentivizes the divestment of TikTok and other foreign adversary-controlled apps from their foreign ownership, a necessary step in reforming its operations, or face a prohibition on app store availability and access to web hosting services in the United States. The President may exercise this authority if an application presents a national security threat, has over one million annual active users, and is under the control of a foreign adversary entity, as defined by statute. The bill also empowers users to switch platforms, requiring these designated apps to provide users with a copy of their data in a format that can be imported into an alternative social media application. All users would be able to download their data and content and transition to another platform. The bill does not punish individual social media users or censor speech.

There is no one answer to the rise in antisemitism, but Congress must act



when it can – and HR 7521 is a very important step that Congress can take today. [A vote for HR 7521 is a vote against antisemitism.](#)

We thank you for your leadership thus far and offer our full support in the coming days to help move this important legislation forward.

For more information, please contact Karen Paikin Barall, VP of Government Relations, at karen.barall@jewishfederations.org.

Sincerely,

Julie Platt, Los Angeles, Chair of the Board

David Brown, Chicago, Vice Chair of the Board

Neil Wallack, Boston, Secretary of the Board

Suzanne Grant, Wilmington DE, Treasurer of the Board

J. David Heller, Moreland Hills OH, National Campaign Chair

Andy Hochberg, Chicago, Chair, Domestic Policy and Government Affairs

Diana Anderson, Denver, Co-Chair, Sub-committee on Security and Antisemitism

Dennis Bernard, Detroit, Co-Chair, Sub-committee on Security and Antisemitism

The Honorable Eric D. Fingerhut, Former Member of Congress, President and CEO

