

The Antisemitism Awareness Act

Support H.R.6090, the Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2023

Purpose and Overview

In the wake of the 10/7 Hamas terror attacks in Israel, there has been an explosion of antisemitic incidents across the US. Building upon the already dramatic rise in antisemitism preceding 10/7, this spike has seen Jewish students become isolated on their own campuses by both their fellow students and faculty, fearing for their safety as protests and criticism of Israel far too often crosses the line into blatant antisemitism. It is vital that Congress clearly defines antisemitism to help empower universities to keep Jewish students safe amidst the wave of threats and attacks they face.

Background

The Antisemitism Awareness Act (H.R.6090) is bipartisan legislation that requires the Department of Education to consider the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\) working definition](#) of antisemitism when enforcing federal anti-discrimination laws. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits certain forms of antisemitic and other discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities.

Talking Points

In addition to recognizing that antisemitism is on the rise, the Antisemitism Awareness Act would require the Department of Education to consider the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism and its contemporary examples when enforcing federal antidiscrimination laws.

- The IHRA definition covers modern manifestations of antisemitism such as denying the Jewish people the right to self-determination, holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the state of Israel, Holocaust denial, and more.
- The IHRA definition is the only definition that has been officially recognized internationally and adopted by mainstream Jewish organizations. It is the most comprehensive and effective





definition of antisemitism. 1,216 entities have already adopted or endorsed the IHRA definition worldwide.

This legislation seeks to build upon the recently formed U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, underscoring the need to:

- Increase awareness on the pervasiveness of antisemitism in America.
- Improve the overall safety of Jewish communities.
- Push back against the normalization of antisemitism.
- Increase cooperation and collaboration between communities.
- Implement a whole-of-government-and-society approach to combatting antisemitism.

At a time when antisemitism on campus is rampant, the Antisemitism Awareness Act will help protect students and others by clearly and concisely defining antisemitism.

- Across college campuses, Jewish students have faced antisemitic intimidation, harassment, and even violence.
- Members of Congress from both parties, Cabinet, and Admin officials have decried the rise in antisemitism on college campuses and advocated for action.
- Clearly defining and differentiating between antisemitism and legitimate critiques of Israeli policies will help universities, elected officials and other stakeholders to differentiate criticism of Israel and its policies more easily from antisemitic hate speech.
- There has been an over 300% rise in antisemitic incidents since the 10/7 Hamas terror attacks. This bill will help counter antisemitism both nationally and especially at the local level.
- This bill would empower officials to more forcefully counter antisemitism and help keep Jewish students and communities safe.

The Antisemitism Awareness Act is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that has received united support from the Jewish community and allies. We ask today that you support this legislation.

- The Antisemitism Awareness Act has been endorsed by the following organizations: Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (COP), Anti-Defamation League (ADL), American Jewish Committee (AJC), Christians United For Israel (CUFI), Israeli-American Council (IAC), Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (OU), Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, and Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM)
- The bill's original sponsors:





- House: Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05), Mike Lawler (R-NY-17), Max Miller (R-OH-7), and Jared Moskowitz (D-FL-23)
- Senate: Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)

