



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear community,

I am reaching out with humility and appreciation that intent and impact can sometimes be quite different, and I recognize and take responsibility for the harm I have done to the trust I have with many in our Jewish community. I am deeply sorry that my recent statement on the U.S. House floor gave the impression that I was equating the Holocaust with the evolving events in Gaza.

I should not have discussed these two things during the same speech. Doing so gave many the impression I was comparing them — and I am clear that the experience of the Holocaust is without comparison. In the aftermath of Hamas' atrocious attack on October 7th and in the face of rising antisemitism that is pervasive in every corner of the world, I am genuinely sorry to have been the cause of further pain.

I hold deep and unwavering care for all our neighbors, which importantly includes a commitment to Oregon's vibrant Jewish community. I also stand firm in my support for a lasting peace in the Middle East, including a continued support for Israel's right to exist.

In all that I do, I am guided by the responsibility I feel as a mother to show my children that integrity and moral courage matter. In this regard, I know that I am accountable for my words. I will work to do better in the future to have more intentionality and sensitivity for how my words may impact our community. I am mindful of the remaining living survivors of the Holocaust and certainly many, many family members of victims and survivors who I may have hurt. I want to apologize to them for how my words may have been hurtful toward them or disrespectful of their loved ones' memories.

It is important to me to be as informed as possible when sharing my perspectives on complicated issues and, clearly, I could have done better. I will continue to come to the Jewish community, those both in support and in opposition to my views, to expand my understanding and sit in honest discourse with you, to hopefully build greater trust and understanding with time.

You have my commitment to standing up against antisemitism and for the needs of our Jewish community today — and every day.

With deep gratitude and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maxine Dexter', with a stylized, flowing script.

Maxine