



July 17, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken:

We write to you both to express our deep support for your efforts to include Israel in the Visa Waiver Program during this Fiscal Year 2023. As a critical ally and strong trade partner of the United States, Israel's entry into the program will advance cultural, business, and educational ties between our two countries.

We proudly represent 146 independent Federations and a network of 300 smaller communities across the country. Together we partner with government and raise billions in philanthropic dollars to serve Jewish and other communities through a broad range of health and human services. Numerous Jewish Americans have friends and family in Israel, work with Israelis, and bring Israeli educators to the United States to support Jewish communal and educational initiatives. The current drawn-out visa process has made this travel difficult, impacting in some cases important events and family celebrations. This program would make a meaningful difference for us and our communities.

We were encouraged by President Biden's reference to the program in a 2021 meeting with Israel's government and the continuing support from our Ambassador to Israel, Tom Nides. We understand that several key requirements for entry, including a visa refusal rate for Israelis below 3% and passage of the prerequisite Israel legislation, have been achieved. Moreover,

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we understand Israel and the United States are conducting a unique pilot this summer to further address any questions about Israel's entry.

This step will be important for the almost half a million Israelis traveling annually to the United States. Israel's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program is likely to increase business, tourism, educational and cultural travel of benefit to both countries.

We hope that your agencies will continue to work urgently to ensure that Israel's entry into the program is approved this year.

Sincerely,

Baltimore Jewish Council

Buffalo Jewish Federation

Canton Jewish Community Federation

Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix

Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston (CJP)

Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston, Inc.

Federation in the Heart of New Jersey

Greater Miami Jewish Federation

Greenville Jewish Federation

Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council

Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

JCRC of Greater Phoenix

JCRC of New York

Jewish Community Alliance of NEPA



Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine

Jewish Community Center and Federation of Augusta

Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund

Jewish Community Federation of Richmond

Jewish Community Federation of the Mohawk Valley

Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati

Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas

Jewish Council of North Central Florida

Jewish Federation & Foundation of NE FL

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida

Jewish Federation Eastern CT

Jewish Federation fo the Berkshires

Jewish Federation in the Heart of NJ

Jewish Federation of Atlantic & Cape May Counties

Jewish Federation of Brevard County Florida

Jewish Federation of Broward County

Jewish Federation of Central Alabama

Jewish Federation of Central MA

Jewish Federation of Cincinnati

Jewish Federation of Cleveland

Jewish Federation of Delaware

Jewish Federation of Florida's Gulf Coast

JEWSH FEDERATION OF GREATER ANN ARBOR



Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta

Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton

Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga

Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas

Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton

Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County

Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg

Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis

Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

Jewish Federation of Greater Metrowest NJ

Jewish Federation of Greater Naples

Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville

Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

Jewish Federation of Greater Rockford

Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle

Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo



Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

Jewish Federation of Heart of NJ

Jewish Federation of Huntsville and North Alabama

Jewish Federation of Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan

Jewish Federation of Lane County

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey

Jewish Federation of Omaha

Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County

Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks

Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County

Jewish Federation of southern NJ

Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass

Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley

Jewish Federation of the Quad cities

Jewish Federation of Tulsa

Jewish Federation of Ulster County

Jewish Federation of Ventura County

Jewish Federation of West-Central New Jersey



Jewish Federation of Western CT

Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts

Jewish Long Beach

Jewish Nevada

Jewish Silicon Valley

Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Chicago

JewishAkron

JEWISHcolorado

Knoxville Jewish alliance

Martinsville, Va

Memphis Jewish Federation

Mid-Kansas Jewish Federation

Minneapolis Jewish Federation

Monterey CA Federation

Network of Independent Communities

Northeastern NY

Northern New Jersey

Roanoke Jewish Federation

Shalom Austin

St. Paul Jewish Federation

Tampa Jewish Community Centers and Federation

Temple Beth Shalom, Santa Fe, NM

The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore



The Birmingham Jewish Federation

The United Jewish Fund for Charlottesville

Treasure Coast

TriCities TN-SW VA

UJA Federation of New York

UJA of Wilmington, NC

UJA-JCC GREENWICH

United Jewish Community of Colorado Springs

United Jewish Council of Anne Arundel County, MD

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien

United Jewish Federation of Tidewater

United Jewish Federation of Utah

Volusia & Flagler Counties

Winston-Salem UJA

YOUNGSTOWN AREA JEWISH FEDERATION

