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Washington D.C. Office OF NORTH AMERICA

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The Honorable Tim Scott
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Peter J. Roskam
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Deutch
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 24, 2018

Dear Senators Scott and Casey, and Representatives Roskam, Deutch, Collins, and Nadler:

On behalf of The Jewish Federations of North America, we write to commend your introduction of the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2018. This legislation takes important steps to curb the historic growth of anti-Semitic behavior, particularly at educational institutions.

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) is the umbrella organization for 148 Jewish Federations and 300 independent communities across North America. As a network that has been watching the alarming increase of anti-Semitism in the United States, Federations take an active role in battling this trend. JFNA works with Hillels on college campuses to protect students from hateful anti-Semitism, often masquerading as anti-Israel activism.

The [Anti-Defamation League's annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents](#) reported that there were 204 anti-Semitic incidents on college and university campuses in 2017, an 89 percent increase over the 108 incidents in 2016. These incidents occur on college campuses – big and small, public and private – across the country. In classrooms, libraries, and dormitories, Jewish students are being harassed and discriminated against because of their faith.

No student working hard to earn a degree should ever have to face fear and hate based on who they are or their religious identity. We cannot stand idly by while our students are subject to discrimination, intimidation, or harassment. These are among the reasons JFNA stands in support of this legislation.

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The Anti-Semitism Awareness Act directs the U.S. Department of Education to use the leading definition of anti-Semitism when investigating allegations of unlawful harassment, intimidation, or discrimination against Jewish students. Passage of this legislation will send a strong message that anti-Semitism is not tolerated on college campuses.

Thank you for your continued leadership. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact Stephanie Hausner, Israel Action Network's Deputy Director, at Stephanie.Hausner@JewishFederations.org or Mindy Reinstein Brodsky, JFNA's Director of Government Affairs, at Mindy.Brodsky@JewishFederations.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William C. Daroff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William C. Daroff
Senior Vice President for Public Policy &
Director of the Washington Office

CC: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn; Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer; Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin; House Speaker Paul Ryan; House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy; House Majority Whip Steve Scalise; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer