



Connecticut K–12 Omnibus Bill Antisemitism Working Group

Talking Points – Call Script – Text/SMS Prompt

The Core Message This is about **establishing statewide support for schools to address antisemitism**, strengthen student well-being, and give educators practical tools—while protecting open dialogue and local control. According to recent FBI hate crime reporting, roughly 69–70% of religion-based hate crimes target Jews, highlighting the urgency of proactive education.

1. This invests in student well-being and school climate

- Jewish students and school staff are experiencing real increases in harassment, isolation, and bias in K–12 settings.
- According to recent FBI hate crime reporting, roughly 69–70% of religion-based hate crimes target Jews, which helps explain why this shows up so acutely in schools.
- Educators are asking for guidance and resources so they can be proactive, not reactive.
- This working group can help schools build environments where every student feels safe and supported.

2. It provides support, not mandates or censorship

- The working group creates a resource and assistance framework, not top-down curriculum control.
- With Jews targeted in roughly 70% of religious hate crimes nationwide, schools are asking for guidance.
- Districts retain local decision-making authority.
- The focus is on sharing best practices: training, policy guidance, and educational resources.

3. Addressing antisemitism strengthens anti-bias efforts for everyone

- Training educators to address antisemitism also strengthens their ability to respond to all forms of bias and discrimination.
- This builds inclusive school cultures that benefit Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and all students.

4. It protects honest teaching and respectful dialogue

- The goal is not to limit discussion, but to help educators navigate complex topics thoughtfully.
- It encourages civil, informed conversations and prevents harassment or targeting based on identity.

5. It reflects what educators themselves are asking for

- We have heard directly from school leaders who want practical tools: model policies, professional development, and classroom resources.
- With antisemitism accounting for nearly 70% of religious hate crimes, educators are seeking proactive support now.
- This responds directly to those needs through a collaborative, educator-driven approach.

6. Connecticut can lead with partnership and education

- States like Massachusetts have already demonstrated how a statewide antisemitism task force can bring educators, community leaders, and policymakers together to share best practices, improve coordination, and strengthen school climates. This positions Connecticut to build on a proven model, addressing antisemitism through collaboration, relationship-building, and education, not punishment or silencing.

Q & A

? Isn't this bill about censoring classrooms or limiting discussion about Israel/Palestine?

Response: No. This initiative does not mandate curriculum or restrict speech. It establishes a working group that can develop guidance and recommendations—including optional training, policy guidance, and classroom resources—to help educators navigate complex topics thoughtfully and prevent harassment or targeting based on identity. The goal is respectful dialogue and student well-being, not censorship.

? How does this help all students, not just Jewish students?

Response: Because antisemitism represents nearly 70% of religious hate crimes nationally, addressing it strengthens schools' overall ability to respond to bias. When educators are trained to recognize and respond to antisemitism, they also strengthen their ability to address all forms of bias and discrimination. This builds healthier, more inclusive school climates for every student, Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and others alike.

? Why do we need a working group? Don't schools already handle this?

Response: Many educators are asking for guidance and shared best practices. The working group gives districts access to tools, training, and resources so they can be proactive instead of reactive. It creates coordination and support, not new mandates.

? Don't schools already teach about antisemitism through Holocaust education?

Response: Connecticut already requires Holocaust and genocide education, which is incredibly important. This initiative works hand in hand with that mandate by giving educators practical tools to address antisemitism as it shows up in today's classrooms through training, policy guidance, and real-world resources. Holocaust education provides historical context; this working group helps schools respond to current challenges and support student well-being in real time.

? Who decides what's included?

Response: It's designed as a collaborative, educator-driven process with community input. The focus is on practical support, not top-down requirements.

? What's the main reason you support this?

Response: Because every student deserves to feel safe and supported at school, and educators deserve tools to help them build inclusive classrooms. This is a constructive, common-sense step that strengthens student well-being and school climate statewide.

✓ Closing line

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me. Will you support establishing the antisemitism working group as part of the K-12 omnibus bill?

Phone Call Script

Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I'm a constituent calling from [Your Town].

I'm calling to urge you to **support establishing the antisemitism working group** as part of Connecticut's K-12 omnibus bill.

Jewish students are experiencing rising harassment and isolation. According to recent FBI hate crime reporting, roughly 69–70% of religion-based hate crimes target Jews, which is why educators are asking for tools to be proactive, not reactive, in creating safe, inclusive classrooms. This initiative establishes a statewide antisemitism working group to bring educators, community partners, and policymakers together to develop guidance and recommendations for training, policy, and classroom resources—while preserving local decision-making and encouraging respectful dialogue.

Addressing antisemitism also strengthens schools' ability to respond to all forms of bias, benefiting every student.

Please vote YES and help invest in student well-being and inclusive learning environments across Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and service.

Text / SMS Prompt

Please contact your legislator today and urge them to **support establishing the antisemitism working group** as part of Connecticut's K-12 omnibus bill. Jewish students are facing rising harassment, and according to recent FBI hate crime reporting, roughly 69–70% of religion-based hate crimes target Jews. Educators are asking for tools to be proactive, not reactive, in building safe, inclusive classrooms. This initiative establishes a statewide antisemitism working group to bring educators, community partners, and policymakers together to develop guidance and recommendations for training, policy, and classroom resources, while preserving local decision-making and encouraging respectful dialogue. Tell your legislators: vote YES to invest in student well-being and inclusive learning environments for all.

