



Dear Members of the Senate HELP Committee,

We write in support of S. 558, the Antisemitism Awareness Act (AAA), which your committee will be considering tomorrow, April 30, 2025. We also urge you to oppose any amendments that make fundamental changes to the integrity of the bill.

Our organizations, which represent the vast majority of Jewish Americans, consistently supported this legislation in multiple Congressional sessions, while multiple administrations—both Democratic and Republican—actively used the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism and its contemporary examples.

The IHRA Working Definition is the most globally accepted and used definition of antisemitism, promoted by the U.S. Department of State in each of the prior three administrations, and endorsed by 45 other countries, and more than 1,200 entities around the world, including 37 U.S. states, and over 100 U.S. cities and municipalities. AAA will ensure that the existing policy of the past two presidential Administrations will continue, allowing the Department of Education to effectively determine whether particular conduct is antisemitic.

Following Hamas's October 7 massacre and ensuing pro-Hamas demonstrations on college campuses, incidents of discrimination, harassment, and violence directed against Jewish students dramatically increased. Over the last year and a half, many of these demonstrations have included explicit calls for violence against Jews and other disturbing antisemitic rhetoric. In too many cases, university leaders failed to respond appropriately. This bill guarantees the Department of Education will continue to have the tools it needs to ensure Jewish student safety and to hold accountable colleges and universities that are failing to meet their Title VI obligations.

[S. 558](#) will cement the policy of both Democratic and Republican administrations, interpreting Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect Jewish students to the extent that they face discrimination based on real or perceived racial, national, or ethnic characteristics. In order to determine when allegations of harassment are motivated by anti-Jewish animus, the bill reinforces the use of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, including its illustrative examples which capture both traditional and modern manifestations of antisemitism.

The current climate underscores the need for the Department of Education to have clear guidance to determine when anti-Israel activity crosses the line into antisemitism, discriminating either directly or by creating a hostile environment.

As Congress continues to play a leading role in the fight against antisemitism, we urge you to support the passage of this legislation.

Signed,

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

AIPAC

American Jewish Committee

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

Jewish Federations of North America