



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 10
OCTOBER 11, 2017**

**WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF TAMMI ROSSMAN-BENJAMIN
COFOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF AMCHA INITIATIVE**

ABOUT AMCHA INITIATIVE

AMCHA Initiative is a non-profit organization dedicated to investigating, documenting, educating about, and combating antisemitism at institutions of higher education in America. AMCHA Initiative's research arm carries out systematic, in-depth research and analysis of antisemitic activity and has developed a comprehensive method for defining, documenting, and analyzing manifestations of antisemitic behavior on campus. In identifying antisemitic activity, AMCHA is careful to use a systematic definition of antisemitism based on the U.S. State Department.

Launched in 2011 by UC Santa Cruz lecturer Tammi Rossman-Benjamin and UCLA professor emeritus Leila Beckwith, AMCHA has produced 9 investigative research publications, including 6 comprehensive reports. AMCHA's recent reports investigating antisemitic activity at 100+ campuses have been cited in almost every popular or scholarly treatment of the subject over the last year including citations in reports of the Academic Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), Brandeis University, the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University in cooperation with the European Jewish Congress as well as in a resource book for University leaders published by the Academic Engagement Network and cited by members of the U.S. Congress and Senate. Over 200 articles in 2016 discussed the reports including notable publications of *Newsweek*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Orange County Register* and *Jewish Journal*.

Co-Founders:

Leila Beckwith is Professor Emeritus at UCLA and the co-founder of AMCHA Initiative. After receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Beckwith went on to teach and do statistical research for more than 30 years at the Neuropsychiatric Institute and the Department of Pediatrics at UCLA. She has published more than 80 research publications in scientific, peer-reviewed journals. She is a board member of the California Association of Scholars and Scholars for Peace in the Middle East. A renowned scientist and researcher, she has been an editorial board member of *Child Development*, *Infant Behavior and Development*, and the *Infant Mental Health Journal*, as well as an ad hoc reviewer for research papers submitted to *Developmental Psychology*, and grants submitted to the National Science Foundation and the National Foundation for the March of Dimes. Beckwith served as an appointed member of research review committees for the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Child Health and Development. She was also a prevention research advisory committee member for the National Institute of Mental Health and a principal investigator for research grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Child Health and Development, and the Center for Disease Control.



Tammi Rossman-Benjamin is a University of California faculty member and the cofounder and director of AMCHA Initiative. Rossman-Benjamin has written articles about academic antisemitism and lectured widely on the types of antisemitism Jewish students experience on college campuses. She was a lead presenter at the 2014 Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism conference in Jerusalem and at the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism annual seminar about AMCHA's research concerning campus antisemitism. She also recently presented research from her chapter in *The Case Against Academic Boycotts of Israel* at Harvard and McGill Universities. In July 2010, Rossman-Benjamin organized a two-week scholarly workshop entitled "Contemporary Antisemitism in Higher Education" at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Rossman-Benjamin was awarded the Cohon Foundation award for benefiting the Jewish people in 2017, honored as one of the Top 100 People Influencing Jewish Life in 2014 by the *Algemeiner*, named one of 2013's *Bright Pro-Israel Lights on U.S. Campuses* by the *Jewish Press* and received the 2012 Tikkun Olam Award from the Haiti Jewish Refugee Legacy. Articles and opinion pieces from Rossman-Benjamin have been published in *Newsweek*, *The Hill*, *New York Daily News*, *Los Angeles Daily News*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Contra Costa Times*, *Jewish Journal of Los Angeles*, and dozens of others.