



Antisemitism on college campuses has been increasing over the last few years. What was a simmering flame of hate turned into a conflagration after the Hamas massacre on October 7. Jewish students, faculty and parents are reeling from the record breaking assaults, harassment, denial or rightful access to school facilities, and intimidation. Hillel International tracked a 700% increase in antisemitic incidents since the same period of time last year. My own granddaughter called me from her college library shortly before final exams. She was studying when she heard screams outside her window and found dozens of Hamas flags and hundreds of Hamas-clad individuals chanting “Intifada,” which she clearly understood was a call for the genocide of Jews in Israel and around the world.

Most university administrations were caught ill prepared to provide both freedom of speech for protestors and protection for Jewish students. Some capitulated to the mobs and left Jewish students to fend for themselves in a threatening environment. Some made better decisions. All could use the guidance and support of the state legislature.

It is for these reasons and more that StandWithUs supports House Bill 606. Public universities need comprehensive training for all faculty, staff, and administration on responding to cultural harassment and intimidation which the bill mandates. The bill introduces a uniform reporting system for hate incidents and provides specific funding for security measures and intergroup outreach programs, addressing the safety and inclusion of vulnerable student populations.

Sincerely,

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