

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Committee"

My name is Pastor Tim Throckmorton, and I serve as the National Director of Church Engagement and Community Impact for the Family Research Council in Washington DC. I also serve as a Congressional liaison for Christians United for Israel. I speak to you today in support of Senate Bill 297

The late Charles Krauthammer observed, Israel "is the only nation on earth that inhabits the same land, bears the same name, speaks the same language, and worships the same God that it did over 3,000 years ago."

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists committed an attack on Israel marked by rape, murder and infanticide. It was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. I have personally learned much about antisemitism in the halls of Yad Vashem during my many trips to Israel, and from the close friends I have known who were imprisoned or lost family members in the gas chambers of the concentration camps in Europe during WW2. One dear friend was Irving Roth.

In April of 1944 the Hungarian government decided to liquidate the Jewish population. He was captured and taken to Auschwitz and later Buchenwald where he barely survived to the end of the war in which more than six million Jews died in the Holocaust. On one occasion when we were together, he rolled up his sleeve and showed me the number tattooed on his arm. He looked up at me and said sadly, "I remember how I felt when this was placed on my arm, it was a fearful time" he continued, "I'm afraid it's getting fearful once again!"

I was in Washington DC on Wednesday July 24th, when anti-American activists nearly disrupted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to a joint session of the United States Congress. When they couldn't get into the capitol, the anti-Israel protestors tore down and burned American flags blocks away at Union Station.

On that day Washington witnessed one of the vilest displays of anti-Semitic hatred in America in years as demonstrators covered their faces, waved signs with anti-Semitic tropes, burned an effigy of Netanyahu, defaced

public property and shouted death to Israel and death to America. Thus, the importance of Senate Bill 297

I was also in our nation's capital less than a week later to experience more of the same as protestors interrupted the Christians United for Israel Summit I was participating in as a Congressional Liaison. The anti-Semitic protesters disrupted the event and the ability for supporters of Israel to meet with their elected officials on Capitol hill during the event.

I heartily encourage support of Senate Bill 297. For the sake of Israel, for the sake of our nation and for the sake of what lies ahead... may we never forget!