U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
THAShington, DC 20515

March 21, 2024

President Martha E. Pollack Cornell University 300 Day Hall Ithaca, NY 14583

Dear President Pollack:

Thank you for responding to the Committee on Ways and Means' ("the Committee") January 10, 2024, request. For reasons explained in more detail below, this letter requests additional information in support of the Committee's original request.¹

The explosion of antisemitism on college campuses in the United States in the aftermath of Hamas's vicious targeting of Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, was extremely revealing. These antisemitic outbursts did not arise from new opinions developed in a matter of hours or days after the Hamas attacks. But these eruptions did reveal a culture of antisemitism that developed and grew beneath the surface for decades. Many Americans, especially Jewish Americans, were hyper-aware of these issues, but the aftermath of October 7th opened the eyes of millions of Americans to what things are like on campus at our nation's most prestigious universities—and the American people do not like what they see.

The focus of the Committee's inquiry and questions is to understand what universities like yours are doing, if anything, to change course drastically and address what has gone unaddressed for years. Doing so is essential to justifying the generous tax-exempt status that the American people have provided institutions like yours for decades. Why is antisemitism so deeply rooted in campus culture, including among student bodies, faculty members, and administrators? Why do purveyors of antisemitism feel so emboldened to spew hate and even engage in violence against their Jewish classmates? Why have there been so few consequences for conduct that clearly violates campus policies and sometimes even violates the law? This pervasive culture has created a hostile environment for Jews on campus. Public statements, slaps on the wrist, and symbolic gestures, while good and proper, are not sufficient to reverse what is clearly a systemic issue. Antisemitism not only exists on campus, but also thrives and puts Jewish students at risk. The moment calls for serious institutional change. That is what this Committee expects and that is what the American people expect from institutions that were designed to prepare and educate the next generation of leaders.

¹ H. Comm. on Ways and Means, Letter to Cornell University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Pennsylvania (Jan. 10, 2024), https://waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Chair-Smith-Letter-to-Universities-on-Antisemitism.pdf.

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The need for this type of change has not dissipated in the months following October 7th. Over 240 people were taken hostage that day, and an estimated 134 hostages remain in Hamas captivity today.² In the weeks since my initial request, public reporting detailed a heroic rescue carried out by Israeli Defense Forces in Gaza who risked their lives and successfully rescued two hostages who were being held in a heavily fortified apartment building.³ Accounts of recovered hostages indicate that the remaining hostages are likely living underground and are being tortured on a regular basis.⁴ No country in the world would accept this situation; nor should Israel.

As the severity of the situation and catastrophe stemming from Hamas' brutal attack on Israel continues, we cannot forget the impact such strife has on individuals and families in America as well, especially Jewish individuals and families. Moreover, a recent article in *The Atlantic* illustrates the very issue that the Committee has been concerned about when it comes to antisemitism and the safety of Jewish students on campuses across the U.S.:

The problem was not that Jewish students on American university campuses didn't want free speech, or that they didn't want to hear criticism of Israel. Instead, they didn't want people vandalizing Jewish student organizations' buildings, or breaking or urinating on the buildings' windows. They didn't want people tearing their mezuzahs down from their dorm-room doors. They didn't want their college instructors spouting anti-Semitic lies and humiliating them in class. They didn't want their posters defaced with Hitler caricatures, or their dorm windows plastered with [f---] jews.⁵ They didn't want people punching them in the face, or beating them with a stick, or threatening them with death for being Jewish. At world-class American colleges and universities, all of this happened and more.⁶

Given the current state of Israel's efforts to restore security in the region after Hamas' vicious attack on civilian populations on October 7th, the dramatic increase in antisemitism around the world, and the rise in violence and threats against Jewish students on campuses across the nation, we strongly urge you and your campus to do more to help Jewish students feel safe, secure, and free from discrimination and harassment on campus.

With that context in mind, I remain concerned about Cornell University's ("Cornell") approach to protecting Jewish students and combating antisemitism on its campus. While it is a positive step that you made clear that "[a]n explicit call for genocide...would be a violation of

² *Id*.

³ Abeer Salman and Jessie Yeung, *Israel says 2 hostages rescued from Gaza in special operation, 128 days after their capture,* ABC 7 NEWS (Feb. 12, 2024), https://abc7chicago.com/gaza-hostage-rescue-israel-fernando-marman-louis-har/14414008/.

⁴ Lahav Harkov, *Hostages young and old endured physical and psychological torture*, JEWISH INSIDER (Dec. 4, 2023), https://jewishinsider.com/2023/12/hostages-hamas-gaza-testimonies-israel-captivity-tunnels/.

⁵ Note that the antisemitic conduct against Jews on college campuses is so extreme that it has to be censored here.

⁶ Dara Horn, *A Return of the Big Lie: Anti-Semitism Is Winning*, THE ATLANTIC (Feb. 15, 2024), https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2024/02/jewish-anti-semitism-harvard-claudine-gay-zionism/677454/.

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our policies,"⁷ and that a post on social media stating that "Zionists must die" is "heinous,"⁸ recent events on campus make clear that antisemitism remains a serious problem on your campus. Notably, Cornell remains under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education over allegations of antisemitism on campus,⁹ has received demands from alumni for President Pollack to step down amid a rise in "toxic" diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI") policies that may be contributing to a concerning campus culture,¹⁰ and antisemitic incidents on campus have not ceased since my initial letter. Specifically, about two weeks after you sent your response to the Committee, Jewish students at Cornell's library were subjected to yet another "die-in" protest, which not only impacted and likely diminished students' ability to study at the library, but also exposed them to antisemitic phrases like, "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," and other intimidating behavior.¹¹ Moreover, just weeks later students once again took their protests into campus buildings, both in atriums, and throughout the halls of each floor disrupting other students.¹² Police officers "failed to position themselves on time" and only "managed to cite one protestor at the tail end of the group."¹³

These incidents are not isolated. Similar disruptive protests occur on almost a weekly basis, some of which are live streamed on social media. As part of these protests students use megaphones to scream offensive slogans in academic buildings, which has disrupted classes in violation of Cornell's policies. The Committee recently learned that some students even had their exams interrupted and postponed because the disruptions made it impossible to continue taking the exam. Meanwhile the students leading this most recent disruption have led similar disruptions for weeks. The only consequence for these policy violations seems to be that campus police show up late in the protest and ask for the identification for a small number of participating students. The action Cornell has taken thus far, if any, to discipline students that repeatedly violate campus policies in a manner that creates a disruptive and hostile environment on campus for Jewish students has failed to deter further violations.

The latest disruption I am aware of occurred on March 6, 2024.¹⁴ In fact, my staff viewed a livestream of this event as it occurred. My understanding is that the disruptions are organized

⁷ University Statements, *Statement on university Policy*, CORNELL UNIVERSITY (Dec. 9, 2023), https://statements.cornell.edu/2023/20231209-policy.cfm.

⁸ University Statements, *Hateful social media post*, CORNELL UNIVERSITY (Jan. 11, 2024), https://statements.cornell.edu/2024/20240111-social-post.cfm.

⁹ Rene Marsh and Katie Lobosco, *Cornelll, Columbia and UPenn among 7 schools facing Education Dept. probe over allegations of antisemitism and Islamophobia*, CNN (Nov. 17, 2023), https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/16/politics/department-of-education-antisemitism-islamophobia-investigations/index.html.

¹⁰ Matt Egan, *Cornell donor demands president step down, citing 'toxic' diversity policies*, CNN (Jan. 25, 2024), https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/25/business/cornell-president-step-down-dei/index.html.

¹¹ Patrick McDonald, *Cops remove anti-Israel students sprawled out on Cornell library floor as others try to study*, CAMPUS REFORM (Feb. 14, 2024), https://www.campusreform.org/article/cops-remove-anti-israel-students-sprawled-out-on-cornell-library-floor-as-others-try-to-study-/24849.

¹² Timo Isreb, *Cornellians Take Gaza Protest to the Engineering Quad*, THE DISPATCH (Feb. 23, 2024), https://cudispatch.com/cornellians-take-gaza-protest-to-the-engineering-quad/.

¹⁴ Rep. Brandon Williams Twitter (Mar. 6, 2024), https://twitter.com/RepWilliams/status/1765449970998501413.

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by a group called Coalition of Mutual Liberation at Cornell ("CML"). Apparently, this organization is not a registered student group but is instead made up of other registered student groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine, the Black Students Union, the Arab Students Association, and the Young Democratic Socialists of America, among others. The structure of CML appears designed to avoid university discipline. This effort should not flummox school administrators. The students who organize and lead these disruptions are known to you and me. One student leader is quoted as follows: "We don't take our cue from some bullsh*t Student Assembly at Cornell . . . We take our cue from the armed resistance in Palestine. We are in solidarity with the armed resistance in Palestine from the river to the sea." At the same event, the crowd chanted: "Yemen, Yemen, make us proud. Turn another ship around." This appears to be praise for the Houthis, a group that has continuously fired weapons at ships in the Red Sea, including ships carrying U.S. servicemembers; and a group that the Biden Administration redesignated as a terrorist organization. Given the persistent acts of intimidation and the lack of punishment significant enough to deter future violations, it is no wonder Jewish students on campus do not feel protected.

Public statements from your administration indicate that the University intends to discipline violations of campus policies and that repeat violators will see increasingly severe consequences. ²⁰ I want to know what specific disciplinary actions Cornell has taken for the repeated violations of campus policies and the disruptions of student learning at Cornell. Additionally, please indicate whether Cornell has punished the student leaders responsible for organizing and the students who have participated in these disruptive activities that violate campus policies. Consistent and strong enforcement of Cornell's own policies is the only way to regain control of your campus. Inaction will only embolden bad actors and put Jewish students on campus at further risk.

As such, we request answers to the following questions no later than 5 p.m. on April 4, 2024. For answers that reference specific guidelines, policies, bylaws, or other publications, please specify the page and location for each reference.

1. Please describe what, if any, disciplinary action has been taken against students and other Cornell campus administrators or faculty for violating Cornell's policies related to antisemitism since October 7, 2023. Please be specific about the discipline rendered and

15 The Coalition for Mutual Liberation (@cmlcornell) and Students for Justice in Palestine at Cornell (@sjp.atcornell), Instagram Post (Mar. 4, 2024), (a post advertising a walk-out to a disruption at 12 pm on Wednesday, Mar. 6), https://www.instagram.com/p/C4Hh7CcNrVW/?igsh=NXVtNjE3YmJzdmho.

¹⁶ Kate Sanders, *Protestors Praise Mideast Militants in Divestment Rally*, The Cornell Daily Sun (Feb. 3, 2024) https://cornellsun.com/2024/02/03/protesters-praise-mideast-militants-in-divestment-rally/.

¹⁷ Id.

¹⁸ Jonathan Saul and Nayera Abdallah, *Houthis to step up Red Sea strikes, use 'submarine weapons', leader says*, REUTERS (Feb. 22, 2024), https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/vessel-attacked-by-missiles-southeast-yemens-aden-ukmto-says-2024-02-22.

¹⁹ Jennifer Hansler, *Biden administration re-designates Houthis as Specially Designated Global Terrorists*, CNN (Jan. 17, 2024), https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/16/politics/biden-administration-houthis-global-terrorist-entity/index.html.

²⁰ Statement on disruption in Klarman Hall, Cornell University, University Statements (Mar. 6, 2024), https://statements.cornell.edu/2024/20240306-disruption.cfm.

the specific incident at issue related to such discipline. This includes but is not limited to the "die-in" activities in January 2024 that appear to have violated numerous campus policies and the numerous protest activities in February and March 2024 detailed above.

- a. Has Cornell punished specific students for violating these policies? If yes, how many?
- b. Has Cornell punished the leaders of student groups that organize protests that violate campus policies? If yes, how many?
- c. Has Cornell punished student leaders of groups that chant genocidal slogans directed at Jewish students? If yes, how many?
- 2. Why do you think antisemitism has grown on Cornell's campus over the last decade?
 - a. Do you think the rise of antisemitism on Cornell's campus is a serious problem?
- 3. As a leader at Cornell, do you believe there are actions that can be taken to help change the campus culture that has allowed antisemitism to flourish on campus? If so, what actions does Cornell plan to take and what tangible impact to you expect those actions to have?
- 4. Has Cornell (including anyone in Cornell's administration) ever considered, drafted, or issued a statement on antisemitism between January 1, 2015, to present? If so, please provide details about and copies of those statements, including all drafts of statements considered, and final statements issued by the University or its President during that timeframe.
- 5. Please provide any drafts and final statements published by the University since 2020 that highlight the difference between protected free speech on campus and unprotected speech that instead amounts to harassment, incitement of violence, etc.
- 6. Is it true that Cornell receives donations and/or funding from foreign sovereignties or governments? If so, please detail the amount and goal for each donation or piece of funding from 2019 to the present.

Thank you in advance for your time and response. If you have any questions, please contact Sean Clerget of the Ways and Means Majority Committee staff at (202) 225–3625.

Sincerely,

Jason Smith

Chairman



RICHARD E. NEAL MASSACHUSETTS, RANKING MEMBER BRANDON CASEY, STAFF DIRECTOR (202) 225-4021

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

1139 Longworth House Office Building
That ington, BC 20515

March 21, 2024

Interim President Alan M. Garber, MD, PhD Harvard University Massachusetts Hall Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Interim President Garber:

Thank you for responding to the Committee on Ways and Means' ("the Committee") January 10, 2024, request. For reasons explained in more detail below, this letter requests additional information in support of the Committee's original request.¹

The explosion of antisemitism on college campuses in the United States in the aftermath of Hamas's vicious targeting of Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, was extremely revealing. These antisemitic outbursts did not arise from new opinions developed in a matter of hours or days after the Hamas attacks. But these eruptions did reveal a culture of antisemitism that developed and grew beneath the surface for decades. Many Americans, especially Jewish Americans, were hyper-aware of these issues, but the aftermath of October 7th opened the eyes of millions of Americans to what things are like on campus at our nation's most prestigious universities—and the American people do not like what they see.

The focus of the Committee's inquiry and questions is to understand what universities like yours are doing, if anything, to change course drastically and address what has gone unaddressed for years. Doing so is essential to justifying the generous tax-exempt status that the American people have provided institutions like yours for decades. Why is antisemitism so deeply rooted in campus culture, including among student bodies, faculty members, and administrators? Why do purveyors of antisemitism feel so emboldened to spew hate and even engage in violence against their Jewish classmates? Why have there been so few consequences for conduct that clearly violates campus policies and sometimes even violates the law? This pervasive culture has created a hostile environment for Jews on campus. Public statements, slaps on the wrist, and symbolic gestures, while good and proper, are not sufficient to reverse what is clearly a systemic issue. Antisemitism not only exists on campus, but also thrives and puts Jewish students at risk. The moment calls for serious institutional change. That is what this Committee expects and that is what the American people expect from institutions that were designed to prepare and educate the next generation of leaders.

¹ H. Comm. on Ways and Means, Letter to Cornell University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Pennsylvania (Jan. 10, 2024), https://waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Chair-Smith-Letter-to-Universities-on-Antisemitism.pdf.

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The need for this type of change has not dissipated in the months following October 7th. Over 240 people were taken hostage that day, and an estimated 134 hostages remain in Hamas captivity today.² In the weeks since my initial request, public reporting detailed a heroic rescue carried out by Israeli Defense Forces in Gaza who risked their lives and successfully rescued two hostages who were being held in a heavily fortified apartment building.³ Accounts of recovered hostages indicate that the remaining hostages are likely living underground and are being tortured on a regular basis.⁴ No country in the world would accept this situation; nor should Israel.

As the severity of the situation and catastrophe stemming from Hamas' brutal attack on Israel continues, we cannot forget the impact such strife has on individuals and families in America as well, especially Jewish individuals and families. Moreover, a recent article in *The Atlantic* illustrates the very issue that the Committee has been concerned about when it comes to antisemitism and the safety of Jewish students on campuses across the U.S.:

The problem was not that Jewish students on American university campuses didn't want free speech, or that they didn't want to hear criticism of Israel. Instead, they didn't want people vandalizing Jewish student organizations' buildings, or breaking or urinating on the buildings' windows. They didn't want people tearing their mezuzahs down from their dorm-room doors. They didn't want their college instructors spouting anti-Semitic lies and humiliating them in class. They didn't want their posters defaced with Hitler caricatures, or their dorm windows plastered with [f---] jews.⁵ They didn't want people punching them in the face, or beating them with a stick, or threatening them with death for being Jewish. At world-class American colleges and universities, all of this happened and more.⁶

Given the current state of Israel's efforts to restore security in the region after Hamas' vicious attack on civilian populations on October 7th, the dramatic increase in antisemitism around the world, and the rise in violence and threats against Jewish students on campuses across the nation, we strongly urge you and your campus to do more to help Jewish students feel safe, secure, and free from discrimination and harassment on campus.

With that context in mind, I remain concerned about Harvard University's ("Harvard") approach to protecting Jewish students and combating antisemitism on its campus. Part of this concern comes from the culture at many universities, which has become apparent since October 7th. The appointment of Derek J. Penslar as co-chair of Harvard's antisemitism task force has

² *Id*.

³ Abeer Salman and Jessie Yeung, *Israel says 2 hostages rescued from Gaza in special operation, 128 days after their capture,* ABC 7 NEWS (Feb. 12, 2024), https://abc7chicago.com/gaza-hostage-rescue-israel-fernando-marman-louis-har/14414008/.

⁴ Lahav Harkov, *Hostages young and old endured physical and psychological torture*, JEWISH INSIDER (Dec. 4, 2023), https://jewishinsider.com/2023/12/hostages-hamas-gaza-testimonies-israel-captivity-tunnels/.

⁵ Note that the antisemitic conduct against Jews on college campuses is so extreme that it has to be censored here.

⁶ Dara Horn, *A Return of the Big Lie: Anti-Semitism Is Winning*, THE ATLANTIC (Feb. 15, 2024), https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2024/02/jewish-anti-semitism-harvard-claudine-gay-zionism/677454/.

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only increased my concerns.⁷ Professor Penslar signed a letter calling Israel an "apartheid regime" and supported former Harvard President Gay⁹ who resigned¹⁰ after testimony before a congressional committee where she declined to say that calls for genocide against Jews would violate Harvard's policies against bullying and harassment.¹¹ Even worse, many cited plagiarism allegations as the tipping point for Gay's resignation—not her comments at the congressional hearing.¹² This created the impression that Harvard did not have serious concerns about her testimony.

Not only have multiple Harvard alumni condemned the appointment of Penslar—including former Harvard President Larry Summers who said he "lost confidence" in Harvard's ability to be "a place where Jews and Israelis can flourish" but other key individuals in the fight against antisemitism have denounced the move as well, including Anti-Defamation League ("ADL") CEO Jonathan Greenblatt who called the decision a lesson "in how NOT to combat antisemitism." Appointing someone who has previously called Israel a "regime of apartheid" and called on Congress to restrict aid to Israel 15 is an odd way to combat antisemitism on campus.

This, however, is not the only concern with the task force. Rabbi David Wolpe, an initial member of the task force, resigned in December because he did not think he could make the difference he had hoped due to the climate on Harvard's campus. ¹⁶ Then in late February, the other co-chair of the task force to combat antisemitism, Rafaella Sudan, resigned. ¹⁷ Public

⁷ Emma H. Haidar and Cam E. Kettles, *Garber Announces Presidential Task Forces on Antisemitism, Islamophobia at Harvard*, THE HARVARD CRIMSON (Jan. 19, 2024), https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2024/1/19/garber-presidential-task-forces/.

⁸ The Editorial Board, *Harvard's 'Apartheid' Prof and the Antisemitism Task Force*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Jan. 23, 2024), https://www.wsj.com/articles/harvard-antisemitism-task-force-derek-penslar-israel-hamas-67391846.

⁹ Chuck Ross, TWITTER (Jan. 19, 2024),

 $https://twitter.com/chuckrossdc/status/1748432092470427847?s=42\&t=4_n4e6tRYWm9pM7vNHlvMQ.$

¹⁰ Claudine Gay, *Personal News*, News by President Gay, Harvard Office of the President (Jan. 2, 2024), https://www.harvard.edu/president/news-gay/2024/personal-news/.

¹¹ H. Comm. on Education & Workforce, *Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism* (Dec. 5, 2023), https://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=409777.

¹² See e.g., Jennifer Schuessler, et al., Harvard President Resigns After Mounting Plagiarism Allegations, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Jan 2. 2024), https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/02/us/harvard-claudine-gay-resigns.html; Matt Egan, et al., Claudine Gay resigns the presidency of Harvard University amid plagiarism allegations, CNN (Jan. 2, 2024), https://www.cnn.com/business/live-news/harvard-president-claudine-gay-plagiarism-

probe#h_9b201ce1347a198e668987858b47b730; NPR Staff, *Harvard University President Claudine Gay resigns*, NPR (Jan. 2, 2024), https://www.npr.org/2024/01/02/1222516898/harvard-university-president-claudine-gay-resigns.

¹³ Matt Egan, *Larry Summers blasts Harvard over antisemitism: 'I have lost confidence'*, CNN (Jan. 22, 2024), https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/22/business/larry-summers-harvard-antisemitism/index.html.

 ¹⁴ Jonathan Greenblatt, TWITTER (Jan. 21, 2024), https://twitter.com/JGreenblattADL/status/1749187870886068411.
 ¹⁵ Chuck Ross, TWITTER (Jan. 19, 2024).

https://twitter.com/chuckrossdc/status/1748432092470427847?s=42&t=4 n4e6tRYWm9pM7vNHlvMQ.

¹⁶ Eva Rothenberg, *Rabbi David Wolpe resigns from Harvard's antisemitism advisory group*, CNN (Dec. 8, 2023), https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/08/business/david-wolpe-harvard-antisemitism/index.html.

¹⁷ Anemona Hartocolllis, *Co-Chair of Harvard Antisemitism Task Force Resigns*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Feb. 28, 2024), https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/26/us/raffaella-sadunco-harvard-antisemitism.html.

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reporting indicated that she resigned because of her frustration with how long it has taken to make progress on the issue. 18 Perhaps this should not be surprising given the appointment of Professor Penslar as a co-chair of this effort.¹⁹

The concerns of the Committee do not end there. Instances of antisemitic vandalization are still prevalent on Harvard's campus, as evidenced by the tearing down of posters featuring Israeli hostages.²⁰ Given the hostile environment for Jews on Harvard's campus stemming from antisemitic rhetoric and discrimination, it is no wonder that students felt compelled to file suit against the University, claiming that Harvard is a "bastion of rampant anti-Jewish hatred and harassment"²¹ that has only been amplified in the weeks and months since October 7, 2023. Consistent and effective discipline for students that violate university policies is necessary to alter current campus dynamics. Changing this terrible campus climate will take more than a few superficial actions and requires a major change of course through strong leadership. And such changes will need to be sustained over a long period of time. I hope Harvard will commit to making the kinds of changes necessary to reverse course. Inaction will only allow a rotten campus culture to grow and thrive.

As such, we request answers to the following questions no later than 5 p.m. on April 4, 2024. For answers that reference specific guidelines, policies, bylaws, or other publications, please specify the page and location for each reference.

- 1. Please describe what, if any, disciplinary action has been taken against students and other Harvard campus administrators or faculty for violating Harvard's policies related to antisemitism since October 7, 2023. Please be specific about the discipline rendered and the specific incident at issue related to such discipline.
- 2. Why do you think antisemitism has grown on Harvard's campus over the last decade?
 - a. Do you think the rise of antisemitism on Harvard's campus is a serious problem?
- 3. As a leader at Harvard, do you believe there are actions that can be taken to help change the campus culture that has allowed antisemitism to flourish on campus? If so, what actions does Harvard plan to take and what tangible impact to you expect those actions to have?
- 4. Please explain the choice, including key stakeholders who were consulted and the decision-making process, to appoint Derek J. Penslar as co-chair of Harvard's antisemitism task force.

¹⁹ Emma H. Haidar and Cam E. Kettles, Garber Announces Presidential Task Forces on Antisemitism, Islamophobia at Harvard, THE HARVARD CRIMSON (Jan. 19, 2024), https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2024/1/19/garberpresidential-task-forces/.

²⁰ Matt Egan, Israeli hostage posters at Harvard vandalized with antisemitic messages, CNN (Jan. 23, 2024), https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/23/business/harvard-israeli-hostage-posters-vandalized/index.html.

²¹ Stephanie Saul, Students Sue Harvard, Calling It a 'Bastion' of Antisemitism, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Jan. 11, 2024), https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/11/us/harvard-antisemitism-lawsuit.html.

- 5. Why did Rafaella Sudan resign as co-chair of the task force to combat antisemitism?
- 6. Why did Rabbi David Wolfe resign from the task force to combat antisemitism in December?
- 7. Are you concerned about the resignations from this task force? Have you taken any actions to address the concerns of the individuals who resigned?
- 8. What criteria will you use to fill the recent vacancy on the task force to combat antisemitism?
- 9. Describe in detail the actions taken and progress made by the task force to combat antisemitism to date.
- 10. Does vandalizing posters supporting Israelis being held hostage by Hamas violate any campus policy? Have any students been disciplined for these actions?
- 11. Has Harvard (including anyone in Harvard's administration) ever considered, drafted, or issued a statement on antisemitism between January 1, 2015, to present? If so, please provide details about and copies of those statements, including all drafts of statements considered, and final statements issued by the University or its President during that timeframe.
- 12. Please provide any drafts and final statements published by the University since 2020 that highlight the difference between protected free speech on campus and unprotected speech that instead amounts to harassment, incitement of violence, etc.
- 13. Is it true that Harvard receives donations and/or funding from foreign sovereignties or governments? If so, please detail the amount, when the donation and/or funding was given to Harvard, and the goal for each donation or piece of funding from 2019 to present.

Thank you in advance for your time and response. If you have any questions, please contact Sean Clerget of the Ways and Means Majority Committee staff at (202) 225–3625.

Sincerely,

Jason Smith Chairman



RICHARD E. NEAL MASSACHUSETTS, RANKING MEMBER BRANDON CASEY, STAFF DIRECTOR (202) 225-4021

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
THAShington, DC 20515

March 21, 2024

Interim President J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD University of Pennsylvania 1 College Hall Room 100 Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Interim President Jameson:

Thank you for responding to the Committee on Ways and Means' ("the Committee") January 10, 2024, request. For reasons explained in more detail below, this letter requests additional information in support of the Committee's original request.¹

The explosion of antisemitism on college campuses in the United States in the aftermath of Hamas's vicious targeting of Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, was extremely revealing. These antisemitic outbursts did not arise from new opinions developed in a matter of hours or days after the Hamas attacks. But these eruptions did reveal a culture of antisemitism that developed and grew beneath the surface for decades. Many Americans, especially Jewish Americans, were hyper-aware of these issues, but the aftermath of October 7th opened the eyes of millions of Americans to what things are like on campus at our nation's most prestigious universities—and the American people do not like what they see.

The focus of the Committee's inquiry and questions is to understand what universities like yours are doing, if anything, to change course drastically and address what has gone unaddressed for years. Doing so is essential to justifying the generous tax-exempt status that the American people have provided institutions like yours for decades. Why is antisemitism so deeply rooted in campus culture, including among student bodies, faculty members, and administrators? Why do purveyors of antisemitism feel so emboldened to spew hate and even engage in violence against their Jewish classmates? Why have there been so few consequences for conduct that clearly violates campus policies and sometimes even violates the law? This pervasive culture has created a hostile environment for Jews on campus. Public statements, slaps on the wrist, and symbolic gestures, while good and proper, are not sufficient to reverse what is clearly a systemic issue. Antisemitism not only exists on campus, but also thrives and puts Jewish students at risk. The moment calls for serious institutional change. That is what this

¹ H. Comm. on Ways and Means, Letter to Cornell University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Pennsylvania (Jan. 10, 2024), https://waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Chair-Smith-Letter-to-Universities-on-Antisemitism.pdf.

Committee expects and that is what the American people expect from institutions that were designed to prepare and educate the next generation of leaders.

The need for this type of change has not dissipated in the months following October 7th. Over 240 people were taken hostage on that day, and an estimated 134 hostages remain in Hamas captivity today.² In the weeks since my initial request, public reporting detailed a heroic rescue carried out by Israeli Defense Forces in Gaza who risked their lives and successfully rescued two hostages who were being held in a heavily fortified apartment building.³ Accounts of recovered hostages indicate that the remaining hostages are likely living underground and are being tortured on a regular basis.⁴ No country in the world would accept this situation; nor should Israel.

As the severity of the situation and catastrophe stemming from Hamas' brutal attack on Israel continues, we cannot forget the impact such strife has on individuals and families in America as well, especially Jewish individuals and families. Moreover, a recent article in *The Atlantic* illustrates the very issue that the Committee has been concerned about when it comes to antisemitism and the safety of Jewish students on campuses across the U.S.:

The problem was not that Jewish students on American university campuses didn't want free speech, or that they didn't want to hear criticism of Israel. Instead, they didn't want people vandalizing Jewish student organizations' buildings, or breaking or urinating on the buildings' windows. They didn't want people tearing their mezuzahs down from their dorm-room doors. They didn't want their college instructors spouting anti-Semitic lies and humiliating them in class. They didn't want their posters defaced with Hitler caricatures, or their dorm windows plastered with [f---] jews. They didn't want people punching them in the face, or beating them with a stick, or threatening them with death for being Jewish. At world-class American colleges and universities, all of this happened and more.

Given the current state of Israel's efforts to restore security in the region after Hamas' vicious attack on civilian populations on October 7th, the dramatic increase in antisemitism around the world, and the rise in violence and threats against Jewish students on campuses across the nation, we strongly urge you and your campus to do more to help Jewish students feel safe, secure, and free from discrimination and harassment on campus.

With that context in mind, I continue to be concerned about the University of Pennsylvania's ("Penn") approach to protecting Jewish students and combating antisemitism on

³ Abeer Salman and Jessie Yeung, *Israel says 2 hostages rescued from Gaza in special operation, 128 days after their capture,* ABC 7 NEWS (Feb. 12, 2024), https://abc7chicago.com/gaza-hostage-rescue-israel-fernando-marman-louis-har/14414008/.

² *Id*.

⁴ Lahav Harkov, *Hostages young and old endured physical and psychological torture*, JEWISH INSIDER (Dec. 4, 2023), https://jewishinsider.com/2023/12/hostages-hamas-gaza-testimonies-israel-captivity-tunnels/.

⁵ Note that the antisemitic conduct against Jews on college campuses is so extreme that it has to be censored here.

⁶ Dara Horn, *A Return of the Big Lie: Anti-Semitism Is Winning*, THE ATLANTIC (Feb. 15, 2024), https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2024/02/jewish-anti-semitism-harvard-claudine-gay-zionism/677454/.

its campus. Even after being sued by several students claiming that the University "subjects them to a pervasively hostile educational environment," antisemitism appears to be rampant at Penn.

For example, Penn Faculty for Justice in Palestine—a group organized in January⁸ that consists of "faculty members, lecturers, staff, and other graduate employees"—organized a die-in outside of a campus building, College Hall, in January that resulted in the main entrance to the building being closed during the protest. Approximately "86 University affiliates either participated in or spectated the protest." Additionally, the Freedom School for Palestine—a group that consists of "students, faculty, staff, and alumni"—held a sit-in at another building on campus, Houston Hall, that started on November 14, and continued through the remainder of the fall semester. My understanding is that the group covered the walls with Hamas propaganda during this month-long sit-in. According to reports, "Penn police gathered in the room at the start of the protest," and one speaker "ask[ed] for them to leave." It is troubling to me that it's not just students disrupting the University's educational purpose, now a group of faculty and staff, are participating in these efforts as well.

In addition, Penn's communications school lecturer Dwayne Booth received no recourse from the University after creating several cartoons, including one which portrays a baby with an Israeli-branded gun pointed at its head. While I was pleased to see Interim President Jameson quickly condemn the cartoons, discipline will be needed to reverse what appears to be an entrenched culture at the University. At a recent congressional roundtable, it was shocking to hear a Penn student describe a recent pro-Palestinian rally as a "mob of students, faculty, and extremists, marching and vandalizing school buildings, lighting smoke bombs and chanting vicious chants in both English and Arabic." After the roundtable, your spokesperson said "Penn is making progress to fight antisemitism, to call it out, and to investigate and discipline those responsible."

⁷ Katie Bartlett, *Two Penn students sue University, alleging insufficient response to antisemitism*, THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN (Dec. 5, 2023), https://www.thedp.com/article/2023/12/penn-students-antisemitism-lawsuit.

⁸ Penn Faculty for Justice in Palestine, *Penn Faculty for Justice in Palestine Announcement statement of Palestinian solidarity chapter formation*, The Daily Pennsylvanian (Jan. 18, 2024),

https://www.thedp.com/article/2024/01/penn-faculty-justice-palestine-movement.

⁹ Sanya Tinaikar, *Penn Faculty for Justice in Palestine hosts College Hall protest, blocks main entrance*, THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN (Jan. 29, 2024), https://www.thedp.com/article/2024/01/penn-palestine-protest-college-hall. ¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id*.

¹² Katie Bartlett, *Penn community members occupy part of Houston Hall in teach-in to promote pro-Palestinian voices*, THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN (Nov. 14, 2023), https://www.thedp.com/article/2023/11/penn-students-faculty-staff-occupy-building.

¹³ Rikki Schlott, *UPenn students, interim president slam professor's 'antisemitic' political cartoons*, THE NEW YORK POST (Feb. 13, 2024), https://nypost.com/2024/02/13/news/upenn-community-slams-lecturers-antisemitic-cartoons/.

¹⁴ *Id*

¹⁵ Diamy Wang and Katie Bartlett, *Penn junior criticizes University response to antisemitism during congressional roundtable*, The Daily Pennsylvania (Mar. 1, 2024), https://www.thedp.com/article/2024/03/penn-antisemitism-house-roundtable.

¹⁶ *Id*.

But just days later, pro-Palestinian protestors disrupted a Board of Trustees meeting—interim President Jameson's first Board of Trustees meeting—which resulted in the meeting being adjourned after four minutes of chants from the protestors, and only seven minutes after the meeting started.¹⁷ The meeting was originally scheduled to last an hour and it appears as though the Board only met for three minutes.¹⁸ A University spokesperson later acknowledged that "[t]heir ongoing disruption of the meeting violates the University's Code of Student Conduct and Guidelines on Open Expression."¹⁹ The same spokesperson also said "that the protestors have been referred to Penn's Center for Community Standards and Accountability for disciplinary action."²⁰ I hope that is the case and that Penn enforces its code of conduct for all actions that violate University polices and are disruptive to students on campus, but it is troubling that such a disruption was tolerated in the first place—especially when something as important as "tuition for the next school year" was on the agenda for the meeting.²¹

I am also concerned about whether your campus is safe for Jewish students particularly given reports that individuals without an affiliation to the university have repeatedly led marches and demonstrations on campus. These demonstrations have included chants and language designed to intimidate students, especially Jewish students; many of these chants include genocidal phrases like "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." These demonstrations on your campus have been organized by a group that consistently praises as "martyrs" Hamas terrorists that viciously murdered, raped, and took as hostages Israeli civilians on October 7th.

The questions below will provide the opportunity for you to detail what progress Penn has made, including how it has disciplined students, administrators, and faculty that have violated the university's own policies.

As such, we request answers to the following questions no later than 5 p.m. on April 4, 2024. For answers that reference specific guidelines, policies, bylaws, or other publications, please specify the page and location for each reference.

- 1. Please describe what, if any, disciplinary action has been taken against students and other Penn campus administrators or faculty for violating Penn's policies related to antisemitism since October 7, 2023. Please be specific about the discipline rendered and the specific incident at issue related to such discipline.
- 2. Why do you think antisemitism has grown on Penn's campus over the last decade?
 - a. Do you think the rise of antisemitism on Penn's campus is a serious problem?

¹⁷ Ethan Young and Diamy Wang, *Pro-Palestinian protestors interrupt Jameson at Board of Trustees meeting, forcing adjournment*, THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN (Mar. 1, 2024), https://www.thedp.com/article/2024/03/penntrustees-meeting-jameson-interrupted.

¹⁸ *Id*.

¹⁹ *Id*.

²⁰ *Id*.

²¹ *Id*.

- 3. As a leader at Penn, do you believe there are actions that can be taken to help change the campus culture that has allowed antisemitism to flourish on campus? If so, what actions does Penn plan to take and what tangible impact to you expect those actions to have?
- 4. Was lecturer Dwayne Booth disciplined for the antisemitic cartoons he created and published? If not, why not?
- 5. Has Penn (including anyone in Penn's administration) ever considered, drafted, or issued a statement on antisemitism between January 1, 2015, to present? If so, please provide details about and copies of those statements, including all drafts of statements considered, and final statements issued by the University or its President during that timeframe.
- 6. Please provide any drafts and final statements published by the University since 2020 that highlight the difference between protected free speech on campus and unprotected speech that instead amounts to harassment, incitement of violence, etc.
- 7. Is it true that Penn receives donations and/or funding from foreign sovereignties or governments? If so, please detail the amount, when the donation and/or funding was given to Penn, and the goal for each donation or piece of funding from 2019 to present.

Thank you in advance for your time and response. If you have any questions, please contact Sean Clerget of the Ways and Means Majority Committee staff at (202) 225–3625.

Sincerely,

Jason Smith Chairman

U.S. House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2024

President Sally Kornbluth Massachusetts Institute of Technology 77 Massachusetts Avenue Room 3-208 Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear President Kornbluth:

Thank you for responding to the Committee on Ways and Means' ("the Committee") January 10, 2024, request. For reasons explained in more detail below, this letter requests additional information in support of the Committee's original request.¹

The explosion of antisemitism on college campuses in the United States in the aftermath of Hamas's vicious targeting of Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, was extremely revealing. These antisemitic outbursts did not arise from new opinions developed in a matter of hours or days after the Hamas attacks. But these eruptions did reveal a culture of antisemitism that developed and grew beneath the surface for decades. Many Americans, especially Jewish Americans, were hyper-aware of these issues, but the aftermath of October 7th opened the eyes of millions of Americans to what things are like on campus at our nation's most prestigious universities—and the American people do not like what they see.

The focus of the Committee's inquiry and questions is to understand what universities like yours are doing, if anything, to change course drastically and address what has gone unaddressed for years. Doing so is essential to justifying the generous tax-exempt status that the American people have provided institutions like yours for decades. Why is antisemitism so deeply rooted in campus culture, including among student bodies, faculty members, and administrators? Why do purveyors of antisemitism feel so emboldened to spew hate and even engage in violence against their Jewish classmates? Why have there been so few consequences for conduct that clearly violates campus policies and sometimes even violates the law? This pervasive culture has created a hostile environment for Jews on campus. Public statements, slaps on the wrist, and symbolic gestures, while good and proper, are not sufficient to reverse what is clearly a systemic issue. Antisemitism not only exists on campus, but also thrives and puts Jewish students at risk. The moment calls for serious institutional change. That is what this Committee expects and that is what the American people expect from institutions that were designed to prepare and educate the next generation of leaders.

¹ H. Comm. on Ways and Means, Letter to Cornell University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Pennsylvania (Jan. 10, 2024), https://waysandmeans.house.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2024/01/Chair-Smith-Letter-to-Universities-on-Antisemitism.pdf.

Letter to President Kornbluth March 21, 2024 Page 2

The need for this type of change has not dissipated in the months following October 7th. Over 240 people were taken hostage on that day, and an estimated 134 hostages remain in Hamas captivity today.² In the weeks since my initial request, public reporting detailed a heroic rescue carried out by Israeli Defense Forces in Gaza who risked their lives and successfully rescued two hostages who were being held in a heavily fortified apartment building.³ Accounts of recovered hostages indicate that the remaining hostages are likely living underground and are being tortured on a regular basis.⁴ No country in the world would accept this situation; nor should Israel.

As the severity of the situation and catastrophe stemming from Hamas' brutal attack on Israel continues, we cannot forget the impact such strife has on individuals and families in America as well, especially Jewish individuals and families. Moreover, a recent article in *The Atlantic* illustrates the very issue that the Committee has been concerned about when it comes to antisemitism and the safety of Jewish students on campuses across the U.S.:

The problem was not that Jewish students on American university campuses didn't want free speech, or that they didn't want to hear criticism of Israel. Instead, they didn't want people vandalizing Jewish student organizations' buildings, or breaking or urinating on the buildings' windows. They didn't want people tearing their mezuzahs down from their dorm-room doors. They didn't want their college instructors spouting anti-Semitic lies and humiliating them in class. They didn't want their posters defaced with Hitler caricatures, or their dorm windows plastered with [f---] jews.⁵ They didn't want people punching them in the face, or beating them with a stick, or threatening them with death for being Jewish. At world-class American colleges and universities, all of this happened and more.⁶

Given the current state of Israel's efforts to restore security in the region after Hamas' vicious attack on civilian populations on October 7th, the dramatic increase in antisemitism around the world, and the rise in violence and threats against Jewish students on campuses across the nation, we strongly urge you and your campus to do more to help Jewish students feel safe, secure, and free from discrimination and harassment on campus.

With that context in mind, I continue to be concerned about the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's ("MIT") approach to protecting Jewish students and combating antisemitism on its campus. Last fall you indicated that students would face expulsion for engaging in unsanctioned

² *Id*.

³ Abeer Salman and Jessie Yeung, *Israel says 2 hostages rescued from Gaza in special operation, 128 days after their capture,* ABC 7 NEWS (Feb. 12, 2024), https://abc7chicago.com/gaza-hostage-rescue-israel-fernando-marman-louis-har/14414008/.

⁴ Lahav Harkov, *Hostages young and old endured physical and psychological torture*, JEWISH INSIDER (Dec. 4, 2023), https://jewishinsider.com/2023/12/hostages-hamas-gaza-testimonies-israel-captivity-tunnels/.

⁵ Note that the antisemitic conduct against Jews on college campuses is so extreme that it has to be censored here.

⁶ Dara Horn, *A Return of the Big Lie: Anti-Semitism Is Winning*, THE ATLANTIC (Feb. 15, 2024), https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2024/02/jewish-anti-semitism-harvard-claudine-gay-zionism/677454/.

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protests.⁷ But instead of following through on this approach, you reversed course and explained the change occurred in part "[b]ecause we later heard serious concerns about collateral consequences for the students, such as visa issues." This incident raises serious concerns about whether MIT is willing to fairly and consistently punish students that violate its policies and create a hostile environment for Jewish students on campus.

In another example, instead of inviting speakers to campus who prioritize the safety and well-being of all students on campus, including Jewish students, MIT decided to invite Dalia Mogahed⁹—someone who previously justified Hamas' attacks and contextualized its abhorrent acts against innocent Israelis¹⁰—to speak on campus in a talk called "Islamophobia: A Threat to All." While Ms. Mogahed certainly has the same free speech rights as any other speaker, the decision to invite her in this context is one that likely makes the experience for Jewish students on campus worse, not better. This talk on campus was organized in a context where Jewish students have experienced repeated demonstrations that have included groups of students chanting derogatory phrases like "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," which calls for the elimination of Jews in Israel, among numerous other abuses that have been thoroughly detailed in public reporting.¹² I also understand that your administration declined a proposal to invite an additional speaker, Ambassador Dennis Ross, as part of this program. This proposal strikes me as one that is reasonable and constructive to address concerns about Ms. Mogahed's invitation. Yet, you rejected this proposal because you considered Ambassador Ross political, even though he has served as an appointee of both Democrat and Republican Presidents. This is a puzzling line to draw given Ms. Mogahed's aggressive political views and her history as a Presidential appointee of President Obama. These issues raise new questions detailed below along with questions from the prior request that you failed to answer with adequate specificity.

As such, we request answers to the following questions no later than 5 p.m. on April 4, 2024. For answers that reference specific guidelines, policies, bylaws, or other publications, please specify the page and location for each reference. Note that several questions below are intentionally repeated from the prior request because your response failed to adequately respond to those questions.

⁷ Thomas Catenacci, *MIT faces backlash for not expelling anti-Israel protesters over 'visa issues': 'Who is in charge?'*, Fox News (Nov. 13, 2022), https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mit-faces-backlash-not-expelling-anti-israel-protesters-visa-issues.

⁸ MIT President Sally Kornbluth, *Today's protest and counterprotest*, MIT OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (Nov. 9, 2023), https://president.mit.edu/writing-speeches/todays-protest-and-counterprotest.

⁹ MIT Institute Community & Equity Office, *Building a Community at MIT*, *Spring 2024*, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, https://iceo.mit.edu/dialogues-across-difference/.

¹⁰ Alec Schemmel, *Speaker at MIT's 'Standing Together Against Hate' Event Endorsed Hamas Terrorism as Lawful 'Resistance'*, THE WASHINGTON FREE BEACON (Feb. 5, 2024), https://freebeacon.com/campus/speaker-at-mits-standing-together-against-hate-event-endorsed-hamas-terrorism-as-lawful-resistance/.

¹¹ Building Community at MIT, Institute Community & Equity Office, https://iceo.mit.edu/dialogues-across-difference/.

¹² Megan Palin, *Jewish MIT students say Holocaust display vandalized in yearlong campaign of hate – and college did nothing*, NEW YORK POST (Dec. 15, 2023), https://nypost.com/2023/12/15/news/jewish-mit-students-say-college-didnt-stop-yearlong-campaign-of-hate/.

- 1. Please describe what, if any, disciplinary action has been taken against students and other MIT campus administrators or faculty for violating MIT's policies related to antisemitism since October 7, 2023. Please be specific about the discipline rendered and the specific incident at issue related to such discipline.
- 2. Why do you think antisemitism has grown on MIT's campus over the last decade?
 - a. Do you think the rise of antisemitism on MIT's campus is a serious problem?
- 3. As a leader at MIT do you believe there are actions that can be taken to help change the campus culture that has allowed antisemitism to flourish on campus? If so, what actions does MIT plan to take and what tangible impact to you expect those actions to have?
- 4. Please explain how inviting speakers to campus who justify Hamas' attacks on Israel helps combat antisemitism on MIT's campus.
- 5. Please explain your decision not to invite Ambassador Dennis Ross as a speaker.
- 6. Has MIT (including anyone in MIT's administration) ever considered, drafted, or issued a statement on antisemitism between January 1, 2015, to present? If so, please provide details about and copies of those statements, including all drafts of statements considered, and final statements issued by the University or its President during that timeframe.
- 7. Please provide any drafts and final statements published by the University since 2020 that highlight the difference between protected free speech on campus and unprotected speech that instead amounts to harassment, incitement of violence, etc.
- 8. Is it true that MIT receives donations and/or funding from foreign sovereignties or governments? If so, please detail the amount and goal for each donation or piece of funding from 2019 to the present.
- 9. How much does your University spend on diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI") programming and initiatives annually?
- 10. How many staff and University personnel do you have dedicated to DEI programming and initiatives currently?
- 11. What is MIT doing, if anything, to address the poor ratings it received from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression ("FIRE") regarding the protection of free speech on campus?

Letter to President Kornbluth March 21, 2024 Page 5

Thank you in advance for your time and response. If you have any questions, please contact Sean Clerget of the Ways and Means Majority Committee staff at (202) 225–3625.

Sincerely,

Lason Smith Chairman