

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 23, 2024

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Attorney General Garland and Secretary Cardona,

We write regarding the outbreak of anti-Semitic, pro-terrorist mobs on college campuses. These pro-Hamas rioters have effectively shut down college campuses and have literally chased Jewish students away from our schools. The Department of Education and federal law enforcement must act immediately to restore order, prosecute the mobs who have perpetuated violence and threats against Jewish students, revoke the visas of all foreign nationals (such as exchange students) who have taken part in promoting terrorism, and hold accountable school administrators who have stood by instead of protecting their students.

Anti-Israel protestors, spurred on by prominent leftists, have gathered on college campuses in recent days, chanting anti-Semitic slogans and directly threatening Jewish students. The situation has so devolved that a prominent Jewish rabbi at Columbia University urged Jewish students to flee campus and stay away for their own safety. Columbia University has been one of the most public examples, but violence and threats against Jewish students have also been committed at other so-called “elite” universities in recent days. For example, at Yale University, a Jewish student journalist was reportedly attacked over the weekend by a pro-Hamas mob while attempting to film a protest.

You need to take action to restore order and protect Jewish students on our college campuses. President Biden issued a statement on Sunday, purporting to condemn the outbreak of anti-Semitism. If that statement was serious, it must be accompanied by immediate action from your departments.

Rioting violates federal law.¹ Violence or attempted violence against anyone because of their Jewish heritage violates federal law.² School administrators’ failure to protect Jewish students from discrimination or harassment violates federal law and is grounds for those schools losing access to federal funds.³ Espousing support for terrorists such as Hamas violates federal immigration law and is grounds for deportation.⁴ Please provide our offices with an update on your efforts to enforce these and related laws on college campuses as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 5:00PM on Wednesday, April 24.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

¹ 18 U.S.C. § 2101.

² 18 U.S.C. § 249.

³ 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*

⁴ 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(i)(VII).

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



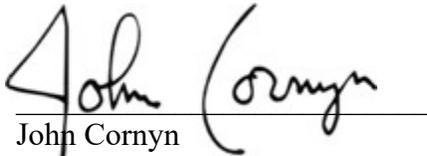
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



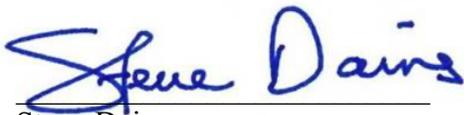
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



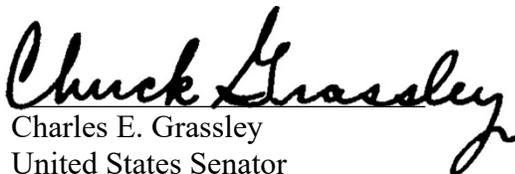
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United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



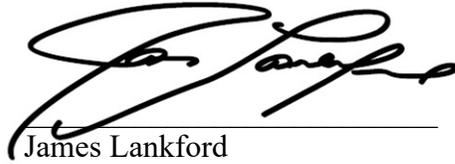
John Hoeven
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



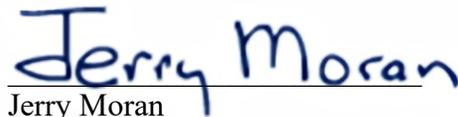
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United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Mitch McConnell
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



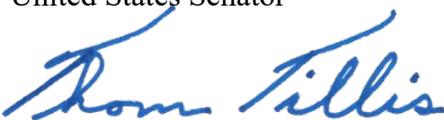
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United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator