



WALTER "TED" CARTER JR.

September 19, 2025

The Honorable Bernie Moreno
United States Senate
SR-284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Moreno:

Thank you for your recent letter and the opportunity to share the measures Ohio State has taken to address antisemitism and protect religious freedom. Ohio State strives to have a welcoming environment for everyone; we were recently ranked among the 2024 Hillel International Top 60 Colleges by Jewish Population.

As I have said repeatedly, Ohio State strongly condemns antisemitism and all forms of discrimination on its campuses and throughout the national and international communities. The university has adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, in accordance with Governor Mike DeWine's [2022 Executive Order 2022-06D](#).

Ohio State has not and will not tolerate hatred, intimidation or harassment of anyone based on their religious beliefs, nationality or identity. The university has several processes in place to address allegations or reports of antisemitism or other violations of university rules, standards, the Code of Student Conduct and other community expectations, and below is an overview:

- Tools are in place for reporting student conduct complaints, including allegations about student organizations. Details about the [complaint process are here](#). If a student, or student organization, is found in violation of the Code of Student Conduct, sanctions are assessed according to specific details of the case as well as the student's/group's conduct history. Additional information and details about the factors that are considered during the sanctioning process are available on the [Office of Student Life website](#).
- The university's [Civil Rights Compliance Office \(CRCO\)](#) reviews and responds to reports of antisemitism and reports can be made directly to CRCO. Ohio State has continued to remind and urge members of the university community of their obligations to report incidents they witness or of which they have knowledge. The university's hate-crime working group has also remained active to allow for further real-time assessments of reports. In light of continued complaints regarding chalking on campus and the significant amount of administrative time spent evaluating chalking, Ohio State revised the university signage standards and chalking is no longer allowed on campus.

- Students who have concerns about the conduct of a faculty member or instructor have several options for filing complaints and grievances, depending upon the context of the situation and if the student is at the undergraduate, graduate or professional level. These options are outlined on the [Office of Academic Affairs website](#). Reports are reviewed by the appropriate university department and referrals for disciplinary action for violations of university policy are made in alignment with these policies and Faculty Rule 3335-5-04.
- Ohio State uses a wide variety of communication channels to provide campus community members with information about reporting incidents of harassment, discrimination or misconduct, including but not limited to email messages, social media, message boards and flyers. The [Freedom of Expression website](#) also streamlines and centralizes resources and reporting avenues.
- University leaders, including myself, have made clear on multiple occasions and through multiple channels that displays of hate speech on our campuses, even if allowed under the First Amendment, are reprehensible and do not align with Ohio State's mission. When protected speech becomes incitement or threats of violence, Ohio State has and will always move quickly to enforce the law and university policy.

Ohio State's priority is always the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff. Both on campus and off, police and security have worked together to add a visible presence. This includes joint patrol, a combination of university police and the Columbus Division of Police, as well as Buckeye Block Watch security. The university's Department of Public Safety also utilizes mobile cameras and other technology, which is deployed in accordance with crime or safety concerns.

Since October 2023, university leaders, public safety officials and staff have reached out to potentially impacted students, faculty, staff, alumni and community organizations to provide direct support and connect those in need with resources. Public Safety has also conducted proactive security assessments, and leadership has held numerous meetings with Hillel and Chabad staff and leaders to discuss security enhancements.

Ohio State takes seriously its commitment to the First Amendment, including the free exercise of religion and freedom of expression in all forms. In accordance with state law, Ohio State launched a [task force](#) focused on combating antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Christian discrimination and hatred, harassment, bullying or violence toward others on the basis of religious identity. The task force has delivered initial recommendations to university leaders that include action items to complement the university's existing policies, processes, programming and services. This future-focused implementation plan will bolster the university's work to combat religious-based harassment and discrimination.

At the same time, the university remains focused on delivering its teaching, research and service missions. University rules are designed to prevent the interference with classes, academic pursuits, administrative functions and campus-life activities. Ohio State will not

tolerate the interruption of classes, labs or academic activities. The university created a [toolkit](#) for faculty and instructors to manage disagreement or conflict in the classroom. Our [Freedom of Expression website](#) provides information on how students, faculty, staff, volunteers, visitors, community partners and program participants can lawfully engage in speech and expressive activities. University leaders have stated unequivocally on numerous occasions that the university has no tolerance for violations of the law or university policy.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Ohio State will continue to build on our strong record of maintaining safety, opposing antisemitism and supporting community members while taking appropriate action to address conduct and other behavior that violates university policy or the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Carter", with a stylized, flowing script.

Walter "Ted" Carter
President