

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



September 15, 2025

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

Dear Senator Moreno,

I am writing in response to your letter dated September 9, 2025. We appreciate your commitment to protecting students' religious freedom and safety while on campus. Thank you for reaching out.

In April 2022, Ohio Governor DeWine issued [Executive Order 2022-06D](#), "Defining and Combating Antisemitism." This Executive Order required all public institutions of higher education to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. In November 2023, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, statutory legal counsel for Ohio's public institutions of higher education, sent a letter reminding institutions of higher education that Executive Order 2022-06D is binding, furthering his expectation that the institutions will comply with the Executive Order.

The University of Akron has adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism as directed by Executive Order 2022-06D. In the event the University were to receive a complaint alleging antisemitism, the University commits to investigate the complaint and respond in accordance with University policy.

We have built strong relationships with the local Hillel International chapter on campus and similar advocacy groups throughout the region. The University's Chief of Police and Campus Safety and Vice President for Student Affairs meet with student members, campus constituents and regional representatives to offer programming and support.

I want to assure you that in any circumstance where a concern of safety is brought forward, the University responds immediately. When a threat is brought to the University's attention, the appropriate campus, local, state and/or federal safety officials are immediately notified to conduct an investigation and assessment of that threat. These officials meet with the appropriate parties, including involved and impacted individuals, to thoroughly investigate the threat and determine necessary actions. Based on the outcome of that assessment, law enforcement will respond to any potential violations of the law, and the University will respond to any potential violation of its community standards and the violation's impact.

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In circumstances where an enrolled student is directly involved in a conduct or policy violation, charges are raised within the University's conduct system, either in tandem with, or separate from, any actions that may be brought forward by law enforcement, depending upon the alleged conduct. The student conduct process will advance rapidly as appropriate. Any individual found responsible for violating University policy may face disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. At the same time, the University will provide support to any impacted students or student organizations, including working with law enforcement to provide safety planning and security measures, as appropriate.

Unlawful discrimination against any individual is prohibited, and we are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes, values, supports and validates the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Members of our community are expected to abide by our community standards, consistent with the protections afforded to speech by law and through academic freedom. While we encourage all members of The University of Akron community to engage in civil debate about our differing ideas, beliefs and value systems, our faculty, staff and administration, as educators, are committed to such dialogues being respectful of diverse viewpoints.

Again, thank you for addressing this important matter. The University shares your commitment to protecting religious freedom and campus safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.J. Nemer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

R.J. Nemer
President