



Office of the President

September 22, 2025

**Senator Bernie Moreno
SR-284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

Senator Moreno,

Thank you for your letter dated Sept. 9, 2025, in which you expressed your concerns about the rise of antisemitism and your interest in learning more about what Ohio universities are doing to protect religious freedom and keep students safe. Cleveland State University (CSU) is committed to protecting free speech, intellectual diversity and civil rights, while also working together to fight against discrimination.

I assure you that I share your concerns over the rise of antisemitism in our state, nation and across the globe. As president of Cleveland State University, I take seriously the need to promote free speech while balancing that with the need to protect the safety and civil rights of our students and our entire campus community. I am personally committed to protecting students, faculty and staff from antisemitism, discrimination and harassment of any kind, and we have policies and resources in place to protect our campus community. In addition, we have worked closely with elected officials and community leaders to discuss these important issues and work together on solutions.

Regarding your reference to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, Cleveland State adopted the IHRA definition in 2023¹ in accordance with Governor Mike DeWine's Executive Order 2022-06D.

As you may be aware, Senate Bill 87, sponsored by State Senator Terry Johnson, was introduced in February 2025 and is currently pending in the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee. SB 87 would require state agencies and state institutions of higher education to consider using the IHRA definition of antisemitism to determine whether an alleged act is motivated by discriminatory and antisemitic intent.

Additionally, CSU was supportive of Senate Bill 94, the Campus Safety Act, which was enacted during the 135th Ohio General Assembly. The legislation requires the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education to establish a committee on combatting antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Christian discrimination, and other

¹ Cleveland State University Discrimination Policies, <https://www.csuohio.edu/policy-register/discrimination-policies>

forms of racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation. The committee has issued a final report with recommendations, best practices and model policies.²

We have incorporated definitions from SB 94 into our discrimination and harassment policy, and we have an ad hoc high-risk group that meets to address instances of discrimination and harassment.

As a state university, we continue to work closely with state officials on issues pertaining to safety, free speech and protecting civil rights and appreciate the support and resources we have received to protect our campus.

Beyond that, I have strongly condemned antisemitic behavior and discrimination of any kind and have initiated a variety of efforts to encourage awareness and productive dialogue to bring about better understanding among our students, faculty and staff. My leadership team and I have held training and listening sessions with students, and we have sponsored programming on campus intended to bring people together for meaningful dialogue and to gain a better understanding of world events which have resulted in tension on college campuses. I am pleased to tell you that, although some of these discussions have been difficult at times, I have experienced firsthand how they have helped to foster a better understanding among students and have eased tension.

We have incorporated the importance of civil discourse and fighting discrimination into our student orientation materials for new students as well as into specific class curricula. We have updated our website with material to assist with these efforts, including relating to our Office for Protected Rights³ (OPR), which is committed to ensuring a campus environment free from discrimination and harassment in all forms. Staff in this office uphold federal, state and University compliance standards, and they work to address the effects of unlawful harassment, discrimination, sexual violence and retaliation. In August, at the start of the academic year, students and the entire campus community received an email outlining the work of OPR and how to access assistance from the office if needed.

As we begin the new academic year, I'm pleased to inform you that our students are off to a great start. We kicked off the year by welcoming our students to campus with a well-attended Convocation ceremony and VikesFest street fair. This is also the inaugural semester for our new Inquiry Core Curriculum and our newly designed academic coaching model, which will help students better receive guidance from their coaches on how to succeed and make the most of their college experience.

² Ohio Department of Higher Education Campus Act, <https://higher.ed.ohio.gov/educators/academic-programs-policies/campus-act/campus-act>

³ Cleveland State University Office for Protected Rights, <https://www.csuohio.edu/opr>



Most importantly, we are working with students to encourage them to pursue the many educational and career development opportunities available to them. CSU now offers more than a dozen integrated degree programs, as well as expanding partnerships with local employers to provide additional opportunities for internships and work experiences.

Again, thank you for your interest in Cleveland State and in promoting a campus environment which respects civil discourse and fights discrimination and antisemitism. If I can provide additional information or if you would like to discuss further, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Laura Bloomberg, PhD

President

Cleveland State University