



LORI STEWART GONZALEZ
PRESIDENT OF OHIO UNIVERSITY

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

September 22, 2025

Dear Senator Moreno:

Thank you for your letter and for raising these important concerns. At Ohio University, we condemn antisemitism and all forms of hate, and we are committed to ensuring that every student can learn, live, and thrive in a welcoming environment.

Steps already underway

Ohio University has taken significant measures to both prevent and respond to antisemitism:

- **University Policy:** Ohio University Policy 40.001 prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of religion, in addition to other protected classes. The policy further prohibits intimidation by reason of race, color, religion, or national origin. Ohio University Policy 40.003 protects the right of students to be absent for up to three days each academic semester for reasons related to their faith. The university's Office of Civil Rights Compliance investigates alleged violations of these policies and, where appropriate, disciplines violators.
- **CAMPUS Act Implementation:** We have established a CAMPUS Act Task Force and expanded training to help faculty, staff, and students recognize and respond to antisemitism and other forms of religious discrimination.
- **Campus Climate Concerns Team:** This internal team monitors reports for possible policy violations, to analyze whether reported incidents create a hostile environment, and to ensure that impacted students receive support.
- **Title VI Coordinator:** We have appointed a University Title VI Coordinator charged with responding to all complaints, analyzing them not only for policy violations but also for whether they create a hostile environment, even in the absence of a policy violation.



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- **Community Engagement:** Ohio University has strong partnerships with Hillel and Chabad, including programmatic and financial support, and maintains close collaboration with Jewish student leaders. We also actively support interfaith engagement through the University Interfaith Association, which brings together leaders from a wide range of faith traditions to foster understanding, dialogue, and cooperation across our community. This work creates opportunities for students of all backgrounds to connect and learn from one another, while ensuring that religious life on our campus is vibrant and inclusive.
- **Safety and Support:** The Ohio University Police Department maintains a dedicated community liaison officer who works directly with Hillel, Chabad, and other faith-based groups to ensure communication, trust, and proactive safety planning.
- **Academic and Cultural Resources:** OHIO offers a Jewish Studies certificate program that enriches understanding of Jewish history, culture, and contributions.
- Our **Make Respect Visible Initiative** underscores our expectation that all students, faculty, and staff treat one another with dignity and civility. Additionally, our University Climate Group continues to assess trends and recommend proactive strategies to ensure that our values of respect, safety, and belonging are reflected in practice.

Ohio University is dedicated to safeguarding both the religious freedom and the physical safety of all of our students, and we share your conviction that antisemitism and hate have no place on our campus—or anywhere in our country.

Thank you again for your leadership and for engaging us on this critical issue. I would be pleased to keep your office informed as our initiatives continue to advance.

Sincerely,

Lori Stewart Gonzalez
President
Ohio University