

September 19, 2025

The Honorable Bernie Moreno
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moreno,

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 2025. We appreciate the opportunity to share with you our ongoing and robust efforts to protect the health, safety and well-being of Jewish students on our campus. It is of utmost importance to the University of Cincinnati to ensure that ALL our students feel safe, regardless of their religion, to learn and thrive on our campus. To achieve that goal, I have dedicated the necessary resources and tasked senior members of my team — including our Vice President of Ethics, Compliance and Community Impact, our Vice Provost of Student Affairs, and our Director of Public Safety & Chief of Police — to lead our day-to-day efforts. This group of campus leaders report to me directly on these vital issues.

We have taken many specific steps as an institution to strengthen measures in an effort to counteract any possible rise in antisemitism on our campus. In broad measures, these have involved policing, education, reporting, training, policy updates and communication through our Office of Equal Opportunity.

More specifically, these efforts have involved the following:

Monitoring: Public Safety continues to work with local law enforcement and federal agencies to monitor trends and incidents occurring within our region and across the nation as a proactive prevention measure.

Visible public-safety presence and rapid response: UC Public Safety continues regular patrols around faith-based student organizations and residence areas, improve rapid-response protocols for reported threats and vandalism, and coordination with Cincinnati law enforcement when incidents meet criminal thresholds. We communicate clearly about reporting routes (emergency, non-emergency, and campus climate-incident reporting) and expected response times.

Security: Our Student Affairs and Public Safety personnel work in collaboration to ensure student events and programs are safe for all participants. This includes meeting with student leaders and/or program planners prior to programs to understand needs. We prepare for demonstrations and high-profile free speech events by engaging in constant contact with student organizations and monitoring campus for any threats to safety. If/when we are faced with a demonstration, for example, Public Safety and Student Affairs leadership share important campus policies and offers to meet with the leaders of the group to establish communication and expectations. We currently have plans for the prevention of sit-ins and encampments.

Education: We continue to believe education is fundamental and the best tool to mitigate incidents of Antisemitism. Therefore, we promote workshops on civil discourse, moral leadership, and ethical reasoning throughout our campus community.

Policy Updates and Training: We have updated several of our policies and created new ones including our Non-Discrimination Policy and our Title VI Policy. Our Non-Discrimination Policy takes into consideration the IHRA definition of antisemitism for purposes of determining whether an alleged act was motivated by discriminatory antisemitic intent. An online module has been developed for the

Title VI Policy as well as an in-person training module. In-person trainings were conducted during spring semester and in August with colleagues across campus. Both trainings incorporated scenarios of issue spotting, addressing and responding to Antisemitism.

In addition, UC must remain in compliance with the Campus Safety Act, passed by the Ohio General Assembly and requires institutions of higher education to have a policy and task force to combat antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Christian discrimination, and other forms of racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation. The act also requires our institution to ensure campus security collaboration with local law enforcement.

Members from various UC departments participate in civil rights investigation training, Title VI investigation training, and hostile environment analysis training. These trainings equip investigators to identify conduct that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the University.

Centralized office for handling reports: Our Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) is the unit designated to receive, investigate, and respond to complaints of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. Contact information and a reporting link have been shared with students, employees and community partners so they know where to report any antisemitic incidents. We continue to track any incidents centrally so patterns are visible and can be acted upon quickly. We ensure every report of Antisemitism is logged, triaged, and investigated promptly, thoroughly, and impartially. Where investigations substantiate misconduct, we apply appropriate disciplinary measures and communicate outcomes to affected parties within confidentiality limits. To refine best practices, we voluntarily audit our cases to ensure that the university's response is timely, robust, and comprehensive.

The Office of Equal Opportunity continues to track reports and provide summary updates by type of incident. We can therefore identify areas that may benefit from more detailed education regarding our policies and expectations for civil and respectful engagement.

Consultation with community partners: We continue to consult with Jewish student leaders, Hillel, the Holocaust & Humanity Center, and law-enforcement partners to enhance prevention, support, and rapid-response protocols. These partnerships guide culturally informed support and credible threat assessment and ensure our plans reflect community needs.

Care and Supportive Measures: We continue to provide counseling services, academic and religious accommodations, and consultations with administrators for students directly affected by harassment. And, as appropriate, include community partners as part of a support network. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. The University of Cincinnati stands ready to serve as a resource to you on this critical issue. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Neville G. Pinto
President,
University of Cincinnati