



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

September 12, 2024

Dear Chairmen and Regents:

As I have already made clear, antisemitism is never acceptable in Texas and there is zero tolerance for acts of antisemitism on Texas college and university campuses. I commend the leadership of your institutions for acting quickly to condemn antisemitism and taking necessary action to address violent protests and dismantle illegal encampments.

In March of this year, I issued an executive order that directed all higher education institutions to review their free speech policies and update those policies to (1) include the statutory definition of antisemitism that I signed into law, (2) establish appropriate punishments for violating the policies, and (3) ensure these policies are being enforced to include appropriate discipline for antisemitic groups on campus. Also keep in mind the additional tools you have to address this behavior, such as the law I signed that bans encampments that are established without your institution's consent on your campuses and the law that gives you the ability to ban protests that disrupt your classes or incite violence.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of the October 7 terrorist attack in Israel, and in light of recent events and rising tensions in Gaza, it is crucial that Texas colleges and universities stay vigilant. It is imperative that you continue taking the necessary steps to combat antisemitism on your campuses and ensure a safe environment for Jewish staff, students, and faculty.

Texas will continue to stand with Israel and the Jewish community in the fight against antisemitism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:msw