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ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3221**

April 30, 2024

Mr. David Greenwald, Co-Chair  
The Trustees of Columbia University  
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New York, NY 1002

Ms. Claire Shipman, Co-Chair  
The Trustees of Columbia University  
211 Low Library  
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Mr. Greenwald and Ms. Shipman:

After midnight on April 30, 2024, the preventable chaos that has engulfed Columbia University's campus for weeks escalated to a new level, and Hamilton Hall was stormed, defaced, and taken over by a pro-Hamas mob.<sup>1</sup> These actions, as well as the illegal encampment and violent riots, go far beyond any right to free speech protected under the First Amendment. This pro-Hamas mob held facilities workers hostage,<sup>2</sup> barricaded the building, and issued demands of the university.<sup>3</sup> As of this morning, the building remains occupied. This violence is a direct result of the appeasement policies President Minouche Shafik has used to address antisemitism on campus. President Shafik has allowed campus to be taken by mob rule, and she must immediately be removed so this occupation can be met with swift and overwhelming response to retake campus, restore order, and protect Jewish students.

For far too long, Columbia has allowed antisemitism and disorder to spread on campus, failing to enforce several deadlines President Shafik set for the 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' to clear and preventing the New York City Police Department from returning to remove the unauthorized encampment.<sup>4</sup> Under President Shafik's failed leadership, the rule of law at Columbia does not exist and consequences have gone without enforcement. Just last night, a student who was supposedly banned from campus after calling for the killing of Jews<sup>5</sup> reportedly led the takeover of Hamilton Hall.<sup>6</sup> Had any consequences been enforced against this antisemitic encampment that has been operating for weeks, these events could've been prevented.

This is a dereliction of duty. President Shafik has bent over backwards to appease antisemitic radicals and agitators who have sown chaos. By enabling this to happen, President Shafik is first

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/30/dozens-occupy-hamilton-hall-as-pro-palestinian-protests-spread-across-campus/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/us/columbia-university-facilities-worker-speaks-terror-takeover-held-hostage>

<sup>3</sup> <https://x.com/ColumbiaBDS/status/1785189196141113478>

<sup>4</sup> <https://nypost.com/2024/04/29/us-news/nypd-mobilizing-for-action-at-columbia-but-admin-has-not-asked-for-cops-yet/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/29/nyregion/khymani-james-columbia-suspension.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://x.com/AGHamilton29/status/1785287197890957696>

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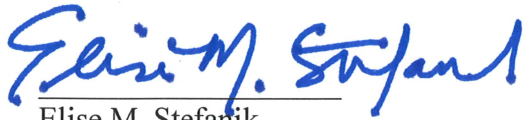
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and foremost violating the rights of Jewish students and faculty, but also creating an environment that is unsafe for all on campus.

I urge you all to act to immediately remove President Shafik from her position and secure student, faculty, and staff safety before another building on campus is allowed to fall.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress