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August 25, 2025

Dr. Sam Hawgood
Chancellor
University of California, San Francisco
550 16th Street, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94143

Dear Dr. Hawgood:

The Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) is investigating antisemitism at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), including whether there was or is a hostile environment against Jewish students on UCSF's campus and whether the university is fulfilling its obligation under Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* (Title VI) to end any harassment, eliminate any hostile environment and its effects, and prevent any harassment from recurring. This investigation will aid the Committee in considering whether potential legislative changes, including legislation to specifically address antisemitic discrimination, are needed.

The Committee has become aware that Jewish students, faculty, and patients have been experiencing hostility and fear at the university, and it has not been demonstrated that the university has meaningfully responded to address and mitigate this problem. For example:

- Jewish students at UCSF have concealed aspects of their Jewish identity, including removing identifiers on social media.¹
- A student allegedly told a Jewish student that "Jews control the banks." A lab technician allegedly told the same Jewish student that Israel deserved what happened on October 7th.²
- Jewish patients are reportedly hiding their identities when seeking medical care at the university.³

¹ Testimony on file with Committee.

² Heather Knight, *In San Francisco, Doctors Feud Over 'Do No Harm' When it Comes to War Protests*, N.Y. Times (June 24, 2024), <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/24/us/israel-hamas-war-sf-doctors.html>.

³ Aaron Sibarium, *Advocacy Workshops, Anti-Racist Audits: Inside a Top Medical School's Radical Curriculum Overhaul*, Wash. Free Beacon (November 18, 2024), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/advocacy-workshops-anti-racist-audits-inside-a-top-medical-schools-radical-curriculum-overhaul/>.

- In May 2024, patients allegedly heard calls for “intifada” from doctors and staff at the encampment that occurred in front of the UCSF medical center.⁴ The encampment damaged university property and disrupted hospital operations.⁵
- In March 2024, UCSF’s cancer center was defaced with antisemitic language invoking the Holocaust that said, “Free Palestine from Nazi Israeli Schweine!”⁶
- A UCSF professor posted online that “journalists fabricated ‘[Sexual Violence] victims’ to advance Israeli propaganda” after October 7th.⁷
- After Jewish faculty expressed concerns about antisemitism, UCSF referred them to a counselor for support. The faculty members then found that the counselor had also allegedly posted antisemitic remarks online.⁸ When the faculty notified UCSF’s Office of Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination of this, the office allegedly forwarded the faculty email to the counselor.⁹
- A former UCSF faculty member, while at UCSF, singled out an Israeli student, writing that “med students at UCSF are concerned that a first-year student from Israel is in their class” and that other students asked him “if he participated in the genocide of Palestinians.”¹⁰ The same former UCSF faculty member, while at UCSF, compared Zionists to Nazis, called for an investigation of “Zionists” in healthcare,¹¹ and said that “‘ Hamas is a symptom of the problem, not the problem,” among other statements.¹²
- In June 2024, a UCSF employee allegedly wore a jacket with inverted red triangles, a symbol used to glorify Hamas, during a UCSF Staff Resource Fair.¹³ The same employee reposted a tweet that said, “Zionist doctors have facilitated in [sic] the genocide of Palestinians.”¹⁴ She also reposted a tweet that said, “Would you have trusted Nazi doctors to provide healthcare to Jews in the 1930s and 40s? No. Then why would you trust Zionist doctors to provide healthcare to non-white, non-Jewish patients in 2020s? Zionism = Nazism[.]”¹⁵
- A UCSF language interpreter applauded Hamas’ terrorist attack in online posts allegedly comparing Hamas to the “Jewish people of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising” and stating that

⁴ Ayala Orel, *Antisemitism at UCSF: ‘They Added Genocide in Gaza in a Presentation*, Ynet (06.26.24) <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hyjzf119ir>.

⁵ Testimony on file with the Committee; *see also* Sam Hawgood, *Encampment at Parnassus Heights*, UCSF Off. of the Chancellor (May 18, 2024) <https://chancellor.ucsf.edu/news/encampment-paranassus-heights>.

⁶ M.J. Koch, *Leading Hospitals Are Becoming a ‘Battlefield’ as Jewish Patients, Doctors Face Surging Antisemitism*, N.Y. Sun (Mar. 7 2024 01:58 PM ET), <https://www.nysun.com/article/leading-california-hospitals-are-becoming-a-battlefield-as-jewish-patients-doctors-ucfaceface-surging-antisemitism>; photos on file with Committee.

⁷ Stop Antisemitism (@StopAntisemites), X (2:03PM Apr 2, 2024), <https://x.com/StopAntisemites/status/1775222650064814280>.

⁸ Orel, *supra* note 4.

⁹ Testimony, *supra* note 5, at 2.

¹⁰ Nanette Asimov, *Tensions Ignite at UCSF After Doctor Is Accused of Targeting Israeli Student on Social Media*, S.F. Chron. (Sept. 23, 2024) (on file with archive.today) <https://archive.is/SiJF4#selection-1195.113-1195.205>.

¹¹ Ari Blaff, *University of California Medical Prof Defends ‘Zionist Doctors’ Conspiracy, Calls for Investigation*, Nat’l Rev. (January 5, 2024 9:06 AM) <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/university-of-california-medical-prof-defends-zionist-doctors-conspiracy-calls-for-investigation/>.

¹² *Rupa Marya*, StopAntiSemitism (June 7, 2024) <https://stopantisemitism.org/as-week/rupa-marya/>.

¹³ Testimony, *supra* note 5, at 4.

¹⁴ Noisy Nora (@noisy_nora), X (1:42 AM Jan 7, 2024), <https://x.com/sfdirewolf/status/1743885691434815860?s=51m>, (reposted from Alice Wong 王美華, @SFdirewolf).

¹⁵ Noisy Nora (@noisy_nora), X (1:53 PM Jan 7, 2024), <https://x.com/lqgist/status/1744069757173743920?s=46> (reposted from Deepak Vaid is @dvaid.bsky.social, @lqgist).

“4 Biggest Terrorists in the world” are the Israeli prime minister, the leader of the World Jewish Congress, the CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, and the CEO of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.¹⁶

- A UCSF professor posted a news article that cited an unfounded antisemitic claim by Hamas that Israel stole organs from corpses.¹⁷ She also reposted a tweet that claimed, “Israel is a Rebranded Nazi State.”¹⁸
- During lectures for Arab history month in 2024 and 2025, a UCSF professor allegedly endorsed a graphic that advocated for the destruction of, or denied the existence of, Israel.¹⁹

Hamas is a U.S. designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) that calls not only for the destruction of Israel but for the murder of the Jewish people.²⁰ When faculty or staff show support for Hamas’ actions, many Jewish students perceive these statements as threatening not only to the state of Israel but to the Jewish people more broadly.²¹ Similarly, statements that demonize ‘Zionists,’ that hold Israel to a different standard than every other democratic nation, or that call for the destruction of Israel can be and often are antisemitic.²² For example, calls for the destruction of the Jewish state are effectively calls for the killing of Jews that also deny the

¹⁶ Stop Antisemitism (@StopAntisemites), X (11:40 PM May 15, 2024), <https://x.com/StopAntisemites/status/1790950480731852859>.

¹⁷ Sondas Al Sad (@SadSondos), X (10:26 PM Dec 26, 2023) <https://x.com/SadSondos/status/1739850151467135100>.

¹⁸ Sondas Al Sad (@SadSondos), X (2/24/24) (reposted from Sally Hates Capitalism...but Loves [Palestinian Flag Emoji], @hatescapitalism) (screenshot on file with the Committee).

¹⁹ The UCSF professor is reportedly a cofounder of Al-Awda, which celebrated the October 7th attack as “powerful” and “brave.” *Al-Adwa (Aka Palestine Right to Return Coalition) (AA)*, Discover the Networks (last visited June 11, 2025) <https://www.discoverthenetworks.org/organizations/alawda-aka-palestine-right-to-return-coalition-aa/>; *Al-Adwa Stands with the Palestinian People and the Palestinian Resistance: Take Action for Liberation*, Al-Adwa (October 7, 2023) <https://al-awdapalestine.org/2023/10/al-awda-stands-with-the-palestinian-people-and-the-palestinian-resistance-take-action-for-liberation/>. He is also reportedly a co-founder of the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (USACBI), which seeks to demonize and delegitimize Israel by advocating for the boycott of Israeli art and academia. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, *Identity Politics, the Pursuit of Social Justice, and the Rise of Campus Antisemitism: A Case Study*, in *Resurgent Antisemitism: A Glob. Perspective* (Alvin H. Rosenfeld, ed. 2013) (unpublished manuscript) <https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Chapter-18-manuscript.pdf>; Organizing Comm., US Campaign for the Acad. & Cultural Boycott of Israel (last visited June 11, 2025), https://www.amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/about_us_usacbi.pdf.

²⁰ Intelligence Resource Program, *The Covenant of the Hamas – Main Points*, Fed’n of Am. Scientists (Updated Dec. 14, 2023), <https://irp.fas.org/world/para/docs/880818a.htm> (“The Day of Judgment will not come about until Moslems fight Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: ‘O Moslem, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.’”); U.S. Dep’t of State, Foreign Terrorist Organizations (last visited May 28, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>.

²¹ Jewish News Syndicate, *Three-quarters of Jewish college students believe antisemitism is rampant on campus, poll shows*, N.Y. POST (Mar. 5, 2025), <https://nypost.com/2025/03/05/us-news/74-of-jewish-college-students-think-antisemitism-is-rampant-on-campus-new-poll-reveals/>.

²² *A Guide to Recognizing When Anti-Israel Actions Become Antisemitic*, Am. Jewish Comm. (2021) <https://www.ajc.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2021-10/A%20Guide%20to%20Recognizing%20When%20Anti-Israel%20Actions%20Become%20Antisemitic.pdf>; *Anti-Zionism*, Anti-Defamation League (11.18.2021) <https://extremismterms.adl.org/resources/backgrounder/anti-zionism>; *Working Definition of Antisemitism*, Int’l Holocaust Remembrance Assoc. (May 26, 2016), <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>.

Jewish people their right to self-determination.²³ Many Jewish students therefore perceive these statements as direct threats.²⁴ Such statements—especially when made repeatedly and by individuals in a position of authority—can contribute to a hostile environment that universities are obligated to respond to and mitigate under Title VI.²⁵

In addition to the incidents described above, the Committee is concerned about antisemitism in the classroom at UCSF. For example, in 2024, a UCSF branded presentation at a Continuing Medical Education course at UCSF featured the baseless claim that “Israel trains our US police forces to perpetrate violence against BIPOC communities.”²⁶ Another course on music and dementia allegedly issued a trigger warning before playing a Hebrew song.²⁷ In addition, UCSF requires students to take a “Justice and Advocacy in Medicine” class that allegedly promotes anti-Israel ideological activism.²⁸ These courses may have been approved by UCSF’s “Anti-Oppression Curriculum Initiative,” which UCSF initiated in 2021 to review and adapt the school’s curriculum to an “anti-oppressive lens,” including screening for “harmful” content in courses.²⁹ The Committee is seeking to understand whether this initiative is perpetuating antisemitism contrary to the university’s Title VI obligations.³⁰

As you know, postsecondary institutions that receive federal funds must maintain a safe learning environment and fulfill all obligations under Title VI and its accompanying regulations. This includes the obligation to promptly address discrimination, including harassment that creates a hostile environment, wherever such circumstances may be found to exist. Jewish students and faculty may experience the statements described above, including those that delegitimize Israel, as antisemitism.³¹ Under Title VI, even speech that is protected by the First Amendment may contribute to an unlawful hostile environment. Thus, Title VI requires colleges to promptly address incidents creating a hostile environment. This can be done through a variety of methods, including investigating the incidents and imposing appropriate discipline; condemning the statements made; implementing policy changes such as time, place, and manner restrictions; providing training to combat antisemitism; and other measures. The Committee is seeking to understand whether, as reports suggest, there was or is a hostile environment against Jewish students on UCSF’s campus and whether the university responded to incidents such as those described in this letter.

²³ Under Title VI, harassment is measured from the perspective of a reasonable person and considers “the relevant particularized characteristics and circumstances of the victim.” OCR, Racial Incidents and Harassment against Students at Educational Institutions: Investigative Guidance, 59 Fed. Reg. 11,448, 11,449 (Mar. 1994).

²⁴ Jewish News Syndicate, *supra* note 21.

²⁵ See *Kestenbaum v. President & Fellows of Harvard Coll.*, 743 F. Supp. 3d 297, 303–05, 309–10 (D. Mass. 2024).

²⁶ Dr. Alicia Morehead-Gee (@AliciamoMD), X (9:02 PM Apr 26, 2024), <https://x.com/aliciamomd/status/1784025194539171857?s=51>.

²⁷ Testimony on file with Committee.

²⁸ Sibarium, *supra* note 3.

²⁹ *Timeline & Progress*, USCF Sch. of Med., <https://meded.ucsf.edu/current-students/anti-oppression-curriculum-initiative/timeline-progress#> (last visited June 11, 2025); Sibarium, *supra* note 3.

³⁰ *Anti-Oppression Curriculum Initiative*, UCSF Sch. of Med. (last visited June 11, 2025) <https://meded.ucsf.edu/current-students/anti-oppression-curriculum-initiative>.

³¹ Under Title VI, harassment is measured from the perspective of a reasonable person and considers “the relevant particularized characteristics and circumstances of the victim.” See OCR, Racial Incidents and Harassment against Students at Educational Institutions: Investigative Guidance, 59 Fed. Reg. 11,448, 11,449 (Mar. 1994).

To assess whether a hostile environment existed or exists on UCSF's campus, and to understand whether and how UCSF has responded to any incidents of harassment, the Committee requests the production of the following documents and communications by September 8, 2025:

1. All documents and communications related to reports or complaints of antisemitic acts or incidents received by UCSF, including those to, from, or in the possession of the offices of the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination, Diversity and Outreach, the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor and Provost, Education and Student Affairs, Human Resources, the UCSF Police Department, or any hotlines, inboxes, or other mechanisms that collect reports of bias, discrimination, and harassment, from January 1, 2022, through the date of your response.
 - a. For each report or complaint, include any communications among administrators or staff regarding the complaint, such as discussion about whether to investigate the complaint.
 - b. For each report or complaint, include documentation showing the university's response to the report or complaint, if any, including documents and communications related to whether the report or complaint was investigated and whether a disciplinary or conduct case was opened.
 - c. If a disciplinary or conduct case was opened, provide documents sufficient to show the entity or entities responsible for reviewing the case, the disciplinary process being used to review the case, case status, actions taken by UCSF to date (including any modification of proposed or imposed discipline), and the standing of the alleged perpetrator. Please also provide documents sufficient to show all instances in which alleged perpetrators were involved in previous disciplinary incidents.
 - d. Please provide a summary chart showing individual complaints filed by year, the source of the complaint, the date the complaint was filed, the reviewing entity, whether UICOM opened an investigation, and the current status of the complaint.
2. All documents and communications from July 1, 2021, through the date of your response referring or relating to both (1) antisemitism³² or the terms Jewish, Israel, Israeli, Palestine, or Palestinian, and (2) UCSF's Justice and Advocacy in Medicine courses, UCSF's Continuing Medical Education courses, or the Anti-Oppression Curriculum Initiative at UCSF.
3. All documents sufficient to show UCSF's guidelines for investigating complaints of antisemitism since January 1, 2023, including any changes to these guidelines.
4. All documents sufficient to show any definition of antisemitism used by UCSF since January 1, 2023, including in investigations of antisemitism.

³² In this letter, "antisemitism" is defined in accordance with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition and contemporary examples. Examples of antisemitism under the IHRA definition may include references to "Zionism" or "Israel." Antisemitism is considered from the perspective of a reasonable person and considers "the relevant particularized characteristics and circumstances of the victim." See OCR, Racial Incidents and Harassment against Students at Educational Institutions: Investigative Guidance, 59 Fed. Reg. 11,448, 11,449 (Mar. 1994).

5. All documents sufficient to show any anti-bias or anti-discrimination trainings offered to staff, students, faculty, officers, administrators, or any other groups at UCSF since January 1, 2023.

When producing documents, do not alter them in any way, including but not limited to, the application of redactions or watermarks. Additionally, digital copies should be provided in a format that enables their printing and copying.

Congress's oversight powers are derived from the U.S. Constitution and have been repeatedly affirmed by the United States Supreme Court. Under House Rule X, the Committee's legislative and oversight jurisdiction is broad, extending to "education . . . generally" and "laws, programs, and Government activities relating to domestic educational programs and institutions and programs of student assistance within the jurisdiction of other committees."³³ This includes enforcement of Title VI and other antidiscrimination laws by the Department of Education. Further, as set forth in House Rule X, the Committee "shall review and study on a continuing basis the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction."³⁴ The information gathered will also aid the Committee in considering whether potential legislative changes, including legislation to specifically address antisemitic discrimination, are needed.

Should you have any questions please contact Jenna Berger at jenna.berger@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce

³³ RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 119th Cong. at 7, 10 (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/rules.house.gov/files/documents/houserules119thupdated.pdf>.

³⁴ RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 119th Cong., Rule X cl. 1(e)(6); cl. 2(b)(1)(A) (2025).