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COMMITTEE ON
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2176 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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January 28, 2026

Mayor Daniel Biss
909 Davis Street
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Mayor Biss:

I write with grave concern regarding your failure to protect Jewish students at Northwestern University (Northwestern) by refusing to give the university the police support it desperately needed to clear its violent and antisemitic encampment in April 2024.¹ Just recently you touted this failure in a letter to Secretary of Education Linda McMahon, describing the individuals at the encampment as "peaceful."²

In reality, the encampment was a hotbed of antisemitic harassment and hostility, including multiple alleged assaults and virulently antisemitic signage.³ A mob violently resisted Northwestern University Police Department officers early on, shoving them and screaming "**** you, pig!"⁴ Multiple Jewish students experienced blatant antisemitism during the encampment: a Jewish student wearing a yarmulke reported being spat at; another student recording the encampment alleged being assaulted by an encampment member; still another recalled that she was told to "go back to Germany and get gassed."⁵ Others walking by reported being called "dirty Jew" and "Zionist pig."⁶

¹ "What happened was, that night, Thursday night, the mayor of Evanston called me and said he would not be sending in the police. I said to him, "We have a mutual aid agreement." He said, "You know, you can sue me if you want.""

Transcribed Interview with H. Comm. Educ. & Workforce (2025),

https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/edworkforce_final_transcript_aug_5_2025_redacted.pdf.

² Letter from MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY OF EVANSTON, to U.S. DEPT. EDUCATION Secretary Linda McMahon (Dec. 8, 2025), <https://files.constantcontact.com/f207d26990157aa9818-bde7-49f2-867c-3cf7c5861014.pdf?rdr=true>.

³ See, e.g., Adam Kredo, *Congress Opens Probe Into Anti-Semitism at Northwestern*, WASHINGTON FREE BEACON (May 10, 2024), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/congress-opens-probe-into-anti-semitism-at-northwestern/>.

⁴ Jackson Walker, *Anti-Israel Protesters at Wealthy Private University Asking for "hot food" Donations*, NBC MONTANA (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://nbcmontana.com/news/nation-world/anti-israel-protesters-at-wealthy-private-university-asking-for-hot-food-donations-northwestern-university-midwest-school-nu-big-ten-palestine-israeli-gaza-war-divest-bds>.

⁵ Logan Schiciano, *Unfortunately some protesters at Northwestern's newly-formed encampment weren't too thrilled with us reporting*, X (Apr. 25, 2024), <https://twitter.com/LoganSchiciano/status/1783569410248020251>; Alana Goodman, *Campus Northwestern Jewish Students Recount 'Scary and Shocking' Campus Anti-Semitism in Meetings With Lawmakers*, WASHINGTON FREE BEACON (May 2, 2024), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/northwestern-jewish-students-recount-scary-and-shocking-campus-anti-semitism-in-meetings-with-lawmakers/>. See also NWU-CEW_00016502.

⁶ Duncan Agnew, *Jewish president of Northwestern, under fire for making deal with protesters, is next to take hot seat in Congress*, THE FORWARD (May 20, 2024) <https://forward.com/news/615142/jewish-president-of-northwestern-under-fire-for-making-deal-with-protesters-is-next-to-take-hot-seat-in-congress/>.

Despite these repeated and documented incidents of antisemitism and harassment, the Evanston Police Department—at your direction—did not assist in clearing the encampment.⁷ Indeed, Committee documents show that Northwestern was looking to arrest protesters on April 26 but was unable to do so with “too few police to safely get this done” due to your refusal to provide support.⁸ Concerningly, a Northwestern trustee said at the time that you were publicizing your refusal to provide the campus with support in order to “shore up [your] progressive credentials.”⁹ The same trustee advised Northwestern’s then-president: “If the winds blow the wrong way [Biss] will throw you under the bus. No hesitation.”¹⁰

Unsurprisingly, you recently denounced an agreement between Northwestern and the federal government that would protect Jewish students and faculty, describing it as “blackmail[.]”¹¹ Considering your recent interest in campus conduct and antidiscrimination efforts at Northwestern, the Committee requests a briefing on, in your words, “local law-enforcement coordination” when it comes to antisemitic activity on college campuses in Evanston.¹² This briefing will aid the Committee in considering whether potential legislative changes, including legislation to specifically address antisemitic discrimination, are needed.

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.”¹³ This includes enforcement of Title VI and other antidiscrimination laws by the Department of Education.

Should you have any questions please contact Jenna Berger at jenna.berger@mail.house.gov or at 202.225.4527.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce

⁷ NWU-CEW_00009396; NWU-CEW_00008621; Transcribed Interview, *supra* note 1.

⁸ NWU-CEW_00008838.

⁹ NWU-CEW_00009405; NWU-CEW_00009425.

¹⁰ NWU-CEW_00009431.

¹¹ Daniel Biss, *My statement on Northwestern's settlement with the Trump Administration*, X (Dec. 1, 2025), <https://x.com/DanielBiss/status/1995539577122025844?s=20>.


¹² Letter from MAYOR’S OFFICE, *supra* note 2.

¹³ 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>.

Short Message Report

Conversations: 1	Participants: 3
Total Messages: 3	Date Range: 4/26/2024 - 4/27/2024

Outline of Conversations

 **Native Messages chat (chat80491553753963403) : [Julie Allen ([REDACTED]),Michael Schill ([REDACTED]),Peter Barris ([REDACTED])]** * 3 messages between 4/26/2024 - 4/27/2024 * Julie Allen ([REDACTED]) * Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) * Peter Barris ([REDACTED])

Messages in chronological order (times are shown in GMT +00:00)



Native Messages chat (chat80491553753963403) : [Julie Allen ([REDACTED]),Michael Schill ([REDACTED]),Peter Barris ([REDACTED])]

PB

Peter Barris [REDACTED]
<https://wapo.st/3w1tlhl>

4/26/2024, 10:54 PM

Attachment: ____Libr__ 1(7) (4 KB)

Attachment: 04797A85-C9E2-48F1-BC6E-0DFEAFE3C8C8.pluginPayloadAttachment (288 KB)

MS

Michael Schill [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 2:04 AM

In the past 2 hours two trustees that we both like and respect either knew or guessed that Biss wasn't going to provide support for our police. Based upon their knowledge of Biss they both guess that he is letting people know.

JA

Julie Allen [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 2:13 AM

Wow. That is unhelpful. Especially if it gets to the students.

Short Message Report

Conversations: 1	Participants: 3
Total Messages: 6	Date Range: 4/26/2024

Outline of Conversations



Native Messages chat [REDACTED] : [Peter Barris ([REDACTED]),Peter Barris ([REDACTED]),Michael Schill ([REDACTED])] • 6 messages on 4/26/2024 • Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) • Peter Barris ([REDACTED]) • Peter Barris ([REDACTED])

Messages in chronological order (times are shown in GMT +00:00)



Native Messages chat ([redacted]) : [Peter Barris ([redacted]),Michael Schill ([redacted])]

MS

Michael Schill [redacted]

4/26/2024, 12:07 PM

From Biss: Sorry for the delay. I was unable to reach everyone I needed to speak with on our team last night. I've now spoken with them. Our position has not changed. I'll make myself available to talk throughout the day as we all work through this difficult situation.

MS

Michael Schill [redacted]

4/26/2024, 12:09 PM

The plan was to arrest and put on probation at 7 am this morning. That plan is on hold now since we have too few police to safely get this done.

PB

Peter Barris [redacted]

4/26/2024, 12:33 PM

How many police do we have?

MS

Michael Schill [redacted]

4/26/2024, 12:35 PM

According to bruce 10 to 15 can be available

PB

Peter Barris [redacted]

4/26/2024, 12:37 PM

How many do we think we need to conduct the operation?

MS

Michael Schill [redacted]


4/26/2024, 12:38 PM

More t he an 10-15. There were hundreds of kids last night

Short Message Report

Conversations: 1	Participants: 3
Total Messages: 1	Date Range: 4/26/2024

Outline of Conversations

 **Native Messages chat (chat649932471956580441) : [Michael Schill ([REDACTED]),Daniel Biss ([REDACTED]),Luke Figora ([REDACTED])]** • 1 message on 4/26/2024 • Daniel Biss ([REDACTED]) • Luke Figora ([REDACTED]) • Michael Schill ([REDACTED])

Messages in chronological order (times are shown in GMT +00:00)



Native Messages chat (chat649932471956580441) : [Michael Schill ([REDACTED]),Daniel Biss ([REDACTED]),Luke Figora ([REDACTED])]

DB

Daniel Biss [REDACTED]

4/26/2024, 12:03 PM

Sorry for the delay. I was unable to reach everyone I needed to speak with on our team last night. I've now spoken with them. Our position has not changed. I'll make myself available to talk throughout the day as we all work through this difficult situation.

Short Message Report

Conversations: 1	Participants: 3
Total Messages: 10	Date Range: 4/26/2024 - 4/27/2024

Outline of Conversations



Native Messages chat ([REDACTED]) : [Michael Schill ([REDACTED]),Greg Stripp ([REDACTED]),Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) • 10 messages between 4/26/2024 - 4/27/2024 • Greg Stripp ([REDACTED]) • Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) • Michael Schill ([REDACTED])

Messages in chronological order (times are shown in GMT +00:00)

Native Messages chat ([REDACTED]) : [Michael Schill ([REDACTED]),Greg Stripp ([REDACTED]),Michael Schill ([REDACTED])]

MS Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) 4/26/2024, 12:39 PM
Pick you up in 5

GS Greg Stripp ([REDACTED]) 4/26/2024, 12:39 PM
Liked "Pick you up in 5"

MS Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) 4/26/2024, 1:05 PM
<https://twitter.com/anitainchicago/status/1783837797478269039>

Attachment: ___Libr__1(86) (789 bytes)

Attachment: 1FE313A9-5C3F-4376-AA23-A7C9486903D4.pluginPayloadAttachment (333 KB)

MS Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) 4/26/2024, 7:05 PM
This is why Kathleen is so great

GS Greg Stripp ([REDACTED]) 4/26/2024, 7:13 PM
Yep

MS Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) 4/27/2024, 2:08 AM
Just off the phone with Michael Sacks. He guessed that Biss wouldn't provide police support. He said you can't trust him. Same message as Adam. Michael thinks Biss is likely to tell folks to shore up his progressive credentials.

MS Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) 4/27/2024, 2:08 AM
What am I going to do with my huge spinner?!? I guess I need to take a vacation!

MS Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) 4/27/2024, 2:11 AM
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gaza-solidarity-encampment-shakes-up-northwestern-campus-but-leaves-no-clear-winners/>

Attachment: E66D6E09-3C1F-4863-A8C5-3B61813DE376.pluginPayloadAttachment (5 KB)

Attachment: ___Libr__1(87) (253 KB)


MS Michael Schill ([REDACTED]) 4/27/2024, 2:11 AM
Nice quote from Rabbi Jessica.

GS Greg Stripp ([REDACTED]) 4/27/2024, 2:26 AM
Beyond nice. It seems so authentic. And it is such an observant view of an extremely complicated world She's incredible

Short Message Report

Conversations: 1	Participants: 3
Total Messages: 9	Date Range: 4/27/2024

Outline of Conversations

 **Native Messages chat (chat173559677357646226) :** [Michael Schill ([REDACTED]),Julie Allen ([REDACTED]),Greg Stripp ([REDACTED])] • 9 messages on 4/27/2024 • Greg Stripp ([REDACTED]) • Julie Allen ([REDACTED]) • Michael Schill ([REDACTED])

Messages in chronological order (times are shown in GMT +00:00)



Native Messages chat (chat173559677357646226) : [Michael Schill ([REDACTED]),Julie Allen ([REDACTED]),Greg Stripp ([REDACTED])]

MS

Michael Schill [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 12:08 AM

Kathleen just called. She thinks they made progress. They were very interested in a house (they brought up the space). She was thinking of Pat's old house temporarily. I told her that we may have offered it to someone already. She told them they needed to reduce the number of tents before she moved forward with anything. Positive momentum.

GS

Greg Stripp [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 12:14 AM

Glad we made progress. Do not think the Foster house is the place, but could be wrong. We've talked about a space for them since shortly after I started, so no concerns with exploring options. But they will need to deliver what we need from 75-80% of participants in the encampment.

JA

Julie Allen [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 12:15 AM

Yes. I don't endorse giving anything until they start to comply with policies. That will be a killer w the board.

JA

Julie Allen [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 12:17 AM

Mike, let me know what you think of the update to the board.

MS

Michael Schill [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 12:20 AM

BTW, someone from outside of my universe (I don't know who since it was relayed to me by a third party) heard about Biss not coming to our defense. So, we have to assume it is out there. Not surprising since he is talking to the Council and who knows who else. Jan S seemed to know too (although she might have just assumed it).

JA

Julie Allen [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 12:21 AM

Ugh

MS

Michael Schill [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 12:24 AM

I think it is good. Only question is whether you want to say that Kathleen met with the students and made progress toward deescalation. You might want to hold it until tomorrow's update.

JA

Julie Allen [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 12:24 AM

I'll hold that

JA

Julie Allen [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 12:25 AM

Thanks. We will get it out

Short Message Report

Conversations: 1	Participants: 2
Total Messages: 7	Date Range: 4/27/2024

Outline of Conversations



Native Messages chat ([REDACTED]) : [Michael Schill ([REDACTED]),Michael J. Sacks ([REDACTED])] • 7 messages on 4/27/2024 • Michael J. Sacks ([REDACTED]) • Michael Schill ([REDACTED])

Messages in chronological order (times are shown in GMT +00:00)



Native Messages chat ([REDACTED]) : [Michael Schill ([REDACTED]),Michael J. Sacks ([REDACTED])]

MS

Michael J. Sacks [REDACTED]
How are you holding up?

4/27/2024, 1:01 AM

MS

Michael Schill [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 1:06 AM

Good. I think the reaming I took in July, August, December, and January prepared me for this. I am focused on doing the right thing despite pressure on all sides. That means prioritizing health and safety. I think we are making some progress toward deescalation. We have a very limited choice set. Our trustees have been great... supportive and understanding and, by and large, cautious.

MS

Michael J. Sacks [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 1:19 AM

My only counsel is that it is unlikely you are dealing with people operating "on the level".

Meaning if they want conflict they will force it and if they want it to go on they will continue. The students you are talking to likely not making strategy decisions. It all seems quite organized and coordinated. Maybe you have faculty who is in the real decision making flow.

I think you told me I was the first to suggest to you that there might be people on campus were not all students or teachers but there were outside agitators. It seems likely to me that's the case if only from the calls from the larger non NU organizations on social media.

I worry you have a tough counterparty and whatever concession you make won't be enough and on the other hand you have to be careful about flip flopping.

MS

Michael J. Sacks [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 1:20 AM

Bit surprised to hear on trustees as I am usually in the progressive/liberal camp for that group and I admit to thinking that not being tough/tougher will end up hurting the school

MS

Michael Schill [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 1:27 AM

Once we end this I'll explain why we have a much more limited set of choices than many think. It is very frustrating, but that is the nature of the situation. We have to play the cards we have right now. Sorry to be so cryptic.

MS

Michael J. Sacks [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 1:35 AM

I have no knowledge.

I would bet you don't have the police force capability and Biss and Schakowsky not full throated supporters and back up may not be there. I know Biss well. If the winds blow the wrong way he will throw you under the bus. No hesitation. Jan too.

I would think you do have the ability to make sure that there are consequences for students and faculty and the idea that if they don't produce ID, don't take down tents, don't get rid of amplification they will be suspended or whatever will put a dent in the crowd.

As for the professors out there like the guy from Medill my ask is that we just not hire assholes anymore. We knew he was a bad guy before he came over and we hired him anyway. Let's just try hard not to do that the next 5-10 years. 🤖



MS

Michael J. Sacks [REDACTED]

4/27/2024, 3:27 AM

In case you hadn't seen and it's of any use

At Penn, we pursue our academic mission guided by fundamental commitments to upholding freedom of inquiry and open expression, while maintaining a safe, inclusive, and respectful campus community.

Over the last 24 hours, we have closely monitored the protest that evolved into an encampment on College Green. We have vigilantly supported the rights of our community members to protest peacefully. Representatives from Open Expression, University Life, and faculty leadership have engaged with some of the protestors, with limited access to the broader group.

Unfortunately, blatant violations of University policies and credible reports of harassing and intimidating conductcompel

us to protect the safety and security of our campus community.

The encampment itself violates the University's facilities policies. The harassing and intimidating comments and actions by some of the protesters, which were reported and documented by many in our community, violate Penn's open expression guidelines and state and federal law, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. All members of our community deserve to access our facilities without fear of harassment or being subjected to discriminatory comments or threats.

The vandalism of the statue in front of College Hall with antisemitic graffiti was especially reprehensible and will be investigated as a hate crime.

As we have repeatedly emphasized, we will uphold free speech and the productive exchange of ideas, but we will not allow any actions that harass, threaten, or intimidate others. We have also said that the safety of our community is paramount, and we will live up to our commitment.

I am deeply saddened and troubled that our many efforts to respectfully engage in discourse, support open expression, and create a community that is free of hate and inclusive for everyone have been ignored by those who choose to disrupt and intimidate.

We have notified the protestors of their legal and policy violations. Failure to disband the encampment immediately and to adhere to Penn's policies will result in sanctions consistent with our due process procedures as they apply to students, faculty, and staff.

Sincerely,

J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD
Interim President

John L. Jackson, Jr.
Provost

Craig R. Carnaroli
Senior Executive Vice President