

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1125

Condemning rising antisemitism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. ZELDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Condemning rising antisemitism.

Whereas the Jewish-American experience is a story of faith, fortitude, and progress and is connected to key tenets of American identity;

Whereas generations of Jewish people have come to this Nation fleeing oppression, discrimination, and persecution in search of a better life for themselves and their children;

Whereas these Jewish Americans have created lives for themselves and their families and played indispensable roles in our Nation's civic and community life, making invaluable contributions to our Nation through their leadership and achievements;

Whereas, on August 21, 1790, President George Washington sent a letter to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, expressing that the newly formed United States would be a Nation that “gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance” and that the Jewish people should “dwell in this land [and] continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants . . . and there shall be none to make him afraid.”;

Whereas we should acknowledge and celebrate the crucial contributions that Jewish Americans have made to our collective struggle for a more just and fair society, leading movements for justice and equality, and working to ensure opportunities for all;

Whereas alongside this narrative of achievement and opportunity, there is also a history, far older than the Nation itself, of racism, bigotry, and other forms of prejudice manifesting in the scourge of antisemitism;

Whereas antisemitism is an insidious form of prejudice stretching back millennia that attacks the humanity of the Jewish people and has led to violence, destruction of lives and communities, and genocide;

Whereas conspiracy theories that Jews are uniquely evil and influential has led to mass killings of Jews throughout time, including the poisonous Nazi ideology that resulted in the murder of 6,000,000 Jews, including 1,500,000 Jewish children, and millions of other victims of the Nazis in Europe;

Whereas over the course of the past decade, Holocaust distortion and denial has grown in intensity;

Whereas a 2020 survey of all 50 States in the United States on Holocaust knowledge among Millennials and Gen Z

conducted by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), found a clear lack of awareness of key historical facts; 63 percent of respondents did not know that 6,000,000 Jews were murdered during the Holocaust and 36 percent thought that “two million or fewer Jews” were killed;

Whereas there is a documented and dangerous rise of anti-semitism globally and in the United States, where Jews are increasingly affected by the grotesque spread of misinformation and lies including blame for the spread of COVID-19, false claims including the control of the media and the financial system, accusations of dual loyalty, and a multitude of negative stereotypes;

Whereas the American Jewish Committee (AJC)’s 2021 State of Antisemitism in America report, a survey of American Jews and the general public’s perceptions of anti-semitism, revealed 24 percent of American Jews have been personally targeted by antisemitism in the past 12 months, 4 in 10 American Jews changed their behavior at least once out of fear of antisemitism, 90 percent believe antisemitism is a problem in the United States, and 82 percent feel it has increased in the past 5 years;

Whereas, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Jews were the target of 55 percent of all religiously motivated hate crimes in 2020, despite accounting for no more than 2 percent of the United States population;

Whereas the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)’s 2021 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in the United States recorded 2,717 acts of assault, vandalism, and harassment this past year alone, an average of more than 7 incidents per day; a 34-percent increase from 2020 and the highest

year on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979;

Whereas 525 antisemitic incidents took place at Jewish institutions, an increase of 61 percent from data collected in 2020;

Whereas antisemitic assaults increased by 167 percent in 2021 compared to the previous year and assaults in 2021 were 138 percent higher than the rolling 5-year average of antisemitic assaults;

Whereas there was a substantial surge of antisemitic incidents in the United States in May 2021, 387 incidents were reported, a 141 percent increase in reports of antisemitic incidents compared to May 2020; Jewish individuals were violently attacked in major cities including New York and Los Angeles;

Whereas the use of antisemitic language, conspiracy theories, and hatred has increased on multiple social media platforms—from Facebook and Instagram to Twitter and TikTok—including tropes about Jewish control and messages praising Hitler and demonizing all Jews;

Whereas a recent example of the violent antisemitism took place on Saturday, January 15, 2022, when, during religious services at Congregation Beth Israel, a terrorist held 4 people, including a rabbi, hostage at gunpoint for 11 hours;

Whereas police departments in a number of American cities, including New York and Los Angeles, have said that they are stepping up patrols at synagogues and other locations associated with the Jewish community following the hostage situation;

Whereas there are regular acts of antisemitic vandalism against synagogues and Jewish schools in the United States and numerous nonlethal attacks on American Jews, leaving many Jews feeling increasingly unsafe in public spaces and houses of worship;

Whereas AJC's 2021 State of Antisemitism in America report revealed 56 percent of respondents' religious institutions increased security since the Tree of Life synagogue shooting; and

Whereas the rise in antisemitism is part of the larger trend of the rise of hate-filled movements that are targeting marginalized communities here in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls on elected officials, faith leaders, and
3 civil society leaders to use their bully pulpit to con-
4 demn and combat any and all manifestations of anti-
5 semitism;

6 (2) calls on elected officials to condemn and
7 combat any and all denials and distortions of the
8 Holocaust and to promote Holocaust and anti-
9 semitism education;

10 (3) calls for amplifying and ensuring United
11 States leadership to fight global antisemitism, work-
12 ing with the Department of State's Special Envoy to
13 Monitor and Combat Antisemitism and intensifying
14 cooperation with international governments and par-
15 liaments around the world;

1 (4) works in tandem with the cross-party Inter-
2 Parliamentary Task Force to Combat Online Anti-
3 semitism to help craft thoughtful global initiatives
4 designed to address online antisemitism;

5 (5) calls on social media platforms to institute
6 stronger and more significant efforts to measure and
7 address online antisemitism while protecting free
8 speech concerns;

9 (6) takes all possible steps to improve the phys-
10 ical security of Jewish institutions and organiza-
11 tions, including by using existing tools such as in-
12 creasing funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant
13 Program of the Department of Homeland Security
14 to keep at-risk houses of worship, schools, and com-
15 munity centers safe from terrorist attacks and other
16 forms of antisemitic violence;

17 (7) ensures the safety, security, and dignity of
18 American Jews in all aspects of their lives, including
19 the workplace, college and university campuses, syn-
20 agogues, and at home; the development of these
21 measures must reflect the full diversity of the Jew-
22 ish community in its entirety; and

1 (8) supports the right of Americans to freely
2 exercise their religious beliefs and rejects all forms
3 of terror and hate.

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