

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 28, 2025

Dr. Neeli Bendapudi  
President  
The Pennsylvania State University  
201 Old Main  
University Park, PA 16802

Dear President Bendapudi,

Since October 7, 2023, when Hamas and its collaborators committed the deadliest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, Jewish students have faced unprecedented hostility on university campuses. According to Hillel International, the world's largest Jewish campus organization, the 2024-2025 school year saw record-high antisemitic incidents, including assaults, vandalism, obstruction of shared campus spaces, and illegal encampments. As the 2025-2026 school year begins, we write to urge you, as a leader of a Pennsylvania university with a large Jewish student population, to commit to ensuring Jewish institutions on your campus are equipped to protect the students they serve, including by allocating the resources to do so.

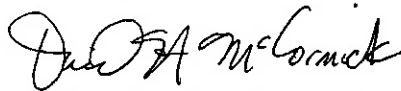
Pennsylvania is home to some of the nation's leading public and private universities. Your institution is spearheading cutting-edge research while attracting ambitious, hardworking students to the Commonwealth. However, Pennsylvania campuses have been no exception to the alarming rise of antisemitic harassment and violence. Chabad houses have been vandalized, entrances to Hillel buildings have been targeted, and Jewish students have been assaulted. To protect the students and faculty they host, many Jewish institutions have been forced to cover the costs of additional security.

Most disturbingly, Jewish students are once again hiding their Judaism. It is incumbent on all of us – especially our nation's universities – to ensure vibrant Jewish life is not compromised or driven into the shadows.

No student should feel like they must risk their safety to exercise their First Amendment rights to peacefully assemble and freely practice their religion. No campus institution should have to curtail its services to cover security expenses.

We commend the recent steps taken at Pennsylvania universities to enforce codes of conduct, disband illegal encampments, and suspend student groups that have repeatedly targeted and harassed Jewish students. Every student deserves a safe and enriching college experience. As the 2025-2026 academic year begins, we encourage you to work with your campus's Jewish institutions and ensure all students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or shared ancestry, are safe and able to fully participate in campus life.

Sincerely,



---

David H. McCormick  
United States Senator



---

John Fetterman  
United States Senator