

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 1, 2019

The Honorable William P. Barr  
Attorney General  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

DOJ.correspondence@usdoj.gov

Dear Attorney General Barr:

We write to express concern over recently increased levels of anti-Semitism within the United States and request the Department of Justice's (DOJ, or "the Department") assistance in identifying the scope of this problem. Anti-Semitic language, which historically reflects a dangerous and bigoted ideology, often translates into hate crimes against the Jewish community.

As Members of Congress with constituents who may be affected by such unacceptable language and actions, we request that the Department focus efforts on tracking increased levels of anti-Semitic hate crimes. DOJ should indicate any such findings in the annual report on hate crime statistics published by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), as mandated by the Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990.

According to DOJ's definition, a hate crime must include a motivation for committing the crime based on bias. Both religion and race are examples of qualifying bias categories, among others. In 2017, the most recently available data year, over 80 percent of single-bias hate crime incidents were motivated by race or religion. Of the 1,749 total known victims of religiously-motivated hate crimes reported in 2017, 1,017 victims identified as Jewish.

In recent months, such abhorrent acts or threats have been carried out against Jewish Americans in elevated numbers. Students on college campuses across the country have been targeted for their Jewish beliefs and ethnic background. In August 2016, hundreds of demonstrators chanted "Jews will not replace us" at an extremist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. In October 2018, 11 people were murdered and seven more were injured at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In the US House of Representatives, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar [MN-05] has spurred further concern with her anti-Israel commentary and use of anti-Semitic tropes.

We stand with our constituents and colleagues of all races and religions and will not allow this bigotry to advance unchecked. We condemn anti-Semitic hatred in all its forms and respectfully

request that the Department of Justice take appropriate steps to ensure the American public is aware of and protected from this threat.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Brittany Madni on Congressman Balderson's staff at [madni@mail.house.gov](mailto:madni@mail.house.gov) or at (202) 225-5355.

Sincerely,



Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



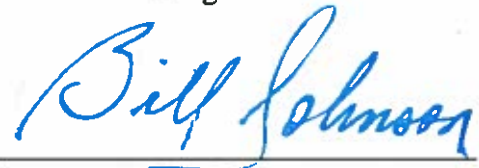
Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce  
Member of Congress



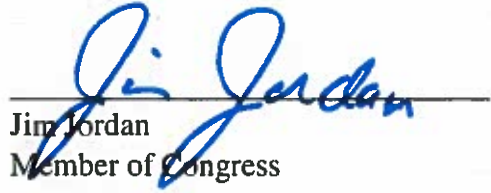
Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



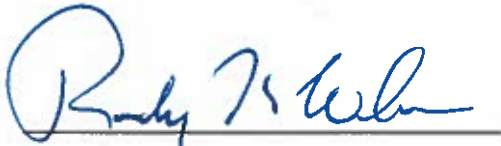
Brad R. Wenstrup  
Member of Congress



Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



John Katko  
Member of Congress



Randy Weber  
Member of Congress