

April 2, 2025

Governor Andy Beshear  
Kentucky State Capitol  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

We write to encourage you to sign Senate Joint Resolution 55 (SJR 55).

Each of us is honored to serve as a member of the Kentucky Antisemitism Task Force that you created shortly after the horrific slaughter of Israeli civilians during the October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks. We are deeply grateful to you for addressing a pressing issue for so many Kentuckians, and for the opportunity to serve the Commonwealth in this noble effort.

Similar to your efforts, the Kentucky General Assembly recently passed SJR 55 to address rising antisemitism on this nation's campuses in light of unprecedented harassment and, in some cases, violence, that has resulted. This is an issue we studied at one of our early Task Force meetings, and we understand how critical it is that we ensure that Jewish students on Kentucky's campuses are not subject to violence and harassment.

While like any legislation, SJR 55 isn't perfect, it takes important steps to honor our commitment to Kentucky students. Under the resolution, students are apprised of their rights and resources, and universities are obligated to act. The resolution also recognizes that the First Amendment rights of all students must be protected, so this would not result in the stifling of free speech, a critical American value.

We are lending our support to this resolution for two critical reasons.

First, the resolution commands Kentucky universities to inform all students, and not just Jewish students, of their rights and protections under Title VI of the Civil 6 Rights Act of 1964. In an era of diminishment of minority protections, this resolution takes a critical step towards affirming safeguards for all students regardless of their race, gender, nationality and sexual orientation. Second, this resolution takes an important first step in tasking universities to collect data on hate crimes regarding antisemitism and, with the inclusion of KRS 344.450, of discrimination in general. This data collection is inadequate at present, and this seeks to remedy that defect.

It is important to note that a number of us were concerned about the original draft of the legislation, and we are pleased to report that legislative leaders listened to the Jewish community and heeded much of our counsel, with the final passed version being improved.

While the Task Force's mission has not been defined to include endorsement of legislation, as individuals, we ask you to sign Senate Joint Resolution 55. Thanks for your consideration.

1. Jerry Abramson
2. Bill Altman
3. Gary Broadbent
4. Aaron-Ann Cole
5. Jonathan Goldberg
6. Ralph Green
7. Mayor Craig Greenberg
8. Mindy Haas
9. Nancy Hoffman
10. David Kaplan
11. Jonathan Miller
12. Beth Salamon
13. Sara Wagner