

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 16, 2018

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to urge you to appoint a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism at the U.S. Department of State—a position that has now remained vacant for over 15 months. There has been an acute global increase in anti-Semitic incidents over the last year, often taking place in the form of violent attacks, bomb threats, vandalism, and hateful rhetoric spanning all levels of society. It is critical that the United States lead with action to combat anti-Semitism at home and abroad.

In the United States, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents documented a 57 percent rise in anti-Semitic incidents in 2017 – the largest single-year increase on record and the second highest number reported since ADL started tracking such data in 1979. Meanwhile, Europe has seen a dangerous wave of anti-Semitism. Violent anti-Semitic assaults increased 34 percent in Britain according to the Community Security Trust in 2017, and according to the French Ministry of the Interior, increased 26 percent in France during the same period. Two Jewish houses of worship were firebombed in Sweden last year, including one in which Jewish youths were gathered inside.

The Special Envoy position at the State Department and the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism were established under the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act (Public Law 108-332), which Congress passed in 2004 with broad bipartisan support and was signed into law by President George W. Bush. Since establishing the position and the office, Congress has consistently appropriated funding and provided support for both the envoy and the office. In addition, the explanatory statement on the FY17 Omnibus declared that "the Secretary of State is directed to fill the position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism authorized by Public Law 108-332 in a timely manner." In August 2017, then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson confirmed that the State Department would retain this important Special Envoy position.

Religiously motivated instances of discrimination, harassment, and violence are deeply troubling, and require robust international condemnation. Our nation was founded on the principle of religious freedom, and all people should be able to exercise this right. The Special Envoy position and the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism are critical in the leadership role of the United States in guiding a rules-based international order that promotes peace, security and opportunity for all people.

We hold firmly that no one should have to live in fear of bias and hate, and that no one should be persecuted as a result of their faith. Now more than ever, it is imperative that the United States upholds its commitment to freedom and human rights around the world. By filling this important vacant position, you will be reasserting our nation's commitment to combatting anti-Semitism on a global scale.

We urge you to appoint a qualified individual for this critical position as soon as possible.

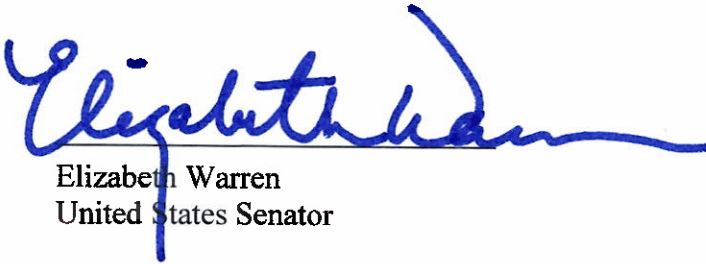
Sincerely,



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



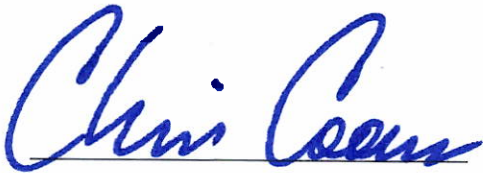
Rob Portman
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



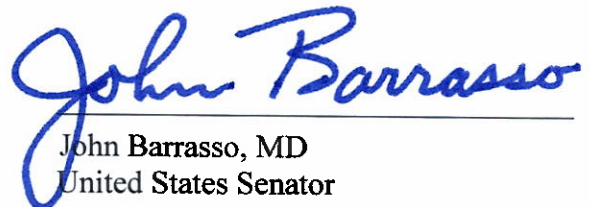
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



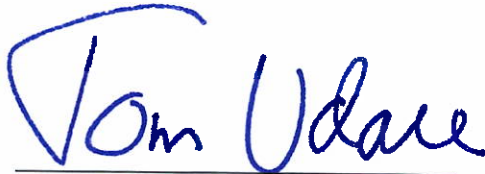
John Barrasso, MD
United States Senator



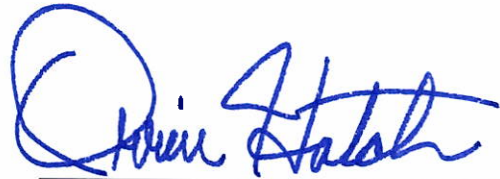
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



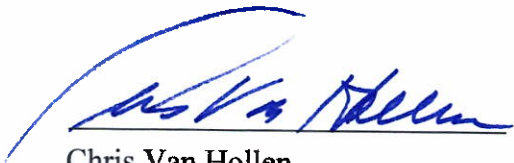
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Orrin Hatch
United States Senator



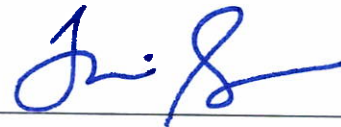
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator




Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



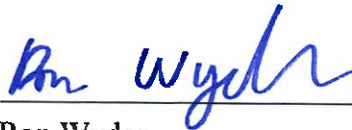
John Thune
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



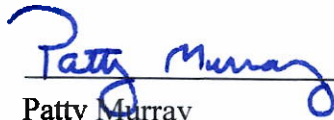
David A. Perdue
United States Senator



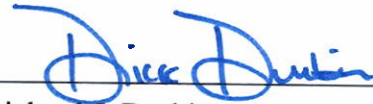
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



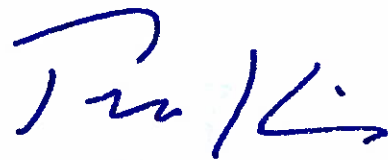
Tina Smith
United States Senator



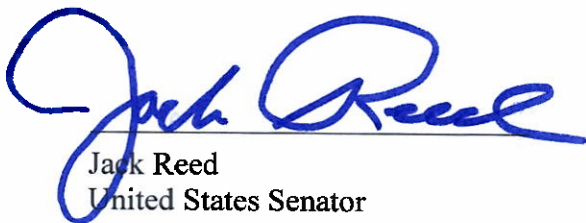
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator




Tim Kaine
United States Senator





Jack Reed
United States Senator




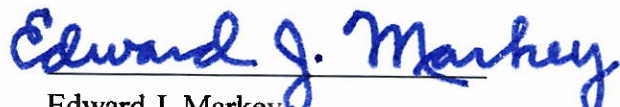
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator


Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

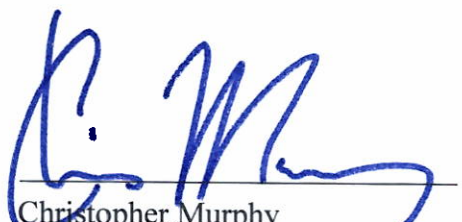

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator


Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator


Joe Donnelly
United States Senator


Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State