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COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2176 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

December 12, 2025

Dr. Debra Kawahara
President
American Psychological Association
750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Dr. Kawahara:

The Committee on Education and Workforce is investigating antisemitism at the American Psychological Association (APA), the nation's foremost accreditor for psychological training and continuing education programs.¹ The information gathered in this investigation will aid the Committee in considering whether legislative changes, including legislation to specifically address antisemitic discrimination among associations and accreditors, are needed.

The Committee is gravely concerned about antisemitism at the APA, which represents more than 172,000 researchers, clinical professionals, professors, and students across the country in the field of psychology.² Jewish APA members have reported being harassed and ostracized by their colleagues within the APA and at APA events because of their Jewish identity, their efforts to speak out again antisemitism, and their Zionist beliefs.³ Members have also stated that their complaints to the association have gone unanswered, raising significant concerns about the APA's commitment to addressing harassment.⁴

¹ The APA is recognized by the Department of Education as a programmatic accrediting agency. *See Programmatic Accrediting Agencies*, U.S. Department of Education, <https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/higher-education-laws-and-policy/college-accreditation/programmatic-accrediting-agencies>. The APA "accredits master's and doctoral programs in clinical psychology, counseling psychology, school psychology, and combinations of those areas as well as internships in health service psychology and postdoctoral residencies in clinical psychology and specialty areas of professional psychology." *See APA Accreditation*, AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, <https://accreditation.apa.org/>.

² *About APA*, AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (2025), <https://www.apa.org/about>.

³ Testimony on file with the Committee. *See also 2025 Academic Association Integrity Index: The State of Antisemitism in Professional Academic Associations*, ADL (2025), <https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/2025-11/state-of-antisemitism-academic-associations-v14.pdf>.

⁴ *2025 Academic Association Integrity Index: The State of Antisemitism in Professional Academic Associations*, *supra* note 3.

In February 2025, an open letter to the association’s leadership outlined serious concerns about antisemitism within the association.⁵ The letter describes the association as rife with “insensitivity towards Jews, a lack of concern regarding antisemitism, minimization of aggression towards the Jewish people, and outright hostility and prejudice towards Jews and Jewish heritage.”⁶ The letter points to antisemitic statements on APA division⁷ listservs, which include claims that “Hamas fighters in Gaza … are just protecting civilians” and giving “kudos” to Hamas, as well as statements by APA divisions and subsections that promote anti-Jewish sentiments.⁸ The APA itself has said that divisions “are required to comply with APA’s policies and not to take public positions that do not comport with those of APA.”⁹ However, these requirements have not been consistently followed.¹⁰ Of additional concern, the letter states that the APA has offered educational credits for members to attend conferences where speakers endorsed “violence against Jews and Israelis; antisemitic tropes; Holocaust distortion; minimization of Jewish victimization, fear, and grief; and pathologizing of Jewish people’s connection to their indigenous homeland.”¹¹

In addition, the APA allegedly failed to take meaningful action against a former APA division president who has made deeply antisemitic statements.¹² For example, she allegedly taught that Zionism is a mental illness, called to “destroy Zionism,” referred to Israelis as “genocidal f***ks,” and, after the October 7th attacks, wrote, “how dare you slander the names of our martyrs as terrorists.”¹³ More broadly, the rampant antisemitism in her division has led to members

⁵ Sally Satel, *American Psychological Association Slammed for ‘Virulent’ Jew Hate*, THE FREE PRESS (2025), <https://www.thefp.com/p/american-psychological-association-antisemitism-complaint>; Letter from Psychologists Against Antisemitism to Dr. Debra Kawahara and Board of Directors, (Feb. 23, 2025), <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:va6c2:f3856273-a580-4b3d-88e8-a8d5146a4619>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ According to the APA, the association’s “54 divisions are interest groups organized by members. Some represent subdisciplines of psychology (e.g., experimental, social or clinical) while others focus on topical areas such as aging, ethnic minorities or trauma.” *APA Divisions*, AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (2025), <https://www.apa.org/about/division>. The APA also houses a variety of “ethnic psychological associations.” *Ethnic Psychological Associations*, AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (2025), <https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/associations>.

⁸ Letter from Psychologists Against Antisemitism, *supra* note 6. Days after the October 7th terrorist attacks, another association within the APA posted a statement of “support for our Palestinian siblings” that said, “We contextualize Palestinian resistance within the reality of ethnic cleansing and genocide present since prior to the Nakba.” *AMENA-Psy*, *AMENA-Psy full statement regarding support for our Palestinian siblings on the AMENAPsy website and list serve*, INSTAGRAM (Oct. 11, 2023), https://www.instagram.com/p/CyQ6dA-uhud/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==.

⁹ 2025 Academic Association Integrity Index: *The State of Antisemitism in Professional Academic Associations*, *supra* note 3.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Letter from Psychologists Against Antisemitism, *supra* note 6. In addition, Jewish advocacy groups have condemned the APA’s flagship journal, which published an issue that “repeatedly labels Israel a ‘settler colonial’ and ‘apartheid’ state, accuses it of ‘genocide,’ and refers to ‘Palestinian freedom fighters,’ language that distorts history, legitimizes violence, and erases Jewish self-determination.” 2025 Academic Association Integrity Index: *The State of Antisemitism in Professional Academic Associations*, *supra* note 3.

¹² Letter from Psychologists Against Antisemitism, *supra* note 6.

¹³ Josh Christenson, *George Washington University Professor Accused of Anti-Semitism Says Zionism Is a Mental Illness*, WASHINGTON FREE BEACON (Jan. 19, 2023), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/george-washington-university-professor-accused-of-anti-semitism-says-zionism-is-a-mental-illness>; Alec Schemmel, ‘*How Dare You Slander the*

resigning.¹⁴

Some APA divisions are also attempting to revise the APA's 2005/2007 Resolution on Antisemitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice.¹⁵ These divisions introduced a new business item (NBI) in August requesting that the APA repeal its adoption of the widely recognized International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.¹⁶ The NBI makes light of antisemitism experienced by the association's Jewish members by pointing to "weaponized antisemitism," which it defines as "the strategic and bad faith use of accusations of antisemitism, [...] that [...] has been used in particular to silence and punish people of color."¹⁷

Accordingly, the Committee is requesting documents and communications about antisemitism at the APA. The below-requested records are critical to the Committee's oversight. Please produce these items no later than January 2, 2026:

1. All documents and communications to, from, or in the possession of APA leadership officials or APA divisions or associations from October 7, 2023, to present referring or relating to "antisemitism," "Jews," "Judaism," "Israel," "Israeli," "Palestine," or "Palestinian."
2. Meeting minutes for all APA bodies since October 7, 2023, that refer or relate to "antisemitism," "Jews," "Judaism," "Israel," "Israeli," "Palestine," or "Palestinian."
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to APA products, including the APA's flagship journal, since October 7, 2023, that refer or relate to "antisemitism," "Jews," "Judaism," "Israel," "Israeli," "Palestine," or "Palestinian."
4. All documents and communications referring or relating to APA-sponsored programming, including annual conferences and conferences for which the APA offered continuing education credits, since October 7, 2023, referring or relating to "antisemitism," "Jews," "Judaism," "Israel," "Israeli," "Palestine," or "Palestinian."
5. All documents and communications referring or relating to complaints of antisemitism by APA members made to the APA since October 7, 2023.
6. All documents and communications referring or relating to any APA efforts to address antisemitism since October 7, 2023, including the formation of a "Collaborative of Jewish Psychologists."

Names of Our Martyrs': Inside a George Washington Professor's Pro-Hamas Tirade, WASHINGTON FREE BEACON (Oct. 16, 2023), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/how-dare-you-slander-the-names-of-our-martyrs-inside-a-george-washington-professors-pro-hamas-tirade/>.

¹⁴ 2025 Academic Association Integrity Index: The State of Antisemitism in Professional Academic Associations, *supra* note 3.

¹⁵ APA Council of Representatives, *Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice*, APA (2007), <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/antisemitic.pdf>.

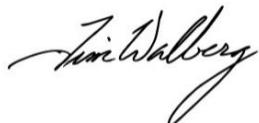
¹⁶ *Updating 2007 Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice* (Legislative Counsel, New Business Item 15D, 2025) (on file with Committee).

¹⁷ *Id.*

Congress's oversight powers are derived from the U.S. Constitution and have been repeatedly affirmed by the United States Supreme Court. Under House Rule X, the Committee's legislative and oversight jurisdiction is broad, extending to "education . . . generally" and "laws, programs, and Government activities relating to domestic educational programs and institutions and programs of student assistance within the jurisdiction of other committees."¹⁸ The information gathered will aid the Committee in considering whether potential legislative changes are needed.

Should you have any questions please contact Jenna Berger at jenna.berger@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-4527.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Walberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Tim" on the top line and "Walberg" on the bottom line.

Tim Walberg
Chairman
House Education and Workforce Committee

¹⁸ RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 119th Cong. at 7, 10 (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/rules.house.gov/files/documents/houserules119thupdated.pdf>.