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COMMITTEE ON
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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June 26, 2025

Dr. Jeffrey Armstrong, President
California Polytechnic State University,
San Luis Obispo
1 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

Dear Dr. Armstrong:

The Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) is continuing to investigate and gather information about the rise of antisemitism on college campuses, including reported antisemitic incidents at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly). Just recently, pro-Palestinian activists vandalized a Cal Poly building with slogans including "Free Palestine" and "Cal Poly Divest."¹ While the Committee appreciates your appearance on May 7th to discuss these concerns, the Committee is seeking clarity about your testimony and certain responses to questions posed to you during the hearing.

As you know, postsecondary institutions that receive federal funds must maintain a safe learning environment and fulfill all obligations under Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* (Title VI) and its accompanying regulations.² This includes the obligation to promptly address discrimination, including harassment that creates a hostile environment, wherever such circumstances may be found to exist. Under Title VI, even speech that is protected by the First Amendment may contribute to an unlawful hostile environment for Jewish students on college campuses.³ Title VI requires colleges to promptly address and eliminate hostile environments. This can be done through a variety of methods, including investigating incidents that give rise to hostile environments and imposing appropriate discipline; condemning the statements made; and

¹ Chloe Jones et al., *Cal Poly vandalism suspects were arrested at previous pro-Palestine protests*, THE SAN LUIS OBISPO TRIBUNE, June 6, 2025, <https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/education/cal-poly-university/article307965345.html>.

² See U.S. Dept. of Educ., Office of Federal Student Aid Data Center, Title IV Program Volume Reports, <https://studentaid.gov/data-center/student/title-iv> (According to the most recent U.S. Department of Education information obtained by the Congressional Research Service, Haverford students received approximately \$3.5 million in Title IV student loans and grants in award year 2022-2023).

³ See, e.g., Andrea Jane Martin, *Balancing Freedom of Expression and Equality on College Campuses in the Wake of Intensified Antisemitism*, 90 BROOK. L. REV. 67 (2024), <https://brooklynworks.brooklaw.edu/blr/vol90/iss1/2/>.

implementing policy changes such as time, place, and manner restrictions; providing training to combat antisemitism.

For the Committee to conduct oversight of the efficacy of Title VI and the rise of antisemitism on Cal Poly's campus, the Committee must understand not only whether there was a hostile environment on Cal Poly's campus towards Jewish students, but also whether the college adequately responded to incidents that created or contributed to the environment, such as those described during the May 7th hearing and detailed in our April 21, 2025, letter to you.⁴

To better understand Cal Poly's compliance with Title VI and the statements that you made at the hearing, the Committee requests that the following items be produced to the Committee no later than July 10, 2025:

1. In your opening statement, you stated that Cal Poly is "enhancing our mandatory student orientation and biannual employee training to provide greater education and awareness about antisemitism."
 - a) Please provide a detailed explanation of these enhancements to the mandatory student orientation as well as the biannual employee training.
 - b) Are all Cal Poly employees required to participate in the biannual employee training? If not, please describe the categories of employees who are not required to undergo the training.
 - c) For both the mandatory student orientation and biannual employee training, please describe the form of the training (in person, digital, etc.), the duration of the training session(s) (60 minutes, three hours, one day, two days, etc.), how often during the school year the training must be taken (once a year, twice a year, etc.), and who takes the training (all full time enrolled students, part time students, all employees, only senior employees, etc.). Please also provide copies of the instructional materials.
2. In your opening statement, you stated that Cal Poly is "establishing a new Presidential Antisemitism Task Force that will develop an action plan focused on Jewish student life, antisemitism, education, and cultural awareness."
 - a) What is the process for selecting members of this Task Force?
 - b) How many members will serve on the Task Force?
 - c) How do the governing documents or anticipated governing documents for the Task Force describe the Task Force's membership?
 - d) Please describe any "action plan" of the Task Force.
 - e) Please provide all documents and communications from January 1, 2025, through the date of your response to this letter that refer or relate to the formation of and

⁴ *Beyond the Ivy League: Stopping the Spread of Antisemitism on American Campuses*, H. COMM. ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE, <https://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=412359>; Letter from Rep. Tim Walberg, Chairman, H. Comm. on Education and Workforce, et al. to Dr. Jeffrey Armstrong, President, Haverford Coll., et al. (Apr. 21, 2025), https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/ltr_for_docs__cal_poly_4.21.25.pdf.

operations of the Task Force, including governance documents, operating plans, anticipated duration of the Task Force, and measures you will use to determine the success of the Task Force.

- f) Please provide the Task Force calendar and minutes for all meetings that have taken place.
3. In your opening statement, you stated that you are “continuing to fundraise to endow a Chair in Jewish Studies and build an interfaith center focused on Jewish student life, antisemitism, education, and cultural awareness.”
- a) When do you anticipate fundraising to be completed and to have a Chair in place?
 - b) In what university department do you anticipate the Chair will be housed?
 - c) How much funding have you raised thus far?
 - d) How does the amount of funding expected for the Chair in Jewish Studies compare to that of other chairs?
 - e) Please provide a timeline for the anticipated completion and opening of the “interfaith center.”

When producing documents, please do not alter them in any way, including but not limited to the application of redactions or watermarks. Additionally, digital copies should be provided in a format that enables their printing and copying.

Congress’ oversight powers are derived from the U.S. Constitution and have been repeatedly affirmed by the United States Supreme Court.⁵ Under House Rule X, the Committee’s legislative and oversight jurisdiction is broad, extending to “education or labor 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.”⁶ This includes enforcement of Title VI and other antidiscrimination laws by the Department of Education. Should you have any questions please contact Jenna Berger at jenna.berger@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg
Chairman

⁵ See generally U.S. CONST. art. I, § 8, cl. 8; *McGrain v. Daugherty*, 273 U.S. 135, 174 (1927) (holding that “the power of inquiry—with process to enforce it—is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function”); *Eastland v. U.S. Servicemen’s Fund*, 421 U.S. 491, 504 (1975) (holding that “the power to investigate is inherent in the power to make laws”); *Barenblatt v. United States*, 360 U.S. 109, 111 (1959) (holding that “the scope of power of inquiry ... is as penetrating and far-reaching as the potential power to enact and appropriate under the Constitution.”).

⁶ RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 119th Cong. at 7 (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/rules.house.gov/files/documents/houserules119thupdated.pdf>.

