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COMMITTEE ON
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

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April 21, 2025

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

Mr. Jack B. Clarke, Jr., Chairman
Board of Trustees
The California State University System
401 Golder Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear President Armstrong and Mr. Clarke:

We look forward to President Armstrong's testimony at the full Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) hearing: *Beyond the Ivy League: Stopping the Spread of Antisemitism on American Campuses*. We write to confirm that the hearing will be on May 7, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., and that the deadline for submitting President Armstrong's testimony, completed truth in testimony form, curriculum vitae or resume, and brief biography is May 5, 2025, at 10:15 a.m. In addition, the Committee requests certain documents from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) in preparation for the Committee's May 7 hearing.

As you know, the Committee continues to investigate and gather information about the rise of antisemitism on college campuses, including Cal Poly, which has surged in the wake of the October 7, 2023, Hamas terror attack against Israel. In the month after the attack, antisemitic incidents in the United States increased 388 percent.¹ America's colleges and universities have been a major source in this rise in antisemitism. In particular, the Committee has found that "[i]n the aftermath of that horrific event, American institutions of higher education were upended by an epidemic of hate, violence, and harassment targeting Jewish students."²

Tragically, Committee oversight shows that antisemitism persists on college campuses, specifically at Cal Poly. Just last month, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) published its second annual Campus Antisemitism Report Card, which assesses the "current state of

¹ Andrew Howard, *Anti-Defamation League Director: 388 Percent Increase in Antisemitism*, Politico (Nov. 5, 2023), <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/11/05/anti-defamation-league-antisemitism-00125438>.

² Staff of H. Comm. on Education and the Workforce at 1, 118th Cong., Rep. on Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed (Comm. Print. 2024), <https://perma.cc/268S-8FPZ>.

antisemitism on campus and how universities and colleges are responding.”³ Cal Poly currently has a “D” grade from the ADL. Cal Poly’s Report Card notes that a number of antisemitic incidents have occurred on campus, including but not limited to, the verbal harassment of Jewish students and threatening graffiti spray-painted on school buildings saying “From Gaza to Cal Poly, let the intifada spread.”⁴

Similarly disturbing, the Committee received information from an individual with first-hand knowledge about a Cal Poly professor’s alleged verbal harassment of Jewish students and others on April 4, 2024 in the lobby just outside a classroom in the Warren J. Baker Center for Science and Mathematics (Baker building), where a lecture by Israel Defense Forces (IDF) veteran Yuval Klein was taking place. The event, titled “Heroes of the IDF: Finding Meaning Among Tragedy,” was cosponsored by San Luis Obispo Hillel (Hillel) and Mustangs United for Israel. As is standard practice, Cal Poly campus police were invited and present at the Hillel-sponsored event. According to those present, campus police officers recorded the alleged harassment. The alleged harassment included a Cal Poly professor, while holding a Palestinian flag, confronting Jewish students and attendees in the lobby and stating “You are Zionists – you are part of the KKK.” The same professor, while standing in the lobby near the entrance allegedly held the Palestinian flag over the face of a woman as she entered the lobby and stated “F ___ Israel.”

The upcoming hearing will enable the Committee to hear from you firsthand, President Armstrong, about incidents of antisemitism that have taken place on campus under your watch, any disciplinary actions the university has taken in response to these incidents, and any broader changes that the school has made to address campus antisemitism.

Congress’s power to investigate is derived from Article I of the Constitution and has been repeatedly affirmed by the Supreme Court.⁵ Under House Rule X, the Committee has legislative and oversight jurisdiction over “education or labor generally,”⁶ including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and other antidiscrimination laws. Compliance with Title VI is a requirement to receive federal funds, including under programs authorized in the *Higher Education Act*. As such, this hearing and the documents requested will further the Committee’s understanding of the effectiveness of both Title VI and other existing anti-discrimination laws such as the *Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act*. The information gathered will also aid the Committee in considering whether potential legislative changes, including legislation to specifically address antisemitic discrimination, are needed.

³ *Campus Antisemitism Report Card*, ADL, <https://perma.cc/7KCL-E9US> (last visited Apr. 18, 2025).

⁴ *Cal Poly 2025 Report Card*, ADL, <https://www.adl.org/campus-antisemitism-report-card/california-polytechnic-state-university-san-luis-obispo> (last visited Apr. 18, 2025).

⁵ See generally U.S. CONST. art. I, § 1 (“All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States”); *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>.

To assist the Committee in understanding antisemitism at Cal Poly, including the university's response to antisemitism, President Armstrong's testimony and the below-requested records are critical to the Committee's oversight investigation. Please produce the below items no later than 12:00 p.m. EDT on April 30, 2025.

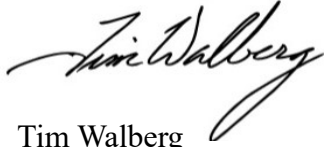
1. Documents sufficient to show all changes to Cal Poly's Student Constitution (or equivalent) and Code of Conduct (or equivalent) made subsequent to October 7, 2023.
2. To the extent not covered by request one above, documents sufficient to show all changes to Cal Poly's policies and procedures governing student and faculty discipline, discrimination, and harassment made subsequent to October 7, 2023.
3. Documents sufficient to show all changes to Cal Poly's masking (or equivalent) policy governing facial coverings made subsequent to October 7, 2023.
4. All meeting minutes and circulated materials provided to the Board of Trustees during the period August 1, 2023, through the date of this letter dealing with or mentioning antisemitism on Cal Poly's campus.
5. Documents relating to the relationship between Cal Poly and the Cal Poly Students for the Liberation of Palestine, Cal Poly Students for Justice in Palestine, and Cal Poly Jewish Voices for Peace groups, including any registration documentation, any documentation of college funding of these organizations, such as through student activities fees, and any documentation relating to past sanctioning of these organizations.⁷
6. Any recordings made by the Cal Poly Police Department of the April 4, 2024 protestors in the lobby and in the classroom of the lecture event (Heroes of the IDF: Finding Meaning Among Tragedy) of the Baker building, as well as outside the building including recordings of the alleged verbal harassment of Jewish students or attendees.

When producing documents, 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.

⁷ Students for Justice in Palestine and related groups reportedly engage in violent, discriminatory, or otherwise illegal activity against Jews. See, e.g., *7 Things to Know About Campus Support for Hamas and Antisemitism*, Found. for Def. of Democracies (Dec. 4, 2023), <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2023/12/04/7-things-to-know-about-campus-support-for-hamas-and-antisemitism/>; Corey Walker, *Jewish Voice for Peace's 'Extremist' Anti-Israel Agenda, Terror Group Ties Highlighted in Report*, StandWithUs, <https://perma.cc/AU6V-4DMD> (last visited Apr. 17, 2025).

Should you have questions, please contact Kent Talbert of the Committee staff at kent.talbert@mail.house.gov or 202-225-4527.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce



Burgess Owens
Chairman
Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Development

Enclosure: Instructions