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**MITCHEL R. AEDER**  
President

March 24, 2025

**RABBI MOSHE HAUER**  
Executive Vice President

Hon. Michael Baumgartner  
and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  
by electronic mail

**RABBI JOSH JOSEPH, ED.D.**  
Executive Vice President  
& Chief Operating Officer

**NATHAN J. DIAMENT**  
Executive Director

Dear Congressman Baumgartner, and Members of  
the House of Representatives,

**ISAAC PRETTER**  
Chairman, Advocacy

**YEHUDA NEUBERGER**  
Chairman, Board of Directors

We write to you on behalf of the Union of Orthodox Jewish  
Congregations of America – the nation’s largest Orthodox Jewish  
umbrella organization – regarding the upcoming vote on the Defending  
Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in  
Nefarious Transactions (DETERRENT) Act.

We greatly appreciate that the House of Representatives is holding this  
vote and your prioritization of the need to address the unprecedented  
surge in antisemitism on college campuses across the United States that  
has occurred since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack upon Israel. The  
subsequent and dramatic rise in antisemitism across all parts of our  
society remains a prevalent threat to our community.

Since the attacks on Israel, Jewish students on campuses have faced  
harassment, verbal and physical intimidation, Jewish Exclusion Zones  
and hate symbols including swastikas. Jewish students have felt unsafe  
and the OU’s own Rabbi Elie Buchler at Columbia felt the need to  
warn students to return home for their own safety.<sup>1</sup> A warning which  
was only reinforced when classes and even exams were moved online.

Despite the hateful and contemptable speech and actions of these  
protestors, many universities continue to struggle to condemn them  
and respond appropriately.

Given this track record, we must ask, what external forces are funding  
our universities, and why has that funding led to the current permissive  
attitude towards antisemitism on campuses nationwide? The  
DETERRENT Act will allow us to begin to seek answers to these  
critical questions and consider remedies for funding coming from  
foreign sources which do not have the United States’ best interests at  
heart. It will require universities to disclose their major foreign  
donations and close loopholes that have allowed them to avoid doing  
so until now.

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<sup>1</sup> [Canceled Classes, Arrests and Calls for Jewish Students to Go Home: Protests Over Israel-Hamas War Boil Over on Campuses | Education News | U.S. News](#)

Should we not know what financial interests are driving our professors and faculty? Those entrusted with a sacred duty to shape and mold our next generation of leaders must be held to account if they are doing so at the expense of our vulnerable communities. College should be an educational experience, not a chance to be brainwashed by professors paid for by US adversaries.

For these reasons we are proud to support the DETERRENT Act and thank bipartisan members who have worked to bring it to the floor.

We urge you to vote for this bill and take these important steps towards combatting antisemitism on our university campuses.

Sincerely,

*Nathan J. Diament*  
Executive Director