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COMMITTEE ON  
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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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August 25, 2025

Dr. Marie Lynn Miranda  
Chancellor  
601 S. Morgan St.  
Chicago, IL 60607

Dr. Mark I. Rosenblatt  
Executive Dean, College of Medicine  
1740 W Taylor St  
Chicago, IL 60612

Dear. Dr. Miranda and Dr. Rosenblatt:

The Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) is investigating antisemitism at the University of Illinois College of Medicine (UICOM), including whether there was or is a hostile environment against Jewish students on UICOM's campus and whether the university is fulfilling its obligation under Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* (Title VI) to end any harassment, eliminate any hostile environment and its effects, and prevent any harassment from recurring. This investigation will aid the Committee in considering whether potential legislative changes, including legislation to specifically address antisemitic discrimination, are needed.

The Committee has become aware that Jewish students are experiencing hostility and fear at the university, and it has not been demonstrated that the university has meaningfully responded to address and mitigate this problem. For example:

- Hostage posters to raise awareness about the October 7th attack and its aftermath have allegedly been repeatedly taken down.<sup>1</sup>
- A student who sought to organize a medical colloquium session on antisemitism in medical school admissions was allegedly told by UICOM deans that "now is not the time."<sup>2</sup>
- In January 2024, UICOM students hosted a lecture with Momodou Taal, then a Cornell graduate student, who has expressed support for the terrorist group Hamas, stating in February 2024, "We take our cue from the armed resistance in Palestine. We are in solidarity with the armed resistance in Palestine from the river to the sea."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Testimony to the Committee, 36 (2025) (on file with Committee).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 37.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*; Andy Rose, *Cornell Student Protestor Told to Surrender to ICE as He Asks Judge to Block Deportation*, CNN (Updated 12:05 PM EDT, Sat March 22, 2025); Kate Sanders, *Protestors Praise Mideast Militants in Divestment Rally*, Corn. Sun (Feb 3, 2024), <https://www.cornellsun.com/article/2024/02/protesters-praise-mideast-militants-in-divestment-rally>.

- A UICOM surgeon posted online comparing Israel to the Islamic State and repeatedly comparing Israelis to the Nazis.<sup>4</sup>
- A Holocaust survivor colloquium in November 2023 was allegedly cancelled with no apparent explanation.<sup>5</sup>
- On UICOM's Slack channel, which the college uses to circulate information about events and educational resources, UICOM students have posted hateful messages and misinformation, including:
  - Multiple posts rejecting claims that Hamas raped Israeli women on October 7th;<sup>6</sup>
  - In January 2024, one student called another “openly genocidal and disgustingly racist” and added, “What did we expect from a former IDF soldier?”;<sup>7</sup>
  - When one student posted in acknowledgment of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, another student posted a link to an event comparing the Holocaust to the “genocide in Gaza.”<sup>8</sup>

In addition, the Committee is concerned that UICOM's Director of Student Learning Environment, Tim Lacy—the administrator tasked with addressing and mitigating the hostility and fear felt by Jewish students<sup>9</sup>—is viewed by some Jewish students as contributing to the hostile environment felt by them. As a result, he is not suited to help UICOM effectively respond to this problem, which is a key component of his job.

For example, in one social media post, Director Lacy made light of the rise on antisemitism on college campuses, describing his reaction to a federal task force on antisemitism in Chicago as “bracing [himself] for some serious bullshit in Chicago.”<sup>10</sup> In addition, prior to being employed at UICOM, Lacy questioned whether anyone on the “left in America actually ‘hates’ Israel.”<sup>11</sup> Director Lacy also appears to have signed a petition urging the American Historical Association to acknowledge Israel's “scholasticide” in “Occupied Gaza” and the “Occupied West Bank.”<sup>12</sup> It

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<sup>4</sup> StopAntisemitism (@StopAntisemites), X (9:11 AM, Aug 1, 2024), <https://x.com/StopAntisemites/status/1818997907304956126>.

<sup>5</sup> Testimony, *supra* note 1, at 42.

<sup>6</sup> E.g. Lina Issa, Slack (3:30 PM, December 31, 2023) (on file with the committee) (in response to a New York Times article titled “*Screams Without Words*: How Hamas Weaponized Sexual Violence on Oct. 7, the commenter wrote “zionists continue to disseminate sensationalized misinformation ... ‘news’ like this can be so easily manufactured and shared widely”); Nida A, Slack (9:44 AM, March 5, 2024) (on file with the Committee) (in response to a New York Times article titled *U.N. Inquiry Finds Evidence of Sexual Assault in Hamas-Led Attack on Israel*, a commentator wrote “these types of articles have been posted (and then subsequently debunked even by mainstream media)”).

<sup>7</sup> Lina Issa, Slack (Jan 30th) (on file with the committee).

<sup>8</sup> Talia, Slack (11:58 AM, Jan 27, 2024) (on file with the Committee) (in response to a post discussing polls showing an increase in respondents who agreed that the Holocaust was a “myth” or “exaggerated”, the commenter posted a link comparing the holocaust to “genocide in Gaza”).

<sup>9</sup> Director Lacy's duties include: “Providing those who experience, witness, or become aware of student mistreatment with access to a neutral, impartial, and private resource to report and seek assistance with concerns”; “Monitoring reports of microaggressions and implicit bias, and observations about systemic racism”; and, “Assisting in fostering an overall feeling of safety and security for our students.” *Tim Lacy*, U. of Ill., Coll. of Med. (last visited June 6, 2024) (on file with the committee), <https://medicine.uic.edu/profiles/lacy-tim/>.

<sup>10</sup> Tim Lacy (@timlacy.bsky.social), Bluesky (March 13, 2025) (on file with Committee).

<sup>11</sup> Tim Lacy (@timlacy@zirk.us at the non-... (@t\_lacy), X (10:40 AM, Dec. 16, 2016) (on file with the Committee).

<sup>12</sup> *Petition to Members of the AHA Council*, Historians for Peace and Democracy (Feb. 8, 2025) <https://www.historiansforpeace.org/2025/02/08/petition-to-members-of-the-aha-council/>.

would be reasonable, therefore, for Jewish students not to trust Director Lacy to address their concerns in an objective and even-handed manner, or even to believe that it would be a waste of time to raise their hostile environment concerns with him.

As you know, postsecondary institutions that receive federal funds must maintain a safe learning environment and fulfill all obligations under Title VI and its accompanying regulations. This includes the obligation to promptly address discrimination, including harassment that creates a hostile environment, wherever such circumstances may be found to exist. Jewish students may experience the statements described above, including those that demonize and delegitimize Israel, as antisemitism.<sup>13</sup> Indeed, one of the students that posted these messages has also celebrated the escape of members of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a designated terrorist organization, from an Israeli prison, and has said that she was “targeting” Hillel, a Jewish organization, for protests.<sup>14</sup> Having students walk around campus or attend class fearing that they will be harassed because they are Jewish creates a hostile environment that universities are obligated to respond to under Title VI.

Under Title VI, even speech that is protected by the First Amendment may contribute to an unlawful hostile environment. Thus, Title VI requires colleges to promptly address incidents creating a hostile environment. This can be done through a variety of methods, including investigating the incidents and imposing appropriate discipline; condemning the statements made; implementing policy changes such as time, place, and manner restrictions; providing training to combat antisemitism; and other measures. The Committee is seeking to understand whether, as reports suggest, there was or is a hostile environment against Jewish students on UICOM’s campus and whether the university responded to incidents such as those described in this letter.

To assess whether a hostile environment exists on UICOM’s campus, and to understand whether and how UICOM has responded to any incidents of harassment, the Committee requests the production of the following documents and communications by September 8, 2025:

1. All documents and communications related to reports or complaints of antisemitic acts or incidents received by UICOM, to, from, or in the possession of the offices of the Chancellor, Executive Dean, the Senior Associate Dean for Education, the Senior Director of Medical Student Learning Environment, the Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, the Senior Associate Dean of Students, or the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, or any hotlines, inboxes, or other mechanisms that collect reports of bias, discrimination, and harassment, from January 1, 2022, through the date of your response.
  - a. For each report or complaint, include any communications among administrators or staff regarding the complaint, such as discussion about whether to investigate the complaint.
  - b. For each report or complaint, include documentation showing the university’s response to the report or complaint, if any, including documents and

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<sup>13</sup> Under Title VI, harassment is measured from the perspective of a reasonable person and considers “the relevant particularized characteristics and circumstances of the victim.” See OCR, Racial Incidents and Harassment against Students at Educational Institutions: Investigative Guidance, 59 Fed. Reg. 11,448, 11,449 (Mar. 1994).

<sup>14</sup> Expose SJP-UIUC, YouTube, at 8:27 (Dec 6, 2021), <http://youtube.com/watch?v=17CNqvGBFZw&t=507s>; Testimony, *supra* note 1, at 37.

communications related to whether the report or complaint was investigated and whether a disciplinary or conduct case was opened.

- c. If a disciplinary or conduct case was opened, provide a chart that shows the entity or entities responsible for reviewing the case, the disciplinary process being used to review the case, case status, actions taken by UICOM to date (including any modification of proposed or imposed discipline), and the standing of the alleged perpetrator. Please also provide documents sufficient to show all instances in which alleged perpetrators were involved in previous disciplinary incidents.
  - d. Please provide a summary chart showing individual complaints filed by year, the source (by category) of the complaint, the date the complaint was filed, the reviewing entity, whether UICOM opened an investigation, and the current status of the complaint.
2. All documents and communications from October 7, 2023, through the date of your response, from, to, or in the possession of, the offices of the Chancellor, Executive Dean, the Senior Associate Dean for Education, the Senior Director of Medical Student Learning Environment, the Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, the Senior Associate Dean of Students, or the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, referring or relating to antisemitism.<sup>15</sup> This includes responsive documents or communications that refer or relate to the university's Slack channel, or that were posted on that channel.
  3. All documents sufficient to show UICOM's guidelines for investigating complaints of antisemitism since January 1, 2023, including any changes to these guidelines.
  4. All documents sufficient to show any definition of antisemitism used by UICOM since January 1, 2023, including in investigations of antisemitism.
  5. All documents sufficient to show any anti-bias or anti-discrimination training(s) offered to staff, students, faculty, officers, administrators, or any other groups at UICOM since January 1, 2023.

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.

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

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<sup>15</sup> In this letter, "antisemitism" is defined in accordance with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition and contemporary examples. Examples of antisemitism under the IHRA definition may include references to "Zionism" or "Israel." Antisemitism is considered from the perspective of a reasonable person and considers "the relevant particularized characteristics and circumstances of the victim." See OCR, Racial Incidents and Harassment against Students at Educational Institutions: Investigative Guidance, 59 Fed. Reg. 11,448, 11,449 (Mar. 1994).

programs of student assistance within the jurisdiction of other committees.”<sup>16</sup> This includes enforcement of Title VI and other antidiscrimination laws by the Department of Education. Further, as set forth in House Rule X, the Committee “shall review and study on a continuing basis the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction.”<sup>17</sup> The information gathered will also aid the Committee in considering whether potential legislative changes, including legislation to specifically address antisemitic discrimination, are needed.

Should you have any questions please contact Jenna Berger at [jenna.berger@mail.house.gov](mailto:jenna.berger@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim Walberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Walberg" clearly legible.

Tim Walberg  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Workforce

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<sup>16</sup> 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>.

<sup>17</sup> RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 119th Cong., Rule X cl. 1(e)(6); cl. 2(b)(1)(A) (2025).