

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

November 1, 2023

President Liz Magill  
1 College Hall, Rm 100  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear President Magill:

We write today to express our deep concern and disappointment regarding your institution's silence in condemning the terrorist attack that took place by Hamas on October 7, 2023, against the nation of Israel. The deliberate and indiscriminate firing of rockets and missiles into civilian areas along with the slaughter of women and children is not only a violation of international law but also a grave threat to the lives and well-being of innocent people.

The shocking lack of a **prompt and unequivocal** condemnation from the University of Pennsylvania on this barbaric terrorist attack by Hamas raises serious concerns about the institution's moral compass and its commitment to standing against terrorism and violence. What Hamas did is pure evil. There is never a defense against terrorism. It is deeply unsettling that an institution of UPenn's stature, renowned for its intellectual rigor and leadership in academia, chose to remain silent for so long, leaving a void that speaks volumes about your priorities and values. Silence in this case is resounding applause for the acceptance of evil.

When it has come to large-scale cultural and political events that have affected your campus community in the past, your institution has been prompt and unequivocal in its condemnation of less egregious actions without any hesitation. It is mind-boggling to see how it took your institution several days to condemn a terrorist attack when you have been eager to be a leading voice in world events across academia. Since you've chosen to weigh in on other current events, you have a responsibility to do so here in response to clear threats of violence and antisemitism, particularly given the number of Jewish students attending your university.

Furthermore, disturbing reports indicate the University of Pennsylvania approved and allowed the Palestine Writes Literature Festival to take place on its campus just weeks before the barbaric attack by Hamas. Reports indicate that several speakers at the festival "had a long track record of using antisemitic tropes," which sadly only continued during the festival.<sup>1</sup> The fact that UPenn was aware of and allowed known antisemitic speakers to come to campus is not only dangerous but shows a severe lack of judgment, which calls into question the leadership and values of your institution.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.inquirer.com/education/university-pennsylvania-literature-festival-antisemitism-20231003.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/18/business/upenn-donor-israel/index.html>

This delay in an adequate response and the support of these organizations and events have far-reaching implications. It sends a message of indifference, not just to the victims of this attack but to victims of terrorism globally. It undermines the very essence of education – to foster understanding, empathy, and respect among diverse communities. UPenn’s inaction allows these voices of hate and violence to thrive, casting a shadow over the entire university community.

We implore you to act swiftly and decisively. It is your responsibility to condemn this terrorist attack unequivocally and publicly, disassociate the university from any student organization or professor endorsing violence, and take concrete steps to ensure that such ideologies that support and defend the actions of antisemitism and barbarism find no refuge at the University of Pennsylvania.

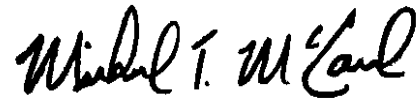
The world is watching, and the credibility and integrity of your institution are at stake. It is not just a matter of issuing a statement; it is about taking a stand against hatred and terrorism and demonstrating that UPenn is a leader in academia and will unequivocally and without reservation denounce the voices and actions of evil.

We eagerly await your immediate and robust response to this deeply troubling situation.

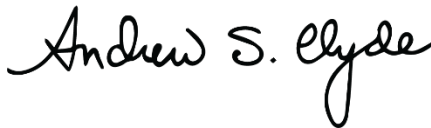
Sincerely,



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul  
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



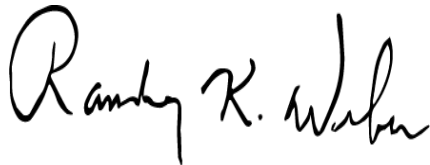
Bob Good  
Member of Congress



Mike Collins  
Member of Congress



Chris Smith  
Member of Congress



Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Andy Harris  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



Mike Carey  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Chuck Edwards  
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress