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5 Sivan 5784  
June 11, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader, United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer,

Coalition for Jewish Values is the largest rabbinic public policy organization in America, representing over 2,500 traditional, Orthodox rabbis. We note with appreciation that you have, at many times throughout your long career in public service, demonstrated your strong support for the Jewish community in America, the security of our brethren in Israel, and the U.S.-Israel relationship.

You have often referred to yourself as a "*Shomer*," Hebrew for "guardian" or "watchman," describing your role as encompassing protecting the interests of Israel and the Jewish people. You have even claimed that this Hebrew word is the origin of your last name.

With this in mind, we write to convey our urgent request that you place three key pieces of legislation, all intended to combat antisemitism, on the legislative agenda for the U.S. Senate:

- The *Antisemitism Awareness Act*, which passed in the House of Representatives with broad, bipartisan support on May 1. Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) has introduced it in the Senate with, again, a bipartisan list of 30 cosponsors. This Act would require the Department of Education to utilize the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism, including its contemporary examples, when evaluating whether an action was motivated by antisemitic intent in violation of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- The *Countering Antisemitism Act*, introduced by Senators Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and James Lankford (R-OK), with a balanced, bipartisan list of cosponsors. This Act would establish, within the office of the President, a National Coordinator to Counter Antisemitism, to advise the President and coordinate Federal efforts to counter antisemitism, as well as an Interagency Task Force to Counter Antisemitism.
- The *Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act*, which passed in the House of Representatives with bipartisan support on June 4. This Act responds to an Antisemitic demand for arrest warrants against Israeli officials at the International Criminal

Court. The Act places sanctions against anyone who attempts to prosecute American or allied officials and military personnel at the ICC, in violation of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002.

We have not forgotten that in a speech before the Senate earlier this year, one in which you vocally adopted the mantle of *Shomer*, you claimed that Benjamin Netanyahu was somehow comparable to Mahmoud Abbas, that Israel was failing in its "moral obligation" as it rewrites the book on avoiding the very civilian casualties that Hamas pursues as cynical strategy, and even accused Israel of sharing culpability in the results of the atrocities and war crimes committed by Hamas. To say that we were disappointed is understatement, but, as rabbis, we believe in repentance and redemption.

We are confident that Senators will see fit to pass all three of these critical Acts, if given the opportunity to vote upon them. As the government official tasked with scheduling items onto the agenda for deliberation in the Senate, you are in a unique position to ensure these three bills receive their due consideration, and for the U.S. Government to take concrete action to fight antisemitism.


We are reminded of the words of Mordechai to Queen Esther, recorded in the Book of Esther (4:14): "Who knows if it was for a time like this that you achieved rulership?" As you may recall, Mordechai preceded this with a stern warning in the same verse: "If you persist in your silence at this moment, relief and deliverance will stand up for the Jews from another place, and you and your father's house will be lost." Esther moved forward to be a source of salvation, and for this reason is honored for all history.

May you be blessed with both insight and foresight in this and in all of your legislative decisions, and with success in your efforts to be a *Shomer* of both American interests and the Jewish Nation, both in the United States and abroad.

Yours Sincerely,



Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld  
President



Rabbi Yaakov Menken  
Managing Director