

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 26, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg,

I am writing in response to your announcement of an investigation into alleged antisemitic incidents within Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), Berkeley Unified, and the School District of Philadelphia. Antisemitism must be confronted wherever it appears. On that, we agree. But your inquiry gives the troubling impression that a handful of school districts are singularly responsible for a crisis that is national in scale and growing across all political and geographic lines. If we are going to address antisemitism honestly, then we cannot do it selectively. And we certainly cannot do it by throwing stones from glass houses.

The Anti-Defamation League's most recent audit shows that the United States experienced the highest number of antisemitic incidents ever recorded in the last year, more than 9,000 incidents, including harassment, vandalism, and assaults, with increases recorded in every region of the country. These are not isolated failures of three school districts. This is a national crisis, cutting across schools, universities, online platforms, political movements, and social spaces. The data makes one thing unmistakably clear: no community is insulated, and no institution is exempt.

That includes your own. Before condemning Fairfax County, we must acknowledge problems in your own district. The ADL documents an incident from Sand Creek High School in Michigan's 5th Congressional District in which an assignment was given to high school students instructing them to role-play as a pro-Hamas student organizer. If accurate, that is precisely the kind of deeply inappropriate classroom content that should concern this Committee. In 2022, swastika graffiti was found in a high school bathroom in Marcellus, Michigan, in your district. The culprit of this antisemitism, also reportedly referred to the high school principal as a "scummy jew."

Yet those reports did not prompt you to open an investigation into your own district. This selective scrutiny is difficult to ignore. If Fairfax County is to be investigated for incidents that reflect a wider national trend, then consistency requires examining similar incidents occurring closer to home.

Antisemitism is not a partisan problem and the Committee cannot pretend otherwise. In your public statements, you suggest that antisemitism in schools is linked to certain ideological leanings. But antisemitism has gained ground across the spectrum and significantly within

elements of the conservative movement as well. Even more troubling is the fact that your concern is voiced at a moment when individuals with documented extremist views have been advancing within national power structures, in some cases with little apparent concern from your office.

It is no secret that vicious antisemites such as Nick Fuentes have been embraced, platformed, or courted by figures on the political right, helping mainstream rhetoric that once lived on the edges. Further, Donald Trump invited the neo-nazi, Holocaust denier, Fuentes, to Mar-a-Lago for dinner along with Kanye West, a self-proclaimed admirer of Hitler.

Another vivid example is Paul Ingrassia. When first nominated by the Trump Administration to lead a federal watchdog agency, Ingrassia had reportedly participated in private group-chat conversations in which he admitted he “has a Nazi streak,” expressed support for white-supremacist ideology, and denigrated civil-rights holidays. The Trump Administration did not immediately withdraw his nomination when his hate speech became public, but instead begrudgingly waited until it was clear he did not have the votes to survive the nomination process. Well-known conservative personalities and elected officials have amplified antisemitic conspiratorial claims, rhetoric that has no place in public discourse and unquestionably fuels the very climate we are all now confronting.

It is also worth recalling that you did not specifically denounce the explicitly antisemitic chants, symbols, and motivations driving the 2017 Charlottesville white-supremacist riot, one of the most visible antisemitic events on American soil in recent memory, making your newly expressed concern over antisemitism seem selectively applied.

You also voted against the Nonprofit Security Grant Program Improvement Act of 2022, legislation that expanded funding to help safeguard nonprofits and houses of worship from rising threats of terrorism and hate-motivated violence. This vote came even as antisemitic incidents were surging nationwide, including the January 15, 2022 attack in which an armed individual entered Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas and held four worshippers hostage for 11 hours, and the horrific massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh that remains the deadliest antisemitic attack in American history. The bill was designed to ensure that vulnerable community institutions had the resources they needed to protect their congregations, yet you opposed it.

If the Committee intends to address the causes of rising antisemitism, it must reckon with all of them, not just those that are politically convenient. Fairfax County is openly engaged in combating antisemitism in schools. Every incident deserves investigation, and every child deserves safety. FCPS has taken meaningful steps to address antisemitism, improve reporting mechanisms, and educate students, steps that deserve recognition, not public vilification. Holding Fairfax solely accountable for a nationwide problem does not advance solutions. It merely shifts blame.

To effectively confront antisemitism, your Committee should:

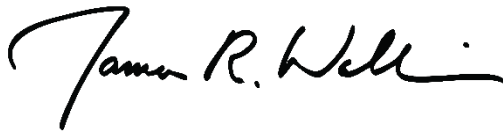
- Address all sources of antisemitic rhetoric, including those emanating from public figures, influencers, and political movements.

- Provide resources and guidance to school districts nationwide, rather than singling out a few for political theater.
- Support evidence-based antisemitism education, Holocaust education, and hate-prevention programs across states.
- Apply standards consistently including in Michigan, where documented issues also deserve scrutiny.

If this Committee wishes to lead on combating antisemitism, it must be willing to look inward as well as outward. I respectfully urge you to pursue a genuinely comprehensive, non-partisan approach to this crisis, one grounded in fairness, consistency, and the courage to acknowledge antisemitism wherever it appears, not only where it is politically expedient.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James R. Walkinshaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent.

James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress