

Special Focus on Antisemitism



Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

Talking Points for Jewish War Veterans of the USA Visit to Capitol Hill

JWV is in a unique position to have a special focus on antisemitism, expressing solidarity and unity for Israel. JWV opposes all forms of discrimination and bigotry but is especially outspoken on antisemitism. During 2025, JWV leadership participated in numerous roundtables and called out individuals for hate speech and antisemitism. JWV will continue to be a strong voice to combat antisemitism wherever and whenever it occurs. As the only Jewish VSO, we previously issued statements condemning antisemitic events and speeches. As instances of antisemitism across the country increase, especially following the terrorist attacks of October 7, JWV remains dedicated to denouncing hate speech. JWV is partnering with organizations like Stand Up Against Jewish Hate, #BlueSquare, Combating Antisemitism Movement, and StandWithUs to address antisemitism at colleges and universities as well as in the veteran and military communities across the nation. JWV asks all Americans to be vigilant, learn, and educate their fellow citizens.

JWV asks Members of Congress to join us in combating antisemitism targeted at veterans and military service members. JWV stands ready to be a resource for you and your staff in helping to educate Americans. JWV knows that the education of all individuals is the key to reducing antisemitic actions and incidents in America and around the world.

- We appreciate the opportunity to meet congressional leaders today to discuss issues that are of interest and concern to our constituents, in particular addressing antisemitism.
- Antisemitism is an important issue that needs the full weight of Congress to move forward.
 - Furthermore, in reviewing the legislation that has been introduced over the last year, there is much to like in the Senate and House versions of the draft legislation.
 - However, we remain disappointed that little progress has been made to address the growing antisemitism we are witnessing here in the United States and around the world.
- *In April 2025, JWV establish the JWV Celiz Antisemitism Taskforce (JCAT), JWV's quick-reaction policy, position and planning arm that provides recommendations directly to national leadership on high-priority issues concerning antisemitism. Comprised of JWV members from across the country, these policy experts and communicators provide JWV leadership with advise to respond to antisemitic activities in a more meaningful way. For more information see: <https://www.jwv.org/programs/the-jewish-war-veterans-celiz-antisemitism-taskforce-jcat/>*
- Let me provide some examples of opportunities that could be moved forward.
 - The Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2025—S.558 and H.R.1007:
 - This act would provide a working definition of antisemitism that would be critical when reviewing or investigating complaints of discrimination.

- It would also increase awareness and understanding of antisemitism; improve safety and security for Jewish communities; reverse the normalization of antisemitism and counter antisemitic discrimination; and expand communication and collaboration between communities.
 - We do recognize that some opponents of the legislation have expressed free speech concerns and other issues associated with the definition.
 - We believe that these issues must be addressed and that this legislation or some revised legislation must become law.
- Other issues that are contained in legislation that should be addressed are activities on college campuses—such legislation should comprehensively address concerns highlighted by students, faculty and administrators.
- H.R.1033, the College Oversight and Legal Updates Mandating Bias Investigations and Accountability Act of 2025 or the COLUMBIA Act of 2025, has not passed due to legislative concerns in the Senate—the House has passed the bill.
 - The bill would mandate third-party anti-Semitism monitors at colleges with high incidences of anti-Semitic activity.
 - We do believe that this type of oversight can be useful in reducing antisemitic activity.
 - H.R. 406, PROTECT Jewish Student and Faculty Act, would require institutions of higher education (IHEs) that participate in federal student aid programs to adopt a standard definition of anti-Semitism in their student and employee codes of conduct and prohibit such conduct on campus.
 - H. R. 2446 would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to “prohibit institutions of higher education that authorize antisemitic events on campus from participating in the student loan and grant programs under title IV of such Act.”
 - Again, moving the legislation is facing partisan or academic debate regarding implementation and free speech. These are important issues, but Congress must find a way through the issues and pass this kind of critical legislation.
 - Again, there is much to like in each of these bills that address activities on college campuses. But we believe that we must move beyond discussions, resolve the issues, and implement directives and programs to address the issues.
- Just one note on resolutions: While we support many of the House and Senate resolutions that have been offered, we do believe that bills that address the issues and concerns are superior to statements of endorsement or condemnation.
 - Thanks again for the discussion today. We look forward to working with Congress to assist in working towards the goal of addressing antisemitism. It is an area where the United States needs to lead globally.

For more information on these priorities, contact National Executive Director Ken Greenberg at kgreenberg@jwv.org, www.jwv.org

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